



Request for Drivers to Reduce Automobile Idling at Student Pick-up and Drop-off

This year the Solana Beach School District will begin efforts to address health and environmental concerns created by excessive automotive idling at schools during student pick-up and drop-off.

New Recommendation for Drivers: If you're in line or waiting for someone and you'll be parked and sitting for 30 seconds or longer... turn off your car's engine.

Background Information from the California Energy Commission:

- Idling is linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease and cancer.
- Idling gets ZERO miles per gallon.
- Idling for 1 hour burns nearly 1 gallon of gasoline.
- For every two minutes a car is idling, it uses about the same amount of fuel it takes to go about one mile. Research indicates that the average person idles their car five to 10 minutes a day. People usually idle their cars more in the winter than in the summer. But even in winter, you don't need to let your car sit and idle for five minutes to "warm it up" when 30 seconds will do just fine.

The bottom line: If you are going to be parked for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.