**No Idle Zone Pre & Post Campaign Observations**

We are using this form for:

Pre-Campaign Observations

Post Campaign Observations

**Recommendations for Conducting Observations:**

* With students conducting observations, their safety must be the top priority. Please provide whatever supervision they feel is necessary (e.g., assigning teachers or parents to escort and assist the children, or pairing older students together).
* Observers would observe the idling behavior of drivers during afternoon pick-up. While 4-5 consecutive days are recommended, you will need to decide how many days are feasible.  Conducting observations for just 1-2 days would not necessarily be statistically viable but would still provide some data for students to work with.
* Morning drop-off isn’t usually a problem for schools. Generally, the line of cars moves and cars don’t sit and idle. However, if your team believes morning drop-off is an issue, observations can be made then as well.
* Do not combine observations with the Driver Contact Event.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pre-Campaign Observations** | **Post-Campaign Observations** |
| * To make the observations as true to “natural behavior” as possible, it is imperative that the observations be done *before* promoting the campaign at the school. If the campaign is promoted before the first set of observations, then you will not get a true set of data. * Observers should be told that they are collecting data for a transportation study for a school activity. | * A final set of observations will show you the progress made in the campaign. |

**Instructions: How to Conduct Observations**

* Student Observers should be split into Zones: areas of the school where one observer can easily track all of the vehicles in that area (e.g., all vehicles on one side of the street in one block; all vehicles on both sides of the street on a small block; all vehicles in the school’s traffic circle; all vehicles in one section of the school’s parking lot, etc.).
* Be sure to cover all zones at the school.
* Have observers ready about 20-30 minutes before school is dismissed. Be sure that any students conducting the observations are appropriately paired off and/or supervised, as determined appropriate by the schools. All observers should be prepared to stay until student pick up is complete.
* All observers should have the following items:
  + Observations Sheets *(See: “*[*Sample Observation Sheet*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XwS7SBOLgZGOOJKpomO_P0nIFdmQ7Frp_6roRCWzFYY/edit?usp=sharing)*”)*
  + Pen
  + Clipboard
  + Watch or Cell Phone (to track time)
* Observers complete observation sheets.
* Have students or other volunteers collect the sheets, tally up the data collected, and determine how much idling was observed at the school.
* Have students, teachers or parents, analyze the data *(See “*[*Analyzing the Data*](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/analyzing_the_data.pdf)*”).*

**Sample Observation Table**

Chart for **PRE-CAMPAIGN** observations

Date:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Total # of Vehicles |  |
| 1. # Vehicles Idling |  |
| 1. % of Vehicles Idling (#2 divided by #1 x 100) |  |
| 1. Total Idling Minutes |  |
| 1. Average Idle Time/Vehicle |  |
| 1. Total Gas Wasted |  |
| 1. Total Gas Wasted in a Year of Idling |  |
| 1. Total CO emitted |  |
| 1. Total NOx emitted |  |
| 1. Total VOC emitted |  |

Chart for **POST-CAMPAIGN** observations

Date:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Total # of Vehicles |  |
| 1. # Vehicles Idling |  |
| 1. % of Vehicles Idling (#2 divided by #1 x 100) |  |
| 1. Total Idling Minutes |  |
| 1. Average Idle Time/Vehicle |  |
| 1. Total Gas Wasted |  |
| 1. Total Gas Wasted in a Year of Idling |  |
| 1. Total CO emitted |  |
| 1. Total NOx emitted |  |
| 1. Total VOC emitted |  |

Adapted from the EPA’s Idle Free School Campaign: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/idle\_free\_schools\_presentation.pdf