

Investigate – Car Idling Survey!

This activity is adapted from [EPA's Idle-Free Schools Toolkit](#)



PROCEDURES:

- #1** **Select your location & survey time.** Your location could be at your school, sports field or other site where cars are observed idling. For example, surveying a school ½ hour prior to school letting out is ideal.
- #2** **Practice Safety!** Survey in safe locations – remain on sidewalks and not on active roads. Depending on your age, sample with a partner or responsible adult.
- #3** **Conduct Survey.** Complete the Idling Observation Form for all vehicles in your survey zone over a period of at least 20-30 minutes. If asked, inform drivers that you are collected data on the types of cars on the road and driving behavior in general.
- #4** **Calculate Results.** Calculate the gallons burned, money spent and CO₂ released idling.

SUPPLIES:

- Idling Data Form
- Watch or Phone

DATA RESULTS & ANALYSIS:

How much gas was burned idling?

_____ Total minutes idling (cars)	X	.0053 gallons of gas/minute _____ _____	C	_____ Total gallons of gas burned (cars)
_____ Total minutes idling (trucks)	X	.0118 gallons of gas/minute _____ _____	T	_____ Total gallons of gas burned (trucks)
↓				_____ Total gallons of gas burned (all vehicles)
C + T				_____ Money spent idling

How much money was spent idling?

_____ Total gallons of gas burned (all vehicles)	X	\$ _____ price per gallon of gas	\$	_____ Money/year (multiply by 365)
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How much carbon dioxide was released idling?

_____ Total gallons of gas burned (all vehicles)	X	20 pounds of CO ₂ released/gallon _____ _____	_____	_____ Total pounds of CO ₂ released _____ Pounds CO ₂ /year (multiply by 365)
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REFLECTION:

Is idling a problem at this location? If so, what steps can be taken to reduce idling?

