NO IDLING INITIATIVE - AQ13

Engine idling is a bad habit that has multiple negative consequences, but that can be easily targeted with positive behaviour change initiatives and education. Pollutants from idling engines are harmful to public health and can damage lung development in young children, negatively contributes to the climate emergency and wastes fuel. 1 minute of an engine idling is enough to fill 150 balloons with exhaust fumes! The good news is we know that many of the 'reasons' for idling can be easily disproved and interventions are effective at changing habits for the better.

Tackling engine idling at school through child led initiatives can help promote positive habits from drivers parking near school, help increase the air quality of the area for the children and educate the pupils about air pollutants, the climate crisis and positive ways we can change behaviour to help.

THE BASICS: NO IDLING SET UP

Who?: How many children are going to be involved? Small group, class or whole school? Who is the initiative aimed at? A specific location near school? Parents? The wider community?

When?: Are you going to target the morning drop off or pick up? Will pupils need to come in early to monitor idling?

Why?: Ensure positive reasons for behaviour change are known and explored. Are the health impacts known? How does idling contribute to the climate crisis?

AQ13 No idling initiative
AQ14 Air quality awareness

POSSIBLE INITIATIVE IDEAS

Poster / railing banner competition: Children to design and put up posters around school.

No idling zones: Put up signs around school and have children enforce rules.

Info pack: Children to research, design and distribute information park on idling for pupils and parents.

Car counts: Children to conduct idling counts.

Myth busting: What are the common myths that keep people idling? Can you find out and share the truth?

CU2 School teaches the benefits of active travel

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITES

Promote to parents: Ensure messaging is reaching parents, either through the newsletter, social media or a letter from the head or children (or ideally all off the above!)

Child-led promotion: Parents are more likely to make positive behaviour change when the message comes from the children.

Working in partnership with other schools: Could you link up with other local schools and run a joint campaign to help reach a wider area and tackle a shared issue?

P2 School works with other schools to promote safe and sustainable travel

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Air quality: Could you measure air quality around school, or link no idling to Clean Air Day?

Parent / carer parking campaign: Anti-idling can link really well with wider parking campaigns.

HCC air quality workshops: You could invite HCC Travel Planning Team in to run air quality monitoring sessions.

Teaching health benefits of active travel: Explore health in relation to idling can lead to looking at positive health behaviours.

R11 School invites external experts / organisations
AQ7 Parent / carer parking campaign

RELATED CAMPAIGNS, EVENTS & WEBSITES

Events:

February: Spring Into Action
April: Earth Day
May: Walk to School Week
June: Clean Air Scooter Challenge and Clean Air Day

Useful websites:

MyJourney Air Quality Resources

Engines Off So We Don't Cough Flyer

Idling Action London - Short Videos, Information and Resources

AQ15 National Clean Air Day
CU1 School takes part in educational competitions

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