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## Green Events

CALENDAR

**This September, the Environmental Health and Sustainability office is offering free low-flow showerheads, hose timers, faucet aerators and more to help you save water at home! Stop by our office on the 2nd floor of Aspen City Hall to learn more about saving water at home and to pick up a water-efficient giveaway.**

**Get a FREE Nest or other smart thermostat during the month of September. To find out how to get your smart thermostat for free, [click here](#).**

**Sat. Sep 10, 9:30 - 11:30 am  
Family Exploration at Filoha  
Filoha Meadows, near  
Redstone**

Join Roaring Fork Conservancy for an evening to explore and learn about the fascinating natural and cultural history of the open space. Filoha



# The Facts of Idling

ZGreen cares about your health and the health of the environment, and our fellow citizens. For these reasons, we remind readers to turn off your car instead of idle.

When your gas engine is turned on, even when it is idling, it is emitting pollutants, all with long names and dangerous health effects.

When air is filled with these pollutants, we inhale them. Some of the pollutants find their way into the deepest areas of our lungs and can stay put there, while others can enter the bloodstream. The health effects of inhaling car exhaust include reduced life expectancy, heart and lung diseases and cancers, increased asthma attacks, and many others.

Sadly, children often suffer the most from idling vehicles. Their lungs are still developing and their height puts them closer to the tailpipes of cars. Children also breathe faster than adults, inhaling more air relative to their weight. On top of that, children and adults breathe harder and deeper at Aspen's high altitude.

This is scary information to face. And it's not even the only reason not to idle.

There are ways to motivate others to quit running their engines when not moving. Many drivers base this practice on antiquated beliefs around warm cars and engine health. According to The University of Michigan, in a state intimate with automobile technology, the fastest way to warm up an engine and the interior

Meadows is a unique and special place: thermal hot springs, bighorn sheep, important elk habitat, a local bat population, healthy riparian habitat, and beaver ponds are only a few of the distinctive attributes of the place.

Registration is required. For more information, [click here](#) or call 970.927.1290.

**Sat. Sep 10, 2 - 5 pm  
Mac and Cheese Festival  
East Hopkins St., Aspen**

Come sample FREE mac and cheese creations from Aspen's local chefs. Bring your own spoon to keep the event environmentally friendly. For more information, [click here](#).

**Sun. Sep 11, 11 am - 2 pm  
Aspen Community Picnic  
Aspen Golf Course, Aspen**

Come out to the golf course and enjoy a picnic lunch with the City of Aspen and the local Aspen Community. This year's meal will feature local foods from around Colorado. There will also be games, entertainment, and a host of informational booths to learn more about the City and pick up some free goodies. For more information, [click here](#).

**Thu. Sep 15, 6:00 pm  
Celebrate Aspen Tap:  
Drinking Water Tour  
City of Aspen Water Dept.,  
500 Dolittle Drive, Aspen**

Celebrate Aspen's most valuable resource! Tour Aspen's high mountain drinking water treatment facility which treats water from Castle Creek. Discover where your water is coming from and learn how this plant is capable of treating up to 9 million gallons of water a day! [Click here](#) to register or call 970.927.1290 for more information.

**Wed. Sep 21, 5 – 7 pm  
Aspen Green Drinks  
Aspen TREE at Cozy Point  
Ranch**

of a car is to immediately begin driving it; turning on and off your engine for quick stops does not cause damage; and if you are idling for more than 10 seconds, you are damaging your engine.

Prompted by the Aspen smog of the 80's and 90's, the City of Aspen instituted an anti-idling ordinance backed by a \$100 fine.

**If you spot an idler**, give them a tip that City staff perform idling surveillances. It could save them \$100. If they persist, call the Environmental Health and Sustainability office at 970.920.5039 and provide the location and description of the vehicle.

If you are picking up your child from school, give the other kids' lungs a break while you wait. However, idling also happens in the stop and go traffic you may face going in and out of Aspen, or to and from the schools. So better yet, put your child on a bike or a free bus to zip past traffic, and then put yourself on one, too.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME: PZEV

PZE. Maybe you've seen the decal on the back of a car or perhaps there's even one on the back of your car, but what does it stand for?

***PZEV is an acronym for a class of vehicles that are known as 'partial zero emission vehicles.'*** The name itself can be a little confusing as the vehicle does indeed emit emissions at all times when it is running.

