

# Memorandum

## Town of Kingston, Massachusetts

TO: Sacred Heart High School  
Bus Companies  
John Tuffy, Interim Superintendent  
School Committee (2)  
Principle  
Patriot Ledger  
Kingston Reporter

PTO  
Kingston Elementary  
SL Middle School  
SL High School  
Boston Globe  
Brockton Enterprise  
Kingston Intermediate School

FR: Green Energy Committee  
DT: February 20, 2008  
RE: Idling Policy

As you are hopefully aware the Board of Selectmen has endorsed a No Idling Policy for the Town of Kingston. The reason for this policy is to make the public aware of the negative effects associated with unnecessary idling. This problem contributes to smog, global warming, and a waste of money and resources as well as health issues related to excessive car, truck and bus engine emissions.

- Vehicle exhaust is the leading source of hazardous air pollution in the state.
  - Idling is not an efficient way to warm up engines in cold weather. Modern engines need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving.
  - A bus idling for one hour a day during the school year adds the equivalent of 1260 miles of wear on the engine.
  - Asthma is reaching epidemic proportions in the United States and is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.
    - Prevalence among children 1-4 years old has increased 120% since 1980
    - Massachusetts is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> for lifetime prevalence of asthma nationally behind Puerto Rico & Oregon (NBRFSS 2002)
    - 10% of children in K-8 in Massachusetts have lifetime asthma (MA/EPHT 2005)
    - Much of Massachusetts, Kingston included, has been designated as an “ozone non attainment area” according to National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Source: Suzanne K Condon Associate Commissioner Director, Center for Environmental Health, Mass Dept of Public Health
- Exposure to vehicle exhaust increases the risk of death from heart and lung diseases as well as lung cancer.

As a follow up to the Town’s No Idling Policy, The Green Energy Committee of the Town of Kingston will be purchasing signage to promote public awareness.

The signs will be strategically placed at schools, parks, the MBTA Station as well as other high visibility areas throughout the Town of Kingston.

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 16A, states that “No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the unnecessary operation of the engine of a motor vehicle while said vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable time period in excess of five minutes.” This means that if you expected to be stopped for more than five minutes, you must turn off your engine or risk getting a ticket with fines up to \$100 for the first offense and up to \$500 for each subsequent offense. It is not the intention of the Green Energy Committee to fine anyone!

It is the hope of the Green Energy Committee that you will actively participate in the awareness of this policy as well as its implementation. The key to the success of this program is public awareness and that is where we would greatly appreciate your assistance.

