

Idling Survey Instructions

Is car idling contributing to air pollution around your school?

What is idling?

When people leave their car engine running while they have stopped, this is called 'idling'. A car is 'idling' if it has been left running for over **one minute** after stopping or parking.



Idling can cause pollution around school when parents pick up or drop off children. Their cars cough out dirty, smelly fumes. Yuck!

How do we monitor idling?


To work out if idling is causing pollution around your school, you can count the number of **parents' cars** outside your school that are idling.

It's best to count parents cars idling during the busy time in the morning before school starts and again in the afternoon when school ends. For example, if your school starts at 9:00 and ends at 3:30, you should do the survey from 8:30 - 9:00am and 3:15 - 3:45pm, because parents may come earlier to drop off or wait for their children.

Choose to do your idling survey on a day when most pupils leave school around the same time. Your teacher will send you, in groups, to a location beside the road near your school where parents drop off their children.

Instructions:

Fill out the form on the next page with your name, the date, and your location. You will be counting cars in two 15 minute blocks. Follow the steps below so we can compare everyone's results later on.

- In a group of three, choose who you will be:
 - Champion 1 **Observer** : spot and identify parents' cars
 - Champion 2 **Timer** : time how long parents' cars are left idling
 - Champion 3 **Recorder** : record the number of cars idling and not idling
- What is the time? Write the time in the column 'Start Time' (e.g. 8:30am). What time should you stop counting cars? The **Timer** should make sure that you stop counting cars after 15 minutes.
- The **Observer** looks for parents' cars that are idling and not idling and tells the **Timer**.
- The **Timer** uses a stop watch to time if cars have been idling for at least **one minute**.
- The **Recorder** puts one dash in the column 'Number of cars idling' every time the **Observer** and the **Timer** find an idling car, and one dash in the column 'Number of cars not idling' every time the **Observer** spots a parked car that is not idling. 
- At the end of 15 minutes, the **Timer** tells the **Observer** to stop counting and the **Recorder** writes the finish time in the column 'End Time' (e.g. 8:45 am). Add up the number of cars idling and not idling and record this in the 'total' column.
- After a 1 minute break, you can swap jobs. Repeat steps 1-6 and record your findings in the second row.
- When you finish counting cars for the second time, add up all the cars idling and put this number in the 'total, column on the bottom row. Add up all the cars not idling and put this number in the 'total' column on the bottom row.
- Repeat steps 1-8 again in the afternoon.
- At the end of the day, give your record form to your teacher. Do you think idling is a problem at your school? If yes, what can you do about it?



Congratulations! You've completed your idling survey.

Idling Survey Record Form

School: _____ Date: _____ Location/ street: _____

Supervisor: _____ Observer: _____ Timer: _____ Recorder: _____

Morning AM

Session	Start time	End time	Number of cars idling	Total	Number of cars NOT idling	Total
Morning Session 1						
Morning Session 2						
Total number of			cars idling		cars not idling	

Afternoon PM

Session	Start time	End time	Number of cars idling	Total	Number of cars NOT idling	Total
Afternoon Session 1						
Afternoon Session 2						
Total number of			cars idling		cars not idling	