Thank you for not idling

It's the law

WHAT IS THE ANTI-IDLING LAW?

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 16A and the MA Department of Environmental Protection idling reduction regulation (310 CMR 7.11(1)(b)) both prohibit unnecessary vehicle idling by stating that the engine must be shut down if the vehicle will be stopped for more than five minutes. To provide additional protections for children, MGL Chapter 90, Section 16B further restricts unnecessary idling in school zones.



What can I do?

Make sure you are not a violator. If you are going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds, turn your engine off (except in traffic). And tell town officials you support enforcing the anti-idling law through your emails and attending meetings.

Why is there an anti-idling law?

It's basic common sense: there is already too much pollution in the air. Massachusetts consistently has days when air pollution exceeds ozone standards.

What are a few examples of unnecessary idling?

- Sitting in your car in a parking lot with the engine on during mild or cool weather is unnecessary. The interior of your car will stay warm for 5 to 10 minutes on all but the coldest days.
- Leaving the vehicle running while unattended to let the heater warm it or the air conditioner cool it for extended periods of time is unnecessary idling (it is also in violation of motor vehicle law).
- Operating devices not related to transporting passengers or goods. Letting the engine run for an hour or more to play a movie or to charge a cell phone causes unnecessary pollution is a nuisance for others nearby and puts excessive wear and tear on the engine.

One minute of idling produces more carbon monoxide than 3 packs of cigarettes