

Shut It Off! Mayor, Billy Idol Team Up to Stop Vehicle Idling

By: Keith Kerman



At City Hall on February 27, artist Billy Idol joined Mayor de Blasio to launch a **new campaign** against vehicle idling and the harmful air pollution it causes. The campaign was developed by NYC DEP.

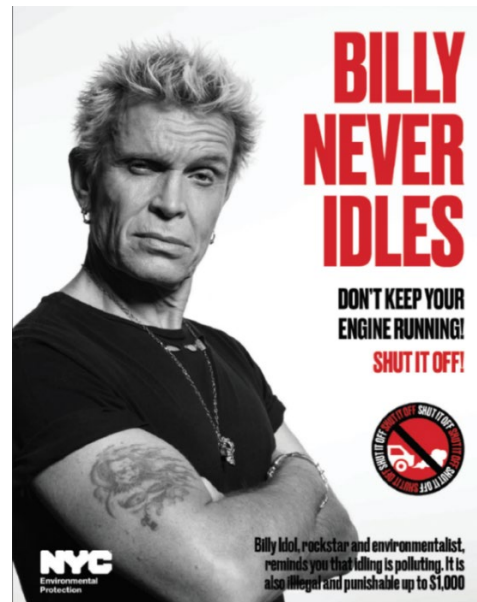
As the crowd chanted “Shut It Off,” the mayor and Billy Idol discussed the wasteful and unnecessary environmental impacts from vehicle idling.

Idling uses a lot of fuel, creates as much pollution as driving, and also wears down vehicle engines. Idling for an hour is the equivalent of driving 25 to 30 miles. An idling truck or bus can use up to a gallon of fuel an hour.

If you have to drive, one of the best ways to avoid idling is to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle. NYC operates 8,000 electric and hybrid fleet units which use non-polluting batteries to power vehicles when stationary. We are transitioning to hybrid plug-in ambulances, hybrid police cars, and start-stop technology for waste trucks.

DCAS has also installed telematics on 23,000 fleet units so far. Among many benefits, these tracking units can provide alerts of unneeded idling.

Idling is against the law in NYC. Vehicles may not idle over 3 minutes in general or 1 minute near a school or hospital. As part of today’s announcement, Mayor de Blasio and DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza encouraged all New Yorkers to report illegal idling through 311 or to file complaints online. There is even a financial reward program available.



You can learn more at the link below:

www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/environment/idling-citizens-air-complaint-program.page

We are asking all NYC fleet operators to follow Billy Idol's lead. Get involved and never idle! Our vehicles are among the most visible in the city and we need to set the example. Congratulations to everyone involved with today's announcement, particularly Michael DeLoach and Jackie Lachman of DEP.

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