



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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A Message from the Wellesley Board of Health and the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

April 29, 2019

On Earth Day, (Monday, April 22), over 30 Wellesley boards, departments, and community groups kicked off the town-wide “It’s Vital Not to Idle” campaign. This initiative was inspired by Girl Scout Troop 73505, who have been visiting school car lines in town to thank drivers for not idling and handing out handmade car fresheners with a no-idling message. The focus of the campaign is to educate Town residents that idling generates greenhouse gas emissions, is a health risk for children, and is against the law. Thank you very much for being a part of this important initiative!

With this letter, Wellesley’s Board of Health and Natural Resources Commission would especially like to underscore our concerns about the health impacts of idling on children. Vehicle exhaust is linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease, and cancer. Children are especially at risk from exposure to vehicle exhaust because their lungs are still developing and they inhale more air per pound of body weight than adults. Monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and other air toxics during the afternoon pick-up hour.

We are writing to ask you to share information about this campaign, particularly with parents of schoolchildren who are at risk from vehicle exhaust fumes. *Please ask them to turn off their car engines when waiting to pick up their children.*

More information about idling and the “It’s Vital Not to Idle” campaign can be found here: www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC Please contact Brandon Schmitt, Director of the Natural Resources Commission, at nrc@wellesleyma.gov if you would like to receive promotional materials for the campaign, such as sandwich boards, signs and flyers.

Thank you once again for being a part of this important initiative.

Regina LaRocque, MD
Chair, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

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