

RESOLUTION:
REDUCTION OF VEHICLE IDLING

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates, and a multitude of potentially harmful pollutants that can trigger an asthma attack and other ailments;¹ and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern in NJ, especially among children (up to 25% of NJ's school age children are asthmatic) and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, schools have been identified as places where vehicle idling often occurs and exposes children who are most susceptible to air polluting emissions; and

WHEREAS, for every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the largest contributor to greenhouse climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector²; and

WHEREAS, petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted; and

WHEREAS, idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning a warm engine off and on again,⁴ idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles, and idling is not generally beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts;³ and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Administrative Code, State of New Jersey Motor Vehicle Statute, Motor Vehicle and Traffic Act, and Air Pollution Control Act restrict idling to no more than 3 minutes (with limited exceptions), and fines of \$250 are stipulated for first offense and up to \$3,000 for multiple offenses; and

WHEREAS, we can avoid producing unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and exposure to air toxins by reducing or eliminating wasteful vehicle idling, and moving beyond New Jersey's existing no-idling code and reduce idling to no more than 10 seconds would significantly improve public health and air quality and reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bloomfield Board of Education joins with the Township of Bloomfield in designating September 2009 as "Anti-Idling Month" to raise awareness of the dangers of vehicle idling and encourage actions to reduce idling

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bloomfield Board of Education:

- Designates all public school property as "Idle Free Zones" and asks the Township of Bloomfield to designate public roads along school property as "Idle Free Zones"; and
- Will send out communications that encourage parent, student, faculty, and staff drivers to turn off their engines after 10 seconds if they plan to remain at a location for more than 30 seconds, particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times; and
- Instructs all school bus drivers to turn their engines off while parking or standing at school for dropping off and picking up students, and after 10 seconds at all other times when they plan to

remain at a location for more than 30 seconds, and asks that all school bus drivers receive training on eliminating idling; and

- Will ensure that the District will use newest buses for the longest routes and ensure that school vehicles are maintained to eliminate any visible exhaust; and
- Allows Township officials to enforce existing anti-idling violations and penalties under the State of New Jersey's and the Township of Bloomfield's no-idling codes* on school grounds; and
- Directs the Administration to sign and comply with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's No Idle Pledge for School Districts, which affirms these resolutions; and
- Supports broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLED that the Bloomfield Board of Education directs the District Superintendent and Administration, in cooperation with Greener Bloomfield, to establish a District Anti-Idling Policy to reinforce this resolution, and to ensure that the district policy includes a requirement for district-owned vehicles that does not infringe on safety, and includes district contractors, to comply with the regulation.

NOTES:

*The 3-minute idling statute has limited exceptions, including those for emergency vehicles in emergency situations, discharge and pick up of passengers, vehicles stopped in traffic, vehicles whose primary power source is used for necessary mechanical operation other than propulsion, inspections, and repairs.

Idle Free New Jersey: No-Idling Resolution for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Compilation of State, County, and Local Anti-Idling Regulations, New Jersey, p. 51-61

(<http://www.epa.gov/smartway/documents/420b06004.pdf>)

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air & Radiation, Basic Information, 'Six Common Air Pollutants,' U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Accessed May 26, 2006, <http://www.epa.gov/oar/urbanair/6poll.html>.

² EHHI Releases Original Research Report, The Harmful Effects of Vehicle Exhaust: A Case for Policy Change.

³ Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, 'Idling,' Accessed May 24, 2006. <http://www.in.gov/idem/programs/air/dieselwise/idling.html>.

⁴ Source: Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resources Canada <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/index.cfm?attr=16>.