Turn Your Engine Off!

when idling more than 10 seconds – out of traffic

How Idling Affects:

The Environment

- Climate change is real - ice caps **ARE** melting, polar bears are drowning, tropical reefs are dying
- Green House Gases, such as carbon dioxide, result from burning of fossil fuels and trap heat inside the earth's atmosphere
- We **MUST** do **EVERYTHING** possible **NOW** to slow warming and return to normal global temperatures – turning off your engine is one **BIG** step.
- CO2 emissions from vehicles account for 1/3 of green house gases that cause global warming
- Idling can consume 1/4 to 1 gallon of gasoline per hour.
- 1 gallon of gasoline produces nearly 2 pounds (1.94) of carbon dioxide and other green house gases!

Your Savings

- Idling gets 0 miles per gallon.
- You will save more gas by turning the engine off and restarting it again if you expect to idle for more than 30 seconds.
- Idling wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Idling is not an effective way to warm up your engine even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. No matter how efficient your car is, unnecessary idling wastes fuel, costs you money and pollutes the air.
- Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add $10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling.
- Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems.
- The bottom line is that over 30 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

What You Can Do

- Turn off your engine when running into the grocery store, post office or conducting other errands. Such errands almost always take longer than 10 seconds.
- Try parking your car and going into restaurants, banks, etc., instead of idling in drive-up lanes.
- By avoiding long idles you will prevent pollution and help slow global warming.
- Combine trips and errands.
- Leave your car at home and carpool, walk or ride a bike.

Visit these websites for additional information on how you can help:

http://epa.gov/climatechange/
http://cleanairwisconsin.org
http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/calculator/ind_calculator.html
http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/

Forest County Potawatomi
Keeper of the Fire

FCP Natural Resources Department