

IMPROVING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT



IKE HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

Reducing Pesticide Use

Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is an alternative to traditional pest management that uses pesticides as a last resort, rather than as a preventive treatment. IPM is healthier, more effective and can be less costly than traditional practices.

- IPM results in fewer pest complaints
- IPM saves money
- IPM is an empowering investment in your staff and school

Using IPM, Monroe County School District in Bloomington, Ind., has reduced pest complaints by 90 percent and saved 17.6 percent on its annual pest management costs. Pike Township schools on the Northwest side of Indianapolis have seen fewer pest complaints and no increase in costs. During IPM adoption and implementation, neither school system has seen an increase in burden on staff, while both have seen an increase in staff empowerment.

Pesticide exposures caused more than 2,500 acute illnesses in U.S. schools from 1998-2002, according to a study published in 2005 in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

With 10 years of experience working to implement IPM in seven states, Indiana University entomologist Marc Lame has documented a 71 percent reduction in pesticide application accompanied by a 78 percent drop in pest complaints to school administrators.

To learn more about IPM and how to implement it in your school, contact IKE or join the Indiana IPM Schools Coalition.

Basic Facts

- Asthma, which can be triggered by air pollution, is one of the leading causes of school absence in Indiana
- Pesticides have been linked to cancers, birth defects and ADHD
- IKE's Smart Schools Don't Idle and Integrated Pest Management programs can create healthier schools for students and staff

Establishing No-Idle Zones

The Smart Schools Don't Idle program is a joint effort between Improving Kids' Environment and the City of Indianapolis Knozone program and is offered at no cost to participating schools. The program encourages schools, parents, and others in the school's community to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling—operating the engine when the engine is not engaged in gear—especially around the school itself.

Transportation may contribute up to 40% of the local air pollution levels, and those levels are greater within just a few feet of the vehicle. Children are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollution.

- The average American breathes 3,400 gallons of air a day, with children breathing 50% more air per pound than adults.
- Children spend more time outside than adults do, increasing the likelihood of their exposure to vehicle emissions and air pollution.
- Their lungs are still developing and are more sensitive to air pollution.

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A single vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at one school puts 3 pounds of pollution into the air per month.

Children with asthma could be affected by idling vehicles and buses as the emissions seep through the air intakes, building doors and windows, and linger around the building. Asthmatic episodes brought on by idling may cause missed school days, forcing caregivers to make alternative plans in caring for the child and can lead to increased visits to the doctor's office.

Unnecessary idling also wastes money.

- Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine. Idling vehicles get the worst possible gas mileage...0 mpg.
- Allowing your vehicle's engine to idle for extended periods of time causes more wear on internal parts than running the engine at normal driving speeds.
- In general, a diesel vehicle burns approximately 1 gallon of fuel for every hour it idles. If each bus idled 30 minutes less each day, a company operating 16 buses could save over \$2,500 per school year in fuel costs. Less idling also saves on maintenance costs and increases the life of the engine.

Monitoring School Indoor Air Quality

Poor indoor air quality can impact the comfort and health of students and staff, which, in turn, can affect concentration, attendance, and student performance.

In addition, if schools fail to respond promptly to poor indoor air, students and staff are at an increased risk of short-term health problems, such as fatigue and nausea, as well as long-term problems like asthma.

If there's a problem with indoor air quality at your school, contact the Indiana State Department of Health to conduct an inspection and recommend solutions. Under state law, the department must investigate when it receives a complaint, and you are entitled to a copy of the report. Call ISDH at 317-351-7190. Copies of past reports also are available on IKE's website: www.ikecoalition.org.

Schools can use the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Schools kit to improve indoor air quality. Since its release in 1995, the Tools for Schools Action Kit has been implemented in hundreds of schools across the country. Find out more at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/>

Healthy Schools Network

IKE is working to connect parents, teachers, administrators and school staff interested in maintaining a healthy school environment for all Indiana children. Become a part of our Healthy Schools Network by contacting IKE at jperras@ikecoalition.org or 317-677-4760.

What You Can Do to Protect Kids from Environmental Threats

Improving
Kids' 
Environment

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- If you live in a home built before 1978, have your child and home tested for lead and learn about lead-safe renovation practices.
- Don't let your engine idle. Encourage schools to prevent vehicle idling in the parking lot and to join the Smart Schools Don't Idle program.
- Reduce pesticide use. Encourage schools to adopt Integrated Pest Management practices, which use chemical pesticides as a last resort.
- Stay informed by becoming a supporter of Improving Kids' Environment at www.ikecoalition.org