

Title: 04.25.07

Subtitle:

Author:

/published 04.25.07

NO IDLING MATTER

Peter Freyne's commentary [["Inside Track," April 11](#)] on the City of Burlington's No Idling Campaign illustrates why outreach and education to reduce vehicle emissions are important and necessary in the struggle against air pollution.

At the mayor's April 9 press conference, Freyne seemed unaware of the difference between the tons of emissions generated by hundreds of idling vehicles year round, and the smoke coming from a few dozen charcoal barbecues on a summer afternoon.

As Freyne fights cancer, perhaps he might consider a landmark study, "The Harmful Effects of Vehicle Exhaust: A Case for Policy Change," published in 2006 by Environment & Human Health, Inc., and available on the nonprofit organization's website at www.ehhi.org.

The EHHI study links air pollution caused by vehicle emissions with chronic diseases including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. State and local governments are urged to institute measures ([such as no idling policies](#)), which reduce exposure to exhaust fumes, especially among children, seniors and people with compromised immune systems.

Last summer, Burlington's city council unanimously passed a no-idling resolution requiring most city vehicles to turn their engines off when parked. Mayor Bob Kiss, the Burlington Legacy Project, Police Chief Tom Tremblay, and city department heads such as Steve Goodkind deserve credit for their leadership to save tax dollars, reduce air pollution, and educate residents of the "greenest city" in America on the health and safety benefits obtained by simply turning off the key.

Jim Flint
BURLINGTON
