



Idle-Free California Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that raises awareness of the harmful and wasteful practice of unnecessary vehicle idling — idling when parked or discretionary idling — in California.

Idle-Free California is headed by Executive Director Wayne Michaud and is based in Citrus Heights, CA (Sacramento County).

News & Updates

The latest news about Idle-Free California and vehicle idling in the state

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How Much Idling in California?

Californians idling when parked emit 3.75 million tons of CO₂ annually. This is a rough figure — as no statewide study on idling has been conducted — based on the U.S. Dept. of Energy stating that idling of all vehicles in the U.S. consumes 6 billion gallons of fuel annually.



Idling in California is a significant issue and therefore action must be taken to reduce it even as (slow) progress is made towards tailpipe zero emissions transportation.

Vermont to California

Idle-Free California began as Idle-Free VT in Vermont eleven years ago. In Vermont, in partnership with other organizations and with support of state agencies and the legislature, a school bus idling rule and a prohibited idling of (all) motor vehicles law were enacted.

Idle-Free VT worked with the American Lung Association in Vermont, coordinating their idle-free fleets program. Upon achieving 501c3 status, the organization went on to implement four idle-free education projects before businesses and in the school community. Since relocating to California in 2016, Idle-Free California has been networking, establishing connections, and forming partnerships. We are starting to make inroads and expect to see some results soon...



Idle-Free California Website



The **Idle-Free California** website is a comprehensive resource on vehicle idling. It contains pages on idling facts, idle-free tips, handouts, idling regulations, vehicle owners' manual quotes on idling, heavy-duty diesel idling, idling in the school community, and eco-driving.

Additionally, the latest information on vehicle idling in the state and beyond is on the Idle-Free California **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages.



Actions and Initiatives

Idle-Free California (IFCAL) is working on actions and initiatives in various stages of development.

1. Wayne Michaud has been invited by the California Association for Safety Education (CASE) to present *Idle-Free from the Start* to driver educators from across the U.S. at the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association's (ADTSEA) **2017 Conference** in Sacramento, July 16-19.



2. Funding is being sought to implement California Idle-Free Schools, a Sacramento Valley and Central Valley project that is a combination of classroom idle-free presentations and student-led idle-free schools campaigns that measure idling at school pick up areas along with driver intervention events. While this project is more likely to be implemented in the 2018-19 school year, two smaller idle-free schools projects are scheduled for this coming school year: Sonoma County Idle-Free Schools and Sacramento County Idle-Free Schools.

3. Idle-free messaging #1: working with California Clean Cities coordinators to offer an edited version the Norwich CT Clean Cities video *To Idle or Not To Idle* for use as a California Clean Cities video.



4. Idle-free messaging #2: working with the ARB to place idling awareness flyers/rack cards in DMV office locations and Green Driving Tips in the California drivers' handbook, as was accomplished in Vermont.

5. California regulation for light-duty vehicle (LDV) idling: LDVs make up around 85% of all vehicles here, yet are not regulated for idling. IFCAL has proposed a full LDV regulation, or incrementally, a regulation at schools (in 2016 the CA legislature passed [ACR 160](#), a non-binding resolution that encourages motorists not to idle where children congregate). IFCAL partnered with other organizations for a school regulation in a conference call with the ARB's Mobile Source Control Division; a further push with the ARB and/or legislature is planned. [IFCAL Expanding California Regulations page](#). Related to this, IFCAL is encouraging the ARB to commission a university statewide vehicle idling study.

6. Starbucks Coffee Co.: Wayne Michaud recently connected with Rebecca Zimmer, Starbuck's Global Director of Environment. Following a discussion about drive-thru idling at Starbucks, the company intends to gather more information on the emissions impact that may lead to a plan to reduce idling in drive-thrus via messaging, incentives, and/or other means.



Feature: Grades of Green

Grades of Green is a nonprofit organization based in El Segundo, California that has grown since its 2008 inception to instill environmental values in students internationally! Grades of Green offers an array of more than 40 school based activities from improving air quality, conserving energy and water, or minimizing use of and exposure to toxins.

One Grades of Green initiative is their **No Idle Zone**, spreading awareness and encouraging drivers to turn off car engines while waiting at school drop-off/pick-up areas. This includes a multi-step activity that is student-led. Currently, No Idle Zone initiatives are



being conducted at more than 10 Southern California schools.

Other News and Media

- **Palo Alto Considers Anti-Idling Ordinance**

The Mercury News, San Jose, CA, June 16

What do Mark Zuckerberg's private security officers and drivers of school buses, Uber cars and the many construction vehicles sitting curbside on Palo Alto's streets have in common?

- **Parked Car Idling Pollutes and It Wrecks Outdoor Dining, Too**

The Orange County Register, Anaheim, CA, June 29

One of the great things about Southern California is that we can dine al fresco nearly year-round, and during summer there are few things finer than eating outside watching a sunset.

Unless there's a vehicle parked nearby that is idling ... and idling.

Your suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Thank you for your interest!

Wayne Michaud

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