

WHAT IS THE ANTI-IDLING LAW?

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90 Section 16A prohibits any person from unnecessarily idling the engine of any motor vehicle for a foreseeable period of time longer than five minutes.

WHY IS THERE AN ANTI-IDLING LAW?

Motor vehicle emissions contain pollutants that harm people and the environment. Many of those pollutants are regulated by the EPA under the Clean Air Act. As part of a plan to comply with the standards outlined by the Clean Air Act, Massachusetts passed an anti-idling law.

WHY DON'T I HEAR ABOUT THE LAW?

The anti-idling law is rarely enforced or publicized on a local level. Fortunately, that is beginning to change. In the past few years several towns and cities in Massachusetts have held anti-idling campaigns and installed signs to remind residents and visitors of the law. Many other communities are starting this process and WCAP is urging Wakefield to join them.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Most importantly, make sure you are not a violator of this law. Then, send an email to noidling@wakefieldcap.org to show your support. Next, tell town officials that you support the enforcement of the anti-idling law by sending emails and attending town meetings. After all, what good is a law if not enforced?

WHAT IS WCAP DOING?

WCAP is communicating with other towns that have already begun or completed the process of enforcement. WCAP is researching the best ways to get funding for signage and education, and communicating its findings with town officials. The organization is also reaching out to the community with flyers like this and with presentations that shed light on the dangers of vehicle emissions and the anti-idling law.



MAJOR EMISSIONS POLLUTANTS

- **Carbon Monoxide** – toxic to humans, weak greenhouse gas
- **Sulfur Dioxide** – corrosive, precursor to acid rain, aggravation of asthma and cardiovascular disease
- **Nitrogen Oxides** – causes acid rain, contributes to heart and lung problems, precursor to ground-level ozone
- **Particulate Matter** – associated with decreased lung function, heart and lung disease, asthma
- **Carbon Dioxide** – second most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, causing ocean acidification
- **Methane** – highly potent greenhouse gas, precursor to ground-level ozone
- **Ozone** – secondary pollutant formed when nitrogen oxides react with hydrocarbons and sunlight, associated with chest pain, cough, lung inflammation, and significant decreases in lung function
- **Benzene** – known carcinogen