



NEWS



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Contra Costa County officials sign on to Idle Free Pledge

Residents are encouraged to join to help reduce air pollution

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Contra Costa Spare the Air Resource Team joined the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors at the signing of the Idle Free Pledge. The board and its members unanimously signed the pledge to go idle free, promising to turn off vehicle engines when waiting for more than 30 seconds to reduce air pollution in the region.

The pledge is sponsored by the Contra Costa County Spare the Air Resource Team. The board members are also encouraging employees and residents from the county to take the pledge to be idle free.

"Pledging to go idle free is an excellent way for anyone to reduce local air pollution and greenhouse gases while protecting public health in our communities," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. "Pollution from idling vehicles has significant health impacts for us all, but especially for children and the elderly."

Spare the Air Resource teams have worked with businesses across the Bay Area helping them to go idle free. The teams have also partnered with local schools, helping to install idle free zones and reducing children's exposure to exhaust from idling vehicles. The Pittsburg Unified School District in Contra Costa County was the first school district in the East Bay to launch idle free zones throughout its entire school district, encouraging staff, parents and students to be idle free at work, school and play.

"Idling vehicles emit pollution, negatively impacting public health and contributing to climate change," said Contra Costa County Supervisor and Air District board member John Gioia. "Idling for 30 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine. Simply switching off your car can benefit your health and your wallet."

Idling cars contribute to smog and impact people with asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease and cancer. The idle free campaign aims to improve our air quality by reducing unnecessary engine idling in our communities.

"Data shows us that on-road transportation is the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in our County," said Contra Costa County Supervisor and Air District board member Karen Mitchoff. "I support this Idle Free resolution and continue to advocate for the infrastructure and use of safe alternative methods of transportation in our communities. This resolution is simple: don't idle your cars, save on gas, and save your health. Happy and healthy communities remain our highest goal."

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Continued... Contra Costa County officials...

You can save money, reduce air pollution and help everyone breathe easier just by turning a key. Turn off your car engine if you'll be sitting for more than 30 seconds at a car wash, drive-thru or pick up spot. You'll save gas, money and help Spare the Air. Sign the Idle Free Pledge online at idlefreebayarea.org.

The Contra Costa County Spare the Air Resource Team, sponsored by the Air District, responds to air quality concerns in the county. Spare the Air supports its work to improve air quality through local actions. Visit www.sparetheair.org/contracosta for more information.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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