

COUNCIL FILE: 19-0604

(BY COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ)

IDLING REDUCTION AND EDUCATION

THE PROBLEM

Needless vehicle idling, though seemingly insignificant, is a serious problem. Parked idling vehicles waste over 300 million gallons of gas, cost drivers approximately one billion dollars and pump more than 3 million tons of pollutants into the air annually in California.

Nowhere is this more urgent than in Southern California. Los Angeles is the most ozone polluted metropolitan area in the United States according to the American Lung Association's 2019 "State of the Air" Report. In fact, the city has failing grades in all three of the report's air pollution categories. This air pollution is not only a nuisance, it also poses significant dangers to public health, including risk of premature death, reproductive and developmental harm, cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, and asthma. Fellow Angelenos who are suffering with asthma already count among more than 250,000 children and 1.1 million adults.

The need to address the issues of poor air quality is made even more immediate by the rapidly increasing climate emergency and needless parked idling puts 3 million tons of CO2 into California's atmosphere annually. Tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks are the biggest source of smog-forming and climate pollution in California and they are on the rise. Parked vehicle idling costs are too high, harming our wallet, health and environment.

THE SOLUTION

Parked vehicle idling is unnecessary and gets ZERO miles per gallon. *Distracted Idling* is happening more and more as we sit in our cars to charge and talk on phones, as ride-hailing and delivery services leave parked vehicle engines running, just to name a few. The solution is to curtail parked vehicle idling.

BACKGROUND

Los Angeles and California as a whole pride themselves on being leaders on air quality, health, the economy, and climate action. However, when it comes to parked vehicle idling, at least 7 other states and major cities like New York have already put bans in place. Like the well-recognized "Click It or Ticket" law, limits on needless parked vehicle idling will save lives and be supported by an educational campaign.

CURRENT CALIFORNIA LAW

The only regulation on California's books regulates heavy-duty diesel trucks (over 10,000 lbs.). These vehicles are limited to 5 minutes of idling only, with some exceptions. Yet, the remaining 80% of vehicles on our roads - cars, SUVs, light duty trucks, motorcycles, etc., aren't covered. Sensitive locations all over Los Angeles, such as schools, hospitals and senior centers, as well as emissions choked areas such as garages, parking lots and travel hubs are at the most risk. As such, limiting needless vehicle idling to one minute or less will protect everyone from kids to construction workers.

SUPPORT

Coalition for Clean Air
American Lung Association in California: Health Professionals for Clean Air & Climate Action
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles
Youth Climate Strike Los Angeles
Sierra Club Los Angeles
Climate Reality Los Angeles

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please enact an idling reduction and education plan for your city, support the Koretz Motion file #19-0604 and post "Clean Air Zone – No Idling Allowed" signs in sensitive areas.