

March 19, 2008

### Year-Long Energy Saving Tip – Curb Engine Idling

Whether you drive a car for business or pleasure, one of the biggest ways to save on fuel costs and help protect the environment is to turn off your vehicle's engine if you're going to be parked for more than a minute. Please find below some general facts about engine idling:

**Did You Know?** According to the California Energy Commission, two minutes of engine idling burns the same amount of fuel as driving about one mile.

**Did You Know?** On average, letting your vehicle idle for one hour burns nearly 1 gallon of gasoline and releases about 22 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

**Did You Know?** Excessive idling can damage your engine's components and cause unnecessary wear and tear on cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems.

**Did You Know?** When you drive your car, it will warm up in about 30 seconds - much faster than letting it idle for 5-10 minutes.

**Did You Know?** Contrary to popular belief, repeatedly restarting your vehicle only adds about \$10 per year to the cost of driving and does little damage to the engine, battery and starter. You will recover that small increase several times over in fuel savings when you don't let your engine idle.

Remember, idling your vehicle gets zero miles to the gallon.

#### **Do the Right Thing!**

Don't idle your personal vehicle engine or the engines of the University vehicles you drive on campus.

Turn off your engine if you're going to be parked for more than 30 seconds – go into a warm building instead of waiting outside in an idling vehicle.

This year, let's work together to save on fuel, reduce carbon emissions and protect our planet.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Fernandez  
Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management

*Source: California Energy Commission consumer Energy Center –  
<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html>*