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The big emissions reduction / air quality improvement picture in California is the clean transportation present and future, led by electrification. But California must not ignore the here-and-now impact of vehicle idling when parked - a harmful, wasteful and largely unnecessary practice.

One of the most impactful sources of this idling occurs at California's more than 10,000 schools during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Afternoon pick up is the main concern. During the dismissal period, prolonged idling by a majority of vehicles occurs. Idle-Free California has seen this first-hand when implementing past idle-free schools projects both in California and Vermont.

There is a consensus that internal combustion engine passenger vehicles are much cleaner and emit less toxins than decades ago and therefore the focus on emissions and air quality should be elsewhere. First, no matter how clean these vehicles are, they still emit 20 lbs. of CO2 for every gallon of fuel burned. More importantly, in certain common circumstances, even the latest internal combustion engine vehicles emit more pollution when they are idling than when traveling, such as during prolonged stationary warm-ups, and when a caravan of idling vehicles causes idling “hot spots”. Examples of this occurrence are in drive-thrus and while waiting during school dismissal periods.

Idle-free schools projects can make a real difference in school communities, especially in urban and disadvantaged ones where pollution levels are higher. Besides reducing emissions, air quality is improved which is especially important among children whose developing lungs are more impacted by tailpipe emissions than adults. These campaigns are student-led and with the option of measurable campaigns, students will learn organizational, analytical and communication skills as they perform data analysis.

Idle-free schools campaigns occur in California, in other U.S. states, and internationally (sources available).

Idle-Free California model for an idle-free schools campaign: [http://idlefreecalifornia.org/california-idle-free-schools.html](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fidlefreecalifornia.org%2Fcalifornia-idle-free-schools.html&data=02%7C01%7Czenia.aguilera%40arb.ca.gov%7Cc0f8d80fb9674640456f08d6e3877bc9%7C9de5aaee778840b1a438c0ccc98c87cc%7C0%7C1%7C636946568387930618&sdata=AnU7gKvwFmRasb0PWiKt9je6DpKG82tYYyqoSpQo4ck%3D&reserved=0)

ATTACHMENT: Estimation Of Fuel Consumption & Co2 Emissions -

Light-Duty Vehicle Idling At Schools - California