

Reducing drayage truck idling for healthier air

A new study by the TRUE Initiative analyzes the health impact of diesel drayage truck activity in Seattle, finding that idling contributes substantial levels of harmful nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions, particularly in the Duwamish Valley.

These emissions from idling trucks cause serious health impacts, including:

RESPIRATORY
DISEASE



CARDIOVASCULAR
DISEASE



ADVERSE BIRTH
OUTCOMES



CHILDHOOD
ASTHMA



LEADING TO PREMATURE DEATH

These health impacts of idling emissions are not felt equally across Seattle.



Idling accounts for **45%–55%** of drayage truck-related NO_x emissions in the neighborhoods of **Georgetown** and **South Park**, above the citywide average of 32%.



People of color experienced **33% higher levels of NO_x** emissions from idling than non-Latino White residents based on an analysis at a census block level in Seattle.



Neighborhoods in Seattle with the highest idling emissions have **overall premature death rates over 50% higher** than areas with no idling emissions.

WHAT ARE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE IDLING?

Drivers can avoid idling when not necessary for climate control, safety, or operation. Less idling means healthier air for drivers and communities alike. Additionally, eliminating just **a few hours of idling** per day translates to **thousands of dollars** per year in fuel savings.¹

Fleet owners can implement idle-reduction technologies in diesel trucks or shift to zero-emission trucks to eliminate tailpipe emissions.

Communities and port and freight industry stakeholders can co-develop other effective solutions to improve local air quality. This may include programs for residents to report excessive idling or corporate commitments to transition to zero-emission trucks with transparent progress reporting.

¹ One hour of idling costs approximately \$4 in diesel fuel based on the Seattle area average diesel cost of \$5/gallon and EPA's estimate of 0.8 gallons of diesel fuel consumed per hour of idling.