

NCTCOG FACT SHEET

October 2024

QUICK TAKE

What:

Engine Off North Texas

Significance

The 10-county nonattainment area consists of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise counties. The North Central Texas Council of Governments is working to improve air quality through a variety of collaborative projects and programs. Engine Off North Texas aims to improve air quality by limiting idling.

By the Numbers

48%

The approximate percentage of nitrogen oxides from all mobile emissions sources originating from heavy-duty vehicles.

Running Less, Breathing Cleaner Air: Engine Off North Texas

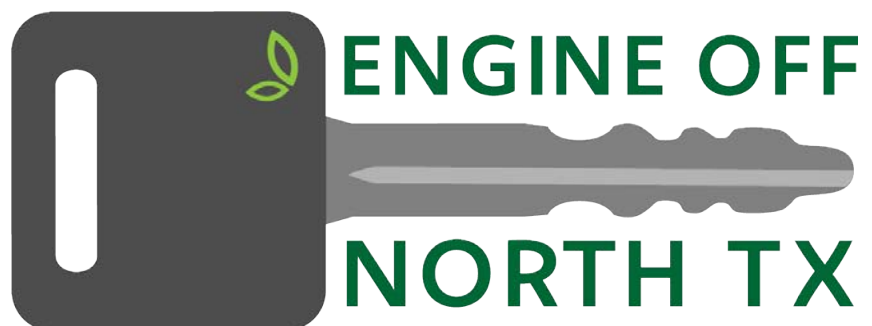
Idling is running a vehicle engine when it's not moving. While some idling is unavoidable, it can be quite wasteful, as it consumes more fuel than driving. Engine Off North Texas (EONT) is a regional initiative that aims to reduce the impact of the unnecessary idling of vehicles. To accomplish this goal, EONT focuses on expanding the adoption of anti-idling ordinances, offering policies for fleets, providing idle reduction technology options and promoting various idle reduction strategies across the region. There are several reasons the public, freight operators and local governments should care about idling.

Idling is expensive. An idling car wastes up to a half-gallon per hour, while a medium-duty truck may waste even more. While singular episodes of idling may seem inconsequential, their cumulative impact on fuel consumption is substantial. Idling results in the consumption of an additional 6 billion gallons of fuel annually from heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles.

Idling pollutes. Each gallon of fuel burned emits about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Idling can affect health. Tailpipe emissions contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant that can cause respiratory problems, especially for those with lung conditions.

Idling is restricted in some parts of North Texas.



Cities Can Help

This initiative works directly with the region's municipalities to encourage them to adopt and implement ordinances that set a five-minute heavy-duty commercial vehicle limit on engine idling and inform them of enforcement options. Buses may idle for 30 minutes.

Currently, 28 municipalities in the region have ordinances in place, with many of them subjecting heavy-duty vehicle violators to a penalty of up to \$500 for each excessive idling occurrence. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is seeking to add to the number of participating local governments and is available to provide educational resources and idle restriction signs upon request.

Truck Drivers and the General Public

EONT has published brochures to help the freight industry and general public understand the importance of anti-idling ordinances, the negative effects of idling, ways to curb idling and options for reporting an idling vehicle. To report an idling violation from a heavy-duty vehicle, complete an online form at **EngineOffNorthTexas.org** or call **877-NTX-IDLE (877-689-4353)**.

Alternatives

For the heavy-duty trucking industry, safety regulations require drivers to rest. But developments in technology are allowing these drivers to avoid idling. On-board devices are available that allow drivers to turn off the main engine while still providing driver comfort and thus, reducing air pollution and fuel consumption. Available at a growing number of truck stops across the U.S., An Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) is a type of Idling Reduction Technology (IRT) designed to provide power to a vehicle's electrical apparatus and climate control without the need to keep the engine running. APUs can either be factory-installed or later added as an aftermarket option. They function as one of many IRT types used to reduce the idling time of an engine.

APUs can be powered by diesel fuel, electricity, or other alternative fuel sources. Utilizing an APU can decrease fuel costs, maintenance costs, noise, harmful emissions – and can extend the life of the engine.

For a list of EPA SmartWay verified APUs and other Idle Reduction Technologies, search the EPA website **www.epa.gov/smartway**.



Engine Off North Texas focuses on expanding the adoption of anti-idling ordinances, implementing fleet policies, providing idle reduction options and promoting idle reduction strategies.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

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