

Section 30 of the StVO (German Road Traffic Licensing Regulations) states:

“When operating a vehicle it is forbidden to produce undue noise and avoidable air pollution from exhaust fumes. Especially prohibited is the unnecessary idling of engines.”

According to the ImSchG (Federal Immission Control Act) and the StVO it is against the law to wilfully and knowingly violate these paragraphs. Violation can result in a heavy fine.

#### Is there any reason to leave the motor of your tour bus running?

According to tour bus manufacturers, businesses and automobile clubs, there is no technical or economical reason to leave a well-maintained engine idling over a longer period of time. According to technicians one to two minutes is enough time to warm up the engine. In the wintertime five minutes should be enough.

If the bus is left to idle for a longer period of time it is usually due to convenience and comfort, for example to maintain the temperature of the bus's interior.



**Please! Do us and the environment a favour.  
Turn off your engines!**

We at the Environmental Protection Office have put together this flyer to make a plea. Do your part for the earth and the people of this planet. When you turn off your engine you are helping protect the environment, and the health and welfare of your fellow human beings.

**Thank you!**



Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf  
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# Illegal idling of tour bus engines

## Bus drivers, please!

The tour bus is one of the most environmentally friendly ways to travel. The fuel consumption and vehicle exhaust of a bus being operated at full capacity are significantly lower than that of an automobile or airplane. Still, this is not any reason for bus drivers to sit back and ignore the fact that everyone has to do their part in lowering noxious emissions.

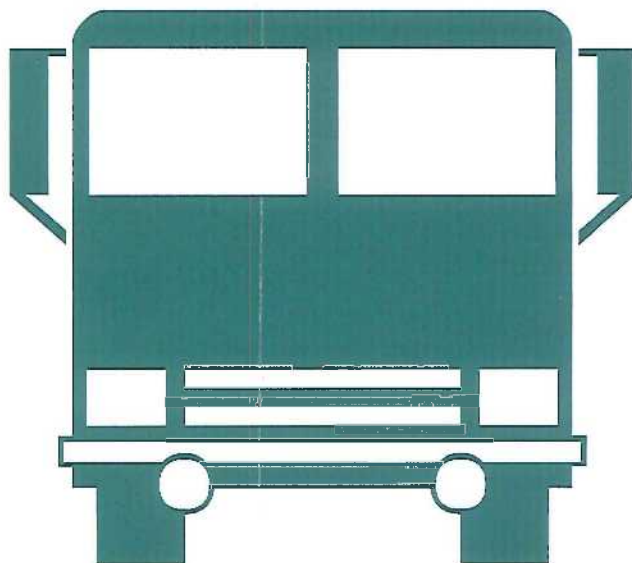


**The Environmental Protection Office has compiled this flyer to inform all bus drivers that it is illegal to leave engines idling over a longer period of time. Please act responsibly.**

Needless idling causes unnecessary noise and releases more noxious fumes to our environment.

### For your information:

Motor vehicles emit exhaust - that means air contaminants and noise as well. These immissions are damaging to our environment. If these types of emissions are avoidable - as in the case of idling engines - then it has to cease.



# Turn off your engines! For the sake of the environment and humanity.

### Fuel consumption and its impact on the environment

Aside from unnecessary fuel waste which additionally stresses travel business budgets, engine idling causes preventable exhaust emissions.

A tour bus consumes an average of 3-4 litres of fuel per hour with the engine idling. If the air conditioner is also being operated it climbs to 8-10 litres. And if the heater is on a whopping 12 litres of fuel is being consumed per hour. Not only that, the noise is unbearable and over a long period of time can harm your health. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions are causes for global warming, also known as the greenhouse effect.

Local and regional noxious emissions such as nitrous oxide, ozone and airborne particles also cause acid rain, smog and adversely affect health. Heavily polluted city air is associated with significant health problems and is therefore harmful to humanity as well as to the environment.

### What we've observed

The Environmental Protection Office conducted a study over several weeks and documented the following:

- ◆ Sloud noise and strong odours in the vicinity of idling tour buses
- ◆ 1/3 of the bus drivers being observed were unnecessarily idling their buses longer than 5 minutes
- ◆ a total of 20 hours of unnecessary idling were reported within the time period the study was conducted

### It's the law

According to the LImSchG (Federal Immission Control Act) and the StVO (Road Traffic Licensing Regulations) it is prohibited to leave a vehicle engine idling over an unnecessarily long period of time:

#### §2 of the LImSchG states:

"It is expected that every person conduct themselves in an appropriate manner to prevent adverse effects on the environment, as far as is feasible and conditions allow."

"It is not permitted to operate noise or exhaust emitting engines unnecessarily." As a rule "unnecessarily" is when the device is not put into operation immediately after turning on the motor.

#### §3 and §4 of the LImSchG states:

It is forbidden to disturb the hours of peace and quiet between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., as well as on Sundays and statutory holidays, with unreasonable noise - for example by leaving an engine idling.