CARBON EMMISIONS – ANTI IDLING: ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLBOX TALK

What is the issue?

Idling reduces a vehicles fuel economy, costs money and creates avoidable pollution. It is estimated that idling from light and heavy-duty vehicles combined wastes about 6 million gallons of fuel annually. Diesel emissions from plant and vehicles are a large contributor towards the overall carbon emissions in the construction industry, of which idling plays a part in.

Idling happens when a vehicles engine is running while the vehicle is not in motion. Drivers are sometimes forced to idle in traffic, but in most situations idling is not necessary. Idling increases the amount of vehicle exhaust in the air. This exhaust contains many pollutants that are linked to asthma and other lung diseases, allergies, heart disease, increased risk of infections and cancer and other health problems. Furthermore, idling contributes to an increase in Co2 emissions; the principal greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

A McGee trial at Euston showed a Stage V Komatsu PC490-11 Excavator idling for 11 hours out of a 41-hour working time, consumed 57.2l of diesel idling:

- Equivalent to £110 per week. 10 machines idling cost £55,000 per year.
- 5,500 hours wasted waiting per year for every 10 machines idling.
- 79tonnes of C02e per year from 10 excavators idling – equivalent to a yearly growth of 71 football pitches of forest.

Why is this important?

Avoid Environmental harm: Carbon emission are continuing to have negative affects on the Earth's climate and contribute towards global warming.

Avoid human harm: Excessive fumes from vehicles are linked with health problems such as asthma, lung disease and cancers.

Avoid prosecution: It is mandatory to monitor, record and reduce carbon emissions

Reduce costs: Idling wastes diesel which is a cost to the company.

What can be done?

McGee HGV fleet are now 100% Euro 6, which benefit from start/stop technology to reduce idling. An anti-idling campaign is also running to educate drivers on reducing carbon emissions, and the impact on environment and human health. Data from the fleet is monitored to show trends, and used to drive behavioural changes.
Avoid unnecessary idling by:

- Turn of engine if you are waiting for more than 10 seconds
- Warm up engine by driving, not by idling
- