

MARBLEHEAD REPORTER

Do not be idle Marblehead

Submitted Content

Published 7:59 p.m. ET Nov. 18, 2020

As the weather grows colder so grows the temptation to idle in a nice warm vehicle but Sustainable Marblehead's No Idling Campaign is urging people to just say no.

WHY

- Car and truck exhaust (EVs not included) is a greenhouse gas contributing to warming the planet. For every 10 minutes your engine is off, you'll prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released.
- Children are, particularly at risk. Little lungs breathe at a much faster rate than mature ones, taking in 50% more air per pound of whatever is around, which for children, who dwell closer to tailpipes includes ground-level ozone that causes:
 - Wheezing
 - Coughing
 - Asthma Attacks
 - Exacerbation of Allergies
 - Increased Susceptibility to Respiratory Infection
 - Decreased lung function
 - Increased Risk of Heart Attack
- Harms vehicles, causing damage to cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems
- Idling is against the law: \$100 fine for the first infraction and \$500 for each additional.

HOW

Turn off your vehicle if you are at rest for more than 5 minutes.

If a company's truck is idling, note their name and contact information. Send this letter to their corporate headquarters:

Dear _____,

I am sure that your company wants to be a good community citizen in the areas you serve. Yesterday, I saw one of your trucks idling at (location), in Marblehead MA. Not only is idling for more than 5 minutes illegal in this state, your truck is contributing to ground-level ozone, which negatively impacts the children of this town, exacerbating allergies, decreasing lung function, causing and worsening asthma. It also adds yet more greenhouse gases to our challenged climate. Please do speak with your drivers and I hope to hear a positive response from you.