

## Consider This...

Every time you start your vehicle, it produces pollutants that contribute to climate change, smog and acid rain, some of the biggest environmental problems facing our planet today:

Climate change threatens to disrupt Canada's environment, possibly putting our forests and water supply at risk, endangering certain plant and animal species, and harming human health.

Urban smog is causing thousands of Canadians to die prematurely each year, and is costing our health care system millions of dollars to treat unnecessary respiratory illness.

Acid rain is damaging our water supply, plant life, buildings, park facilities and other structures.

## You and Your Vehicle: Making the Link

For every litre of gasoline used, the average car produces about 2.4 kilograms of carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Other tailpipe emissions are polluting the air we breathe.



**When your engine runs for no reason it needlessly harms the environment.**

So it's easy to see that changing the way we drive, even just a little, can have an enormous impact on our environment, both globally and locally.

That's why we're asking motorists to think about their driving habits, and particularly about how much they idle their vehicles. When your engine runs for no reason – after all, idling gets you nowhere – it needlessly harms the environment. It also wastes fuel and money and diminishes our quality of life.

## Do the World A Favour – Don't Idle

To combat problems like climate change and urban smog, we all need to use energy more wisely. In the case of idling, the solution is literally in your hands – it's as easy as turning a key.

If every Canadian motorist avoided idling their vehicle for just five minutes a day, 365 days of the year, more than 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, along with other toxic substances, would be spared from entering the atmosphere.

## Ready to do your part?

Here's a simple, five-step process to change your idling habits:

- Step 1:** Reduce warm-up idling. Start driving after no more than 30 seconds of idling, assuming your vehicle's windows are clear.
- Step 2:** If you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, except in traffic, turn off your engine. Idling your vehicle for longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it would take to restart the vehicle.
- Step 3:** Avoid using a remote car starter. These devices encourage you to start your vehicle before you are ready to leave, which means wasteful idling.
- Step 4:** In temperatures below 0°C, use a block heater to warm the engine before you start your vehicle. This will improve fuel efficiency and reduce exhaust emissions.
- Step 5:** Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the benefits of reduced idling. Encourage them to join you in saving money, protecting the environment and contributing to a healthier community.

## For More Information

For more information, visit the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada's *Idle-Free Zone* (<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/autosmart/idling>), a web site devoted to helping communities reduce vehicle idling at the local level, or call 1-800-387-2000 for a free information kit.

