



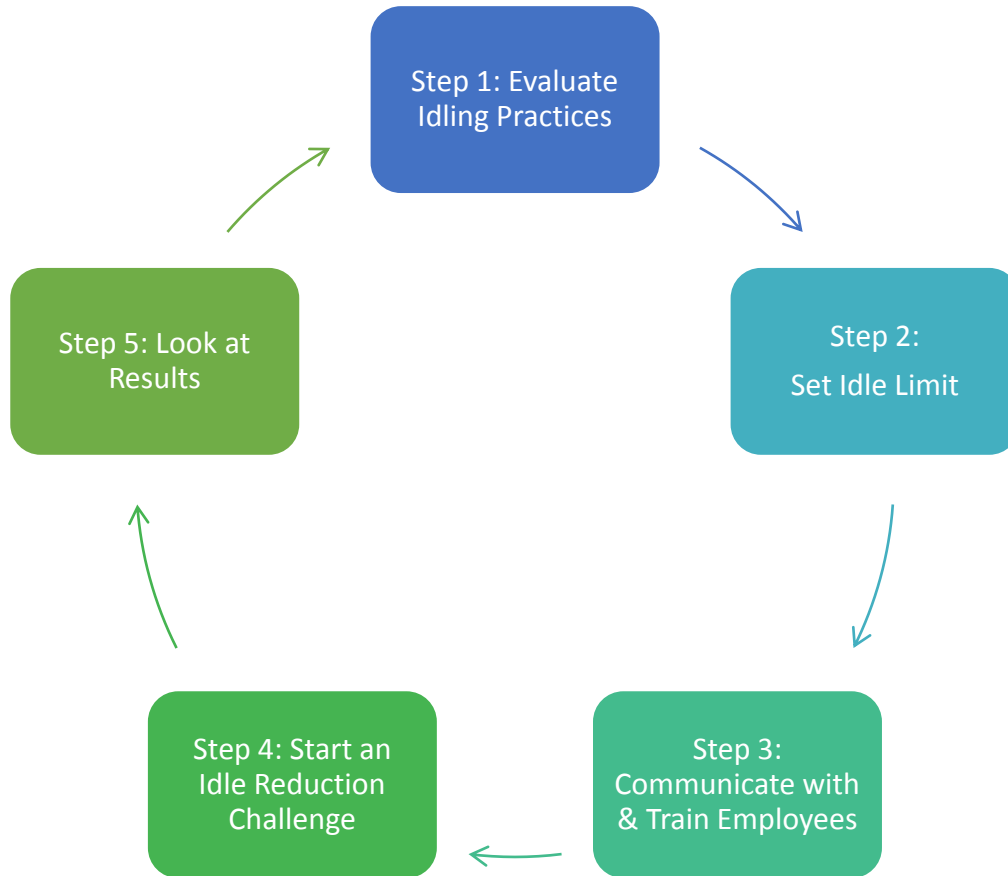
# START AN IDLE REDUCTION PROGRAM AT YOUR COMPANY

## Abstract

Help your company save money while cutting down on air pollution. Adopt an idle reduction plan to lower the amount of excessive idling by company vehicles, which will conserve fuel while keeping the air cleaner for your employees and community. Here we provide the framework to get you started!

# Start an Idle Reduction Program

A step-by-step process to help get you going.



**FREE** Idle Reduction Materials

- NC Division of Air Quality “Turn Off Your Engine” signs
- Idle Reduction “Facts and Myths” flyer for fleets
- Idle Reduction information cards for heavy-duty vehicle operators

# Start an Idle Reduction Program

## A step-by-step process to help get you going.

### Step 1: Evaluate Idling Practices

- Observe vehicles idling on worksite, especially at loading docks.
  - *How many vehicles are idling and how long?*
  - *When and where are vehicles idling?*
- Review output about idling from Electronic Vehicle Monitoring Systems.
  - *How much time is spent idling?*
- Review manufacturer's recommendations for specific heavy duty vehicles.
- Monitor complaints made by public about excessive idling of fleet vehicles.

### Step 2: Set an Idling Limit for Fleet Vehicles

- Identify necessary vs. unnecessary idling, based on manufacturer's recommendations.
- Establish time limit on idling vehicles.
- Visit the Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) website for a model Idle Reduction Plan that can be modified to fit your business needs.

### Step 3: Train Employees & Communicate Your Message

- Incorporate idle reduction plan in new employee training or orientation programs.
- Hand out the (**free**) MCAQ "Myths and Facts About Idling" flier that discusses common misconceptions about idling modern diesel and gasoline engines.
- Post (**free**) NCDAQ "Turn Off Your Engine" signs at your worksite.
- Provide (**free**) NC Air Awareness "Don't idle" information cards to all heavy-duty vehicle operators as a visual prompt to reduce idling.
- Discuss necessity of idle reduction with operators, emphasizing incentives to increase participation (see "**Idle Reduction Challenge**" in step 5).
- Incorporate idle reduction message in regular correspondence (newsletters, meetings, etc.) with employees.

### Step 4: Start an Idle Reduction Challenge

- See the "**Idle Reduction Challenge**" document on the MCAQ website for guidance.

### Step 5: Evaluate the Results of Idle Reduction

- Perform before-and-after comparison of idling behavior (See Step 1).

### BONUS Step!

- Contact PJ McKenzie with Mecklenburg County Air Quality (980-314-3374 or [Paul.McKenzie@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Paul.McKenzie@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov)) for a fleet analysis to identify least fuel efficient vehicles in fleet, or to apply for a Grant to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE), or both!