Why Consider Idle Reduction?

On both a global and local perspective, idle reduction can provide improvements in both personal and environmental health. New technologies in the idle reduction sector are leading to demands for manufacturing and service. Products and services will help with the implementation of idle reduction strategies, but consumers and operators can take steps to proactively pursue immediate reductions in fuel consumption and emissions produced during idle.

Heavy-duty truck idling uses approximately 3 billion gallons of fuel per year

Health Benefits of Idle Reduction

- Emissions from combustion can have negative effects on overall health
- Inhaling these emissions can cause respiratory and cardiovascular issues
- Emissions may cause ground level ozone

Environmental Benefits of Idle Reduction

- Idle reduction is a simple way to reduce the amount of unnecessary emissions produced daily
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are a factor in global climate change

Economic Benefits of Idle Reduction

- Excessive idling greatly reduces fuel economy
- There are more than 650,000 trucks that may idle nightly
- These trucks represent a key market for idle reduction technologies and implementation
- Idle reduction strategies can be implemented by all drivers

Energy Security Benefits of Idle Reduction

- Reduced fuel consumption means reduced reliance on foreign oil supplies
- 6 billion gallons of fuel are consumed annually through idling – implementing idle reduction strategies can greatly reduce this number

Ridgeview Business Park • 1100 Frederick Lane • Morgantown, WV 26508
P: (304) 293-7882 • F: (304) 293-6944

What Is Idle Reduction?

Idle reduction is a petroleum and emissions reduction strategy that focuses on limiting the time at which vehicles idle. Idle refers to the speed of rotation of the engine when no throttle or load is applied. The vehicle's tachometer displays the engine speed.

Did You Know?

Idling a vehicle may allow for the comforts of heat or A/C and the operation of accessories, but when your vehicle is idling, your fuel economy at rest is 0 miles per gallon.

Idle Reduction as a Sustainable Practice

Implementing idle reduction strategies is a sustainable practice that can be applied indefinitely. As these practices are applied to alternative fuel vehicles that already achieve higher fuel economy, the benefits will be greater. Idle reduction practices include simple driving habits that can be utilized immediately by any driver.

Tachometer indicating an idling engine. Source: NAFTC.

Reduction in idle time is directly related to fuel savings. By applying these techniques, drivers will not only save on fuel costs, but they will also be a part of reduced fuel consumption and improved emissions in the U.S. as a whole. An idling vehicle not in motion is achieving 0 miles per gallon of fuel consumed.

What Vehicles Can Benefit from Idle Reduction?

All vehicles can benefit from idle reduction technologies and strategies. Light- and medium-duty vehicles share most of these technologies and strategies. Heavy-duty vehicles may include long-haul trucks. These vehicles may be left to idle over night for the comfort of their drivers. By utilizing onboard equipment and truck stop electrification, this idling time can be greatly reduced.

Light-duty vehicles are used primarily for consumer transportation. Consumers can apply similar idle reduction techniques to reduce their fuel consumption. Each vehicle operates differently, and consumers should consult manufacturer-specific suggestions for proper operation.

School bus at idle. Source: NAFTC.

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