



ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERACY AND
SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE

San Mateo County Office of Education

Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools Challenge 2023-2024

Carlmont High School Sequoia Union High School District

Green Transportation



Campus



For the 2022-2023 school year, Carlmont High School, their Green Team, and the non-profit Green Driving America worked together on a vehicle idle-free campaign on campus. The campaign began with an introductory training session in the fall for the Green Team, followed by mention of the campaign on the school news site. This was followed by three days of initial unobtrusive data collection of vehicles idling by Green Team members during dismissal. Then, the school announced support for the campaign in a newsletter and hosted a two-day driver contact event where Green Team members informed drivers of the benefits of avoiding idling during the dismissal waiting period. Students offered drivers informational flyers and window cling decals.

The campaign ended in the spring with three days of final unobtrusive data collection of vehicles idling during dismissal to determine the effectiveness of the outreach methods. Finally, the school installed “Idle Free Zone” signs in pick up areas at the beginning of this school year.

The campaign’s goal was to provide benefits to students and others in the school community through reduction in CO2 emissions and fossil fuel use, improved local air quality, and reducing fuel cost for drivers.

The Carlmont High School Green Team's initial data collection showed that 89% of the vehicles waiting to pick up students were idling. After the campaign the final data collection showed that only 19% of the vehicles in the pick up area were idling.