Care About Air
Marie Schaefer Elementary

**Turn Your Key, Be Idle-Free**

Help Your School Turn the Key to Be Idle-Free

Vehicle idling by buses and parent, teacher, staff and delivery vehicles creates unnecessary air pollution at schools. The airborne particles in this pollution can cause nasal, throat, respiratory, eye and other health problems for everyone; however, children are especially vulnerable:

- Children's lungs are still developing, which causes them the breathe at a rate twice as fast as adults.
- Children breathe, on average, 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults.
- Children are closer to the ground and therefore closer to the tailpipes of idling vehicles.
- Children's asthma symptoms increase from exposure to car exhaust and face an increased risk of respiratory tract infection as well.
- Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.

How?
The Turn Your Key, Be Idle-Free campaign asks that schools implement a No Idling policy and place No Idling signs in the bus and carpool lanes, and delivery areas. The Turn Your Key, Be Idle-Free campaign is providing FREE No Idling signs.

- Idling over 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine.
- Two minutes of idling uses the same amount of fuel as driving one mile.
- Idling can also reduce the operating life of engine oil by 75%.
- Idling vehicles emit 20 times more pollution than a car traveling at 30 mph.
- Idling ten minutes a day wastes more than 27 gallons of fuel in a year.
- Every gallon of gas wasted produces over 20 pounds of air pollution.
Belleville East High School
* The City of Edwardsville became a Cool City in spring 2009 and created a Cool Cities Initiative Advisory Commission (CCIAC). Currently chaired by Andrea Wetzel.

* Conducted a greenhouse gas study in 2010. Study was conducted by an SIUE student as part of his Master’s Degree dissertation.

* In 2012, adopted the “green power” alternative as part of electrical aggregation, choosing 100% renewable energy generation for residents and small businesses.

* Is currently installing a charging station for electric automobiles.
* In 2012 City passed a resolution requiring all new City-owned buildings of 5000 square feet or more be designed and built to achieve a minimum of LEED certification level and to strive for the highest level of LEED certification feasible.

* Retrofitted the Public Works and City Hall Buildings with occupancy sensor lighting, energy efficient HVAC systems and energy conserving doors and windows.

* The Parks Department has purchased a hybrid vehicle, developed a Christmas tree re-use program, and uses recycled plastic in new park equipment and cushioning surfaces.
Edwardsville has a City-wide Tree Planting Program.

The City adopted an Alternative Energy ordinance in July 2010 which determines zoning, screening and building code requirements for solar and wind energy equipment.

Edwardsville was one of the first communities in the Metro East to adopt 96 gallon recycling totes. Recycling in the community has increased 50% as a result of this simple change.

One of the earlier communities to adopt a leaf burning ban in the county.
Granite City became a Cool City in 2012, agreeing to reduce city wide emissions through greening vehicle fleets and improving energy efficiency in city buildings. This initiative was lead by Linda Aud & United Congregations of Metro East.

The City passed a municipal electric aggregation referendum negotiating 100% renewables into their contract!

Granite City is currently working with an SIUE engineering student to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory as a baseline to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency.
Granite City received the Act On Energy Most Progressive City Award by Ameren for significant energy efficiency efforts. Granite City businesses completed 32 Act On Energy projects from 2008-2010—saving Granite City businesses 15.3 million kilowatt-hours of electricity every year.

The city has installed energy-efficient street lights and traffic signals, and supports the promotion of energy-efficient building practices and water conservation city-wide.

The establishment of bike trails on city streets and a “park and ride” program designed to transport residents from Granite City to St. Louis.
Granite City & Sustainability

* Community gardens have been planted throughout the city by an active all volunteer Community Garden Group. The city supported the development of a downtown farmers’ market.

* Granite City has 13 parks, over 175 acres.

* Granite City was one of the earlier communities to ban leaf burning.