

10 Simple Steps to Improving Air Quality in the Freight Industry

- 1. Turn off your engine during rest periods.** Eliminating unnecessary truck idling could save up to 1,900 gallons of fuel each year (a cost savings of an estimated \$4,500), lower engine maintenance costs, fewer engine overhauls per miles traveled, and better air quality.
- 2. Turn your engine off if parked for more than 30 seconds.** 30 seconds of idling can use more fuel than restarting the engine. Idling can cause twice the wear on internal engine parts.
- 3. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for minimum warm-up time.** Most engine manufacturers recommend that newer engines run for roughly 3 to 5 minutes before driving.
- 4. Consider idle-reduction technologies.** Many new technologies are available, including automatic engine shut-down systems, diesel fuel-fired heaters, auxiliary power units, and truck-stop electrification connections. For details and funding opportunities, visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/idle-fund.htm>.
- 5. Follow idling laws and guidelines in your state.** In Virginia, the maximum idling time in commercial or residential urban areas is 10 minutes. Trucks that use auxiliary power units are exempt.
- 6. Keep your engine well tuned and maintained.** Regular maintenance and tune-ups improve gas mileage, extend the life of your truck, and improve air quality.
- 7. Fill up your tank with biodiesel.** Trucks running on biodiesel smell better, produce fewer emissions, and significantly improve the lubrication of engine components. For more information on biodiesel and where to fill up, visit <http://www.biodiesel.org>.
- 8. Get fuel when it's cool.** Refueling your truck during cooler periods of the day can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone, or smog.
- 9. Don't top off the tank.** This releases gas fumes into the air and cancels the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices.
- 10. Spread the word.** If all members of the freight industry took just a few of these simple steps, it could make a big difference in the amount of fuel we consume and the quality of the air we breathe.

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www.valleyairnow.com/cleandieselnetwork.htm

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