

Environmental Risks Of Car Idling

Normane Valley Middle School

Ocean, NJ

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What We Learned

We learned that car idling is a huge contributor to carbon emissions that cause air pollution. The World Health organization states, "It (air pollution) increases the risk of respiratory infections, heart disease, and lung cancer." Idling is a big contributor to air pollution because cars just sit there releasing carbon emissions harming the environment,

What We Did And Our Solution

We focused on collecting evidence by watching parents wait to pick up their kids an hour early before school got out. Then created an anti-idling course of action. Our course of action included, counting the number of cars that idled in front of the school over 3 days, it also included creating flyers for parents with facts, and anti idling stickers. We also presented the effects of car idling on the environment to our school principal and superintendent. Lastly we received permission to create a digital message on the outside school sign and to do morning school announcements to educate other students.



Idling Impact

40

Average number of cars idling every day for an hour before school pickup at our school

240

of pounds of carbon dioxide released by 40 cars in one hour

43,200

Pounds of carbon dioxide, if 40 cars do this every day of the school year (180 days)!

Conclusion

We handed out more than 100 flyers to parents and gave over 250 Stop Idling stickers to students so they could share them with their family and friends. We think that more than 300 students and parents saw the digital sign outside the school every day. The sign said, "No Idling Zone. Turn the key, be idle free." Also, we found a cool fact in an article from the Environmental Defense Fund. It said that if you turn off your engine for 10 minutes, you'll stop one pound of carbon dioxide from being released into the air. Lastly, we looked at the cars in our school drop-off line and made a chart to show our findings.

Steps for the Future

In the future, we would plan to share our flyers, stickers and digital message at a school PTA meeting and with other schools in our district.



Line of cars at our school at pick up time