“No Idling”

Please switch off your engine while not driving!

Why switch off?
- It keeps the air cleaner for kids and adults.
- You protect the environment and save natural resources.
- You save money - if you idle more than 10 seconds, switching off the engine and restarting saves gas (and it’s perfectly fine for your car).

Please stop idling around Lawrence - and everywhere else!
- During drop-off and pick-up...
- While making phone calls or checking for messages...
- When you are stuck in traffic and not moving...
- When you are loading or unloading...
- When you wait for someone... ... switch off the engine!
- And when you get into your car, don’t start the engine until you really set off.
- Tell your friends and family!

Did you know?
- The average U.S. driver is estimated to idle 7.5 min per day. On average, these amount to about 23 gallons or 85 US$ per year wasted on idling.
- With about 200 million drivers in the U.S., this is an estimated 17 billion US$ per year wasted on idling. Sounds huge? It is!
- 13 U.S. states have laws against idling.
- Even in winter your car does not need a warm-up before you drive.

Thank you very much,

Lawrence Green Team

For questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Joachim Henkel at jhenkel@hbs.edu.

Thank you!

Source of dollar figure: Wikimedia Commons. Source of drawings: Milena Henkel. This flyer is online at the Green Team’s website.
Hi – and thank you for reading this!

The Lawrence Green Team works to make life around Lawrence School more sustainable. Part of that is reducing air pollution, which can be achieved easily by switching off the engine instead of idling.

When I asked people why they let their cars idle, I got friendly but puzzled looks. Mostly, it turns out, it is just a habit—but a harmful habit! Here is a sample, collected in May 2013 around Lawrence School:

• A lady sat in her car, checking her phone. When I asked her why she let the engine idle, she didn’t really know. Even though there wasn’t any need for heating or A/C, she had just followed her habit to turn on the engine upon getting in the car.

• Two gardeners sitting in their truck, waiting for the house owner to return so they could get to work. The engine idling because, they said, they needed the heating. That was mid-May and their window was wide open.

• A person from an engineering company walking up and down Francis street and taking photos. As the reason for idling, his colleague in the car said it was “just for convenience.”

These examples show that idling is often just a habit, without any good reason behind it. Restarting the car burns very little fuel, only about as much as 10 sec of idling (unless your car is a dinosaur). And unless you do it really excessively, it is totally fine for your car’s starter.

Thanks for your consideration!

For the Lawrence Green Team (http://lawrenceschoolbrookline.org/pto/lawrence-green-team/)
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Want to learn more? Please check out:
• http://www.makealeap.org/idling_myth
• http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html
• http://www.brighthub.com/environment/science-environmental/articles/64074.aspx
• http://www.gradesofgreen.org/initiatives/walk-the-walk/no-idle-zone