

Dear Mayor/Council:

I am writing as a concerned citizen to request that you and your colleagues on municipal council consider enacting a no-idling resolution for our community. At the very least, I believe our local government should launch a public awareness campaign about how this pervasive habit contributes both to local air quality problems and to the global issue of climate change.

As you are no doubt aware, vehicle exhaust emissions are a major source of pollutants that are damaging our environment and our health. Vehicle related air pollution can cause asthma and other respiratory problems and allergies, especially in children who breathe at a faster rate than adults. Unfortunately, up to 25% of New Jersey's school age children are asthmatic—the leading cause of school absenteeism and increased visits to the emergency room on hot summer days.

New Jersey has already enacted a no-idling law, restricting the amount of time a vehicle can idle by 3 minutes, making exceptions for certain circumstances (e.g., periods of extremely cold or hot weather). I strongly urge our local government to educate citizens about the dangers of idling and take additional steps to become an “idle free” New Jersey.

While I understand that all New Jersey motorists must accept their share of the responsibility, I also believe that governments must show leadership by action. I urge our local government to show leadership by instituting anti-idling policies within its own fleet and among fleets that fall within its control. Any steps taken by local government to reduce vehicle idling will have a real and positive impact on the quality of air in our community and the quality of the environment we leave to future generations. It would also save taxpayers money, particularly with today's high fuel prices.

Should you require additional information on this important subject, I would encourage you to visit NJ Environmental Federation's web site at www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/campaigns-noidling.html. This site is an excellent source of information and ideas on how governments, businesses and individuals can work together in addressing this problem.

I would appreciate a prompt response to my request. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,