

Lacombe County

2015 Idling Awareness Survey

Introduction

Lacombe County is currently conducting a survey with its employees to assess idling awareness and ad effectiveness. Your responses are very important to allow us to achieve our goals of idle reduction and energy consumption, as identified under our Environmental Management Plan. The survey should take no more than **10 minutes** to complete.

INCENTIVE?

All information you provide will be kept in strictest confidence and will be used only for the purposes of this study. It is important to note that all analysis and reporting of the survey findings will be provided in aggregate only – no individual responses will be provided.

The survey may only be completed once per person. If you have already completed the survey, please disregard this.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Cajun Paradis, Acting Environmental Coordinator, DID. 265 on our County phone system, or 403-782-8968.

If you have any technical issues while accessing the survey, please contact Christine Mendonca, Associate, with Banister Research, at cmendonca@banister.ab.ca, or at 1-780-451-4444.

Please respond before **February 27th, 2015**.

I agree with the terms and conditions of data collection and data use, as detailed above [**MANDATORY**]

1. Yes [**GO TO SURVEY**]
2. No [**TERMINATE**]

Section 1: Attitudes About Idling

For the purposes of this survey, idling a vehicle is *any amount of time* spent leaving the engine running *while the vehicle is parked or stopped*.

- 1) Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “not at all concerned” and 5 means “very concerned,” how concerned are you with **vehicle idling as an environmental issue?** [MANDATORY]
 1. Not at all concerned
 2. ...
 3. ...
 4. ...
 5. Very concerned

- 2) Using the same scale of 1 to 5, how concerned are you with the **effects of idling** on each of the following?
 1. Not at all concerned
 2. ...
 3. ...
 4. ...
 5. Very concerned
 - a) The environment, in general
 - b) Your health and well-being
 - c) Waste of resources

3) What do you think are the **major reasons for concern**, if any, with regards to idling? [**DO NOT SHOW LIST – CODING PURPOSES ONLY.**]

1. _____
2. Health concerns
3. Environmental concerns
4. Waste of money
5. Waste of fuel
6. Waste of resources
7. Optimum vehicle maintenance
8. None/do not think there are reasons for concern
9. Don't Know

Section 2: Idling Behaviour

4) Do you operate...? [**MANDATORY**]

- 1) Yes
 - 2) No
- a) Your own vehicle for County business [**IF YES, ASK Q5a, Q6a, and Q7a**]
 - b) A County vehicle [**IF YES, ASK Q5b, Q6b, and Q7b**]
 - c) Other fleet machinery [**IF YES, ASK Q5c, Q6c, and Q7c**]

****SKIP TO Q8 IF Q4a, Q4b, AND Q4c = NO****

5) [**ASK IF Q4a-c= Yes:**] In an average week, how many trips do you make using each of the following vehicles, while on County business? [**MANDATORY**]

For the purpose of this study, a trip is defined as any travel that takes you from one location to another location while on County business.

1. 0 trips/none
 2. 1 to 3 trips
 3. 4 to 6 trips
 4. 7 to 9 trips
 5. 10 to 19 trips
 6. 20 to 24 trip
 7. 25 to 50 trips
 8. More than 50 trips
 9. Don't Know
- a) Your own vehicle for County business
 - b) A county vehicle
 - c) Other fleet machinery

- 6) [ASK IF Q4a-c= Yes:] How often do you idle [INSERT: a/b/c] if ever (i.e., leave the engine running while the vehicle is parked or stopped)? [MANDATORY]
- 1) Every time I drive this vehicle/every trip I make
 - 2) More than half of the time I drive this vehicle (but not every time)
 - 3) About half of the time I drive this vehicle
 - 4) Less than half of the time I drive this vehicle (but still sometimes)
 - 5) Only in the winter months
 - 6) Never/I do not idle this vehicle [SKIP TO Q8 FOR EACH “Never/I do not idle” RESPONSE]
 - 7) Don’t Know
- a) [ASK IF Q4a=1/Yes] Your personal vehicle
 - b) [ASK IF Q4b=1/Yes] A County vehicle
 - c) [ASK IF Q4c=1/Yes] Other fleet machinery
- 7) [ASK IF Q4a-c= Yes, UNLESS Q6a-c = Never/I do not idle this vehicle:] When operating [INSERT: a/b/c], how long would you estimate you leave it idling for, on average? [MANDATORY]
- 1) 0 minutes – I do not idle this vehicle
 - 2) Less than 1 minute
 - 3) 1 to 2 minutes
 - 4) 3 to 5 minutes
 - 5) 6 to 10 minutes
 - 6) 11 to 15 minutes
 - 7) More than 15 minutes
 - 8) Don’t Know
- a) [ASK IF Q4a=1/Yes] Your personal vehicle
 - b) [ASK IF Q4b=1/Yes] The County vehicle
 - c) [ASK IF Q4c=1/Yes] Other fleet machinery
- 8) What do you think are the major reasons people idle? [DO NOT SHOW LIST – CODING PURPOSES ONLY]
1. _____
 2. Laziness
 3. To warm up a vehicle
 4. To operate auxiliary equipment from the vehicle (e.g., lights, sirens)
 5. To warm up themselves while working outdoors
 6. Don’t Know
- 9) What do you think are the major barriers for people, in terms of reducing idling behavior? [DO NOT SHOW LIST – CODING PURPOSES ONLY]
1. _____
 2. Lack of education
 3. Lack of courtesy
 4. Ambivalence (i.e., don’t care)
 5. Lack of motivation
 6. Need to use the vehicle for heat/power
 7. None/do not think there are any barriers
 8. Don’t Know

