



TURN OFF YOUR CAR to **REDUCE FUEL USE** and **AIR POLLUTION**

“End Idle Worship” is a community-wide pledge drive sponsored by Northwest Jewish Environmental Project (NJEP), in cooperation with the national Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) and endorsed by the Oregon Board of Rabbis, the Portland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Portland. Our goal is to build a Jewish community that actively supports energy efficient practices and policies. We thank you for your support and ask you to join our effort. For more information about NJEP and COEJL, please contact 503-224-3352 or check our website at www.nwjep.org

The Jewish community has a special interest in promoting energy efficient practices, especially when it comes to fossil fuel consumption. That's why we are asking Jewish car drivers in our community to perform a special environmental mitzvah to End Idle Worship!

TURN UP YOUR COMPASSION by TURNING OFF YOUR ENGINE!

Support the End Idle Worship pledge drive by turning your engine off when parked or waiting (except in traffic), if you anticipate being stopped for 30 seconds or more. You and others around you won't have to breathe in unhealthy exhaust fumes from a vehicle that is going nowhere, and you'll reduce fuel waste and global warming.

Exposure to most auto pollutants, already dangerous in the larger environment, is much higher inside vehicles than at the road side. The highest exposure occurs when sitting in traffic congestion on highways or in a line-up of idling vehicles.

FACTS ABOUT IDLING:

- Idling for any longer than a typical traffic stop (30-45 seconds) uses more fuel than restarting your engine.
- Restarting a car more frequently has little impact on engine components such as the battery and starter motor.
- Idling is not the best way to warm up your car, even in cold weather; driving is the way to do it. With modern engines you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before starting to drive.
- Excessive idling can be hard on your engine. Because the engine isn't working at peak operating temperature, fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion. This leaves fuel residue that contaminates engine oil and dirties spark plugs.

BURNING GASOLINE CREATES:

- Air pollution that can cause lung damage and can aggravate asthma.
- Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, which accelerates global warming.
- Several toxic air pollutants that are known or suspected to cause serious health effects, including cancer. Vehicle exhaust contains benzene, acetaldehyde, butadiene and formaldehyde, among other toxins. National studies suggest that levels of these toxic air pollutants in the Portland region exceed safe levels.

IDLING IS A RELIGIOUS ISSUE BECAUSE:

- Pursuing justice (*tzedek*) and saving lives (*pikuakh nefesh*) whenever possible are central values in our tradition. Cutting preventable air pollution from idling vehicles is an easy way to practice what we preach.
- The commandment to not waste (*bal tashchit*) means burning fuel only in the most efficient and useful ways (Talmud Shabbat 67b); idling is nothing but waste.
- We are "copartners with God in the work of creation." Every drop of gasoline not burned, or pollution not generated, helps save our beautiful but imperiled world.

Information from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: JOIN THE PLEDGE DRIVE!

- To join the End Idle Worship pledge drive and learn more about NJEP, go to our website <http://www.nwjep.org>
- When you join the campaign you'll receive a decal for your car and access to information about more ways to reduce your fuel waste.