Zero emissions refer to a lack of any evaporative emissions from the car. This means that no gasoline fumes escape during refueling or, especially on hot days, from the fuel tank and supply lines. The system makes a real difference to improve air quality compared to traditional vehicles that leak emissions from the fuel tank and during the refueling process.

In addition, to qualify as a PZEV, a vehicle must also be certified as a super ultra-low emissions vehicle (SULEV), which means the amount of harmful pollutants coming from the tail pipe are reduced. PZEVs can often offer tailpipe emissions similar to those achieved by gas/electric hybrid vehicles at a significantly lower sticker price.

On top of requiring a very low level of tailpipe pollution, a vehicle's emissions components must carry a 15 year/150,000 mile warranty to qualify as a SULEV.

Now that you know a bit more about vehicle technology, we hope you will choose a more sustainable vehicle when you are shopping

The fun green networking event series continues. The City of Aspen and CORE team up to host a FREE, fun event for anyone interested in environmental topics. Light snacks and beverages are provided. For more information, [click here.](#)

**Tue. Sep 27, 6 - 8 pm**  
**ACES Evening of Elk, One North Star Preserve, Aspen**

Join local elk enthusiast Ryan Smalls as he shares his passion for one of nature's truly magical rituals, the Rocky Mountain Elk Rut. Meeting place and other details will be communicated with registered participants closer to the date. [Register here.](#)

**Fri. Sep 30, 6 - 8 pm**  
**ACES Evening of Elk, Two North Star Preserve, Aspen**

Join local elk enthusiast Ryan Smalls as he shares his passion for one of nature's truly magical rituals, the Rocky Mountain Elk Rut. Meeting place and other details will be communicated with registered participants closer to the date. [Register here.](#)

### FARMERS MARKETS

**Carbondale Farmers Market**  
Wednesdays thru Sept 28, 10 am - 3 pm  
4th and Main St

**Aspen Farmers Market**  
Saturdays thru Oct 8, 8:30 am - 3 pm  
Hopkins, Hunter, Hyman

**Basalt Farmers Market**  
Sundays thru Sep 25, 10 am - 2 pm  
Midland Spur, downtown

**ZGreen Programs**  
LINKS & INFO

around. The EPA can help you with their [Green Vehicle Guide.](#)



## HOW TO: Fight Climate Change

With the impacts of climate change intensifying around the planet and in our own backyard, the need for meaningful action is more urgent than ever. Luckily, there are many ways for each of us to get involved for a livable and prosperous future.

### Five things we can start doing right away include:

• **1. VOTE!**

From local to presidential elections, candidates' positions on climate have become visible and meaningful issues. Organizations like the League of Conservation Voters track and report on the environmental records of [US members of Congress](#) as well as [presidential candidates.](#)

• **2. Contact Your Elected Officials!**

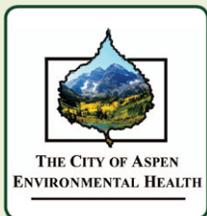
Don't stop being an engaged citizen once the elections are over. Whether or not your elected official is a climate champion, they need to hear from you to know that their constituents support action on this most important of issues. Protect Our Winters maintains a list of elected officials and tips for contacting them [here.](#)

• **3. Get Educated and Talk About It.**

It is empowering to understand the science behind why human activity is changing the climate, what's in store for the planet if we ignore the problem and available solutions. Talking about the issue with friends, family, neighbors and groups is one of the most effective things you can do to address the problem. You might consider a formal but fun training like the [Climate Reality Leadership Corps.](#)

• **4. Ask Your Utility for More Green Power Options.**

The energy that powers our homes and businesses represents the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our communities. Tell your utility that you want more renewable energy instead of fossil fuel, not only because it reduces



greenhouse gas emissions, but because it protects human health as well.

• **5. Take Action in Your Personal Life.**

Take action in your personal life. Save energy in your home and business through [CORE](#), and change the way you get around with [bus](#) and [bike](#) options. This [Environmental Protection Agency page](#) contains a variety of tips to suit any budget, lifestyle or situation – all while having an important personal impact.

**The City of Aspen Canary Initiative** works on all things climate and would love to hear from citizens about actions they are taking as individuals and groups. Email us at [Canary@cityofaspen.com](mailto:Canary@cityofaspen.com) anytime.

Canary Initiative · 970.429.1798  
Environmental Health & Sustainability · 970.920.5039  
City of Aspen · 130 S Galena Street · Aspen, CO 81611

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