10) Can you think of any “hotspots” for employee idling while on County business – i.e., areas where idling occurs more often?

1. _____
2. None/no hotspots
3. Don't Know

11) Are there any areas in Lacombe County where idling is a major concern – i.e., areas where people **should not** be idling?

1. _____
2. None/no particular areas of concern
3. Don't Know

Section 3: Knowledge About Idling

12) For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you believe it is **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

1. True
 2. False
 3. Don't Know
-
- a) Idling wastes fuel and money
 - b) Idling negatively impacts the environment
 - c) With the advanced emissions technology used in today's vehicles, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from an idling vehicle are greatly reduced.
 - d) Idling contributes to the climate change problem.
 - e) In the winter, the best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it.
 - f) Using a block heater helps an engine warm up quickly, which means less fuel consumption.
 - g) Idling warms up the entire vehicle.
 - h) It's a good practice to shut off the engine when your vehicle is going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds.
 - i) Idling is only a problem in the winter.
 - j) Making sure it's safe to drive the vehicle away is more important than reducing idling time.
 - k) If you are going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds, turning the engine off saves money.

13) To the best of your knowledge, what are the **known effects** of reducing idling behaviour?

Section 4: Communication and Education

14) What are the best methods to communicate information to you about idling?

15) Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “not at all effective” and 5 means “very effective,” how effective would you find each of the following communication methods for getting information to you about idling?

1. Not at all effective
 2. ...
 3. ...
 4. ...
 5. Very effective
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- a) Signage (e.g.,...)
 - b) Information sessions
 - c) Twitter
 - d) Facebook
 - e) Brochures/pamphlets
 - f) E-mails from the County
 - g) Insider newsletter – paper version
 - h) Insider newsletter – electronic version

16) For the County to effectively communicate the importance of reducing idling behaviour, **what do you think are the key messages** it should be focusing on its campaign?

Section 5: Idle Reduction Program

Lacombe County is in the early stages of planning an Idle Reduction Program. The program **could** entail the 3 Es:

1. **Engineering** – e.g., engineering things on vehicle that allow us to stop idling (for example, auxiliary batteries for peace officers so they don’t have to run their trucks when they pull someone over)
2. **Education** – i.e., getting information out to our staff to encourage them to stop idling
3. **Enforcement** – e.g., drafting of policy that requires all staff to stop idling.

17) Given this information, and keeping in mind that **we are in the very early stages of planning**, how strongly would you support or oppose an Idle Reduction Program, using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “strongly oppose” and 5 means “strongly support”?

1. Strongly Oppose
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. Strongly Support

18) [ASK FOR ALL RATINGS OF 1-5 IN Q17] Why did you provide that response?

19) What advice would you give to the County that would encourage County employees to reduce their idling behaviour?

Section 6: Final Comments

20) Is there anything else we need to know, regarding the topics in this survey?

1. Yes; **specify:** _____
2. No final comments

Section 7: Respondent Profile [ALL QUESTIONS VOLUNTARY]

In order for us to better understand the different views and needs of employees, the next few questions allow us to analyze the data into sub-groups. I would like to assure you that nothing will be recorded to link your answers with you or your household.

21) Gender

1. Male
2. Female
3. Other
4. Prefer not to say

22) How old are you?

1. 18 to 24
2. 25 to 34
3. 35 to 44
4. 45 to 54
5. 55 to 64
6. 65 or older
7. Prefer not to say

23) How long have you **worked for** Lacombe County?

1. _____ years
2. Not applicable
3. Prefer not to say

24) How long have you **lived in** Lacombe County?

1. _____ years
2. Not applicable
3. Prefer not to say

25) Including yourself, how many people in each of the following age groups live in your household? How many are...?

1. _____ # people
2. Prefer not to say
 - a) Under 13 years old
 - b) Between 13 and 18 years old
 - c) Between 19 and 44 years old
 - d) Between 45 and 64 years old
 - e) 65 years of age or older

26) What is the highest level of education you have achieved to date?

1. Less than high school
2. Graduated high school
3. Some or completed technical or vocational school
4. Some or completed college
5. Some or completed university
6. Post graduate

Those are all of the questions I have for you today. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and on behalf of Lacombe County, we would like to thank you for your time and co-operation.