



Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee
Air Quality Grants Program
Grant Application for School Year 2012-2013 & 2013-2014

Purpose: To provide financial support to Upstate, SC schools committed to environmental stewardship and physical health by building students, staff, faculty, and parents' capacity, knowledge, and skills on air quality issues.

How it works: The Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee, coordinated by Ten at the Top (TATT), is working to keep the Upstate in attainment of EPA air quality standards. With funding from Hollingsworth Funds in Greenville and the Duke Energy Foundation, TATT will provide \$400.00 non-restricted grants to up to 40 public and private schools in the Upstate Counties of Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, and Union during the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years.

Schools are encouraged to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- 1. Applicant must be a public or private school (K-12) in one of the following counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, or Union.
2. Applicant is willing to implement or has implemented the Breathe Better at School (B^2 or B square)^1 program and is willing to continue its implementation in the future (TATT will verify participation with SCDHEC before grant is awarded).

School Air Quality Grants Program
Grant Application

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
School contact: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My school is committed to implementing the Breathe Better at School Program Yes [ ] No [ ]
My school has implemented the Breathe Better at School Program Yes [ ] No [ ] Year? \_\_\_\_\_

School principal name: \_\_\_\_\_
School principal signature: \_\_\_\_\_
(Digital signature is accepted)

(TATT Office use: School verified as a participant in the B^2 program Yes [ ] No [ ])

1 Please contact Alissa Duncan to request B^2 materials: aritzoduncan@tenatthetop.org. For more detailed information on this program go to http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/bag/b2/whatisb2.asp

# How to B<sup>2</sup> (Breathe Better)



These guidelines for B<sup>2</sup> may be modified to meet any school's unique circumstances.

To start B<sup>2</sup> at your school, contact: [Debra Briggs-Monroe](#)  
S.C. DHEC  
(803) 898-3752

## 1. Planning

- Arrange a meeting with a B<sup>2</sup> representative to set goals and a timeline for the program.
- Choose a faculty or staff member to coordinate the project.

## 2. Student Involvement – the “Clean Air Patrol”

- Recruit students to be the Clean Air Patrol. Recommend 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older.
- Educate these students on air quality and Patrol activities, which may include:
  - Distribute surveys, flyers, and rewards (when available) to inform and encourage parents
  - Create posters and newsletter articles to raise awareness
  - Data collection (see step 3)
  - Meet with bus drivers to encourage their participation
  - Presentations to fellow students, faculty and/or parent groups

## 3. Data Collection

- Don't be scared! Data collection for B<sup>2</sup> is simple, but essential for tracking progress.
- Data collection should begin before the project starts, to determine a baseline for measuring success, and be repeated at least twice in the first year of participation. Electronic data entry is available
  - Reporting Schedule: Baseline due September 30<sup>th</sup>, Winter data due by January 31<sup>st</sup>, Spring data due by April 30<sup>th</sup>

## 4. Adopt a Policy

- Another simple but essential step, an official policy will help ensure that B<sup>2</sup> and the practice of “no idling” will continue beyond the first year.
- Place the “no idling” policy in the student/parent handbook and the school website.

## 5. Getting the Word Out

- Inform families about B<sup>2</sup> by email, flyers, posters, newsletter, surveys, and/or phone.
- Build excitement and teach all students about B<sup>2</sup>. Have special “kickoff day” promotions or events. Lesson plans available, as well as “Spare the Air” bookmarks for all students.
- Meet with the bus drivers. Work with the transportation director if necessary. Encourage bus drivers to participate and promote B<sup>2</sup> daily.
- Post “no idling” signs (up to 3 will be provided) on campus as a reminder to drivers.

## 6. Keep it Going

- Make a plan for continuing B<sup>2</sup> into the second year. Reinforce the message and track progress. Recruit a new Clean Air Patrol if necessary.
- Consider other projects to improve air quality. Visit [www.greenstepschools.com](http://www.greenstepschools.com) for ideas. Some examples from other schools are:
  - Planting trees/landscaping to reduce mowing area
  - Erect an [informational kiosk](#)
  - Encourage [carpooling](#) to reduce vehicle traffic
  - Start a [walk/bike to school](#) program
  - Establish an environmental club
  - Establish a school air quality flag program
  - Host an air quality [poster/calendar contest](#)



# Fact Sheet

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control • [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

## Idling: Why It's a Problem and What You Can Do

### What is idling?

Idling is leaving a vehicle's engine running while the vehicle is not in motion. Drivers are sometimes forced to idle in traffic, but in most situations idling is not necessary. Idling is merely a habit that drivers can break, especially when they realize how harmful it can be to health and the environment. Idling also costs vehicle owners a great deal of money.

### How does air pollution affect health?

Idling increases the amount of vehicle exhaust in our air. Exhaust contains many pollutants that are linked to asthma and other lung diseases, allergies, heart disease, increased risk of infections and cancer and other health problems.

**Air pollution hurts children the most.** Their lungs are sensitive and still developing, and they breathe 50 percent more than adults. According to 2003 data from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, about 91,000 South Carolina children have **asthma**. Vehicle exhaust can worsen and increase asthma symptoms. Asthma sends more children to the hospital than any other health problem and is a major cause of school absences.

### How does air pollution affect the environment?

Vehicle exhaust contains air pollutants that are linked to ground-level ozone (or "smog"), acid rain, air toxics, climate change and other environmental problems.

### How much fuel (and money) does idling waste?

Idling wastes fuel – and money. Vehicles get ZERO miles-per-gallon while idling. Larger vehicles tend to waste more fuel than smaller ones. Idling can also cause greater engine wear-and-tear over time, resulting in higher maintenance costs.

**MYTH: Frequent restarting is harder on the engine and wastes more fuel than idling.**

### FACTS:

- Modern engines require much less fuel at startup than some people think. Idling for just **30 seconds** wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Idling is harder on the engine than restarting. Frequent restarting causes only about \$10 worth of wear-and-tear per year, whereas idling leaves fuel residues that damage engine components and cause higher maintenance costs over time.
- Idling uses up to **½ gallon of fuel per hour** (although it varies depending on the type and size of the engine). It may not seem like much, but idling for a few minutes everyday can cost you several dollars per week.

**MYTH: Engines need to warm up by idling, especially in cold weather.**

**FACT:** Modern vehicles do not need warming-up, except in temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. In fact, idling in cold weather can actually be harder on the engine. The best way to warm up the engine is by idling for no more than 30 seconds and driving slowly for the first few minutes.

## How can I reduce idling in my daily driving?

Here are some tips:

- If you expect to idle for more than **30 seconds**, turn off the engine (except in traffic).
- DO NOT turn off your engine in traffic or at stoplights, as this could be dangerous or annoying to other drivers.
- Steer clear of drive-through windows at fast-food restaurants, banks and drug stores. Park and go inside instead. If you must use a drive-through, turn off your engine while at the window.
- Waiting for someone in the parking lot? Picking up the kids at school? Turn off the engine in the meantime.
- Limit your morning warm-up time to 30 seconds and drive slowly for the first few minutes of your trip, even during winter.

## ***TURN THE KEY – BE IDLE-FREE!***

For more information, visit:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/YouholdtheKeySC>

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/baq/TABFTE>

### **Additional resources available:**

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/antiidling.htm>

<http://www.energysavers.gov/tips/driving.cfm>

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml>

<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/>