

Tips for being sustainable – turn off the car

A car is idling when the engine is turned on but the vehicle is not in motion. This practice is not only unnecessary, but also is harmful to the environment and our health. New Jersey has had a no-idling regulation for diesel-fueled commercial vehicles since 1972. This law was updated in 2009 to include a provision that states that, with limited exceptions, *no* motor vehicle (diesel or gasoline fueled) may have its engine running if motionless for more than three consecutive minutes.

Why is this a good idea: When we “turn the key” on idling, we reduce the risk of asthma and heart disease and we help improve air quality. Contrary to popular belief, modern cars do not require a warm-up period, and turning a car on and off does not harm the engine. In two minutes, an idling car burns enough gas to travel one mile and on average, a car emits one pound of carbon dioxide (CO₂) every mile it’s driven. During the course of a year, the average motor vehicle emits nearly 12,100 pounds, or 6 tons, of emissions into the atmosphere. Estimates are based on data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Office of Transportation and Air Quality and assume an average fuel consumption of 21.5 miles per gallon. (from Sustainable Jersey Anti-idling action packet).

Come celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 28 from 11-1:30. Brookside Park (corner of Broad and Bay). Free bare-root tree saplings from the NJ DEP Division of Parks and Forestry will be handed out (a limit on quantity); a river clean up with hip boots provided by Passaic Valley Sewage Commissions River Restoration Division; electric cars will be on hand to check out; information on how to help save the Monarch butterfly; find out about native plants and invasives; put your pin on our composting map; chat with people from the Open Space Trust Fund, the Community Garden, Watsessing Conservancy, and Bloomfield Solar. Kids can enjoy the reading corner! And more! Be planet friendly: Bring your own water bottle and fill up at our water cooler and walk or ride your bike. www.greenerbloomfield.org @greener07003
Facebook.com/greenerbloomfield Greener Bloomfield meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Civic Center.

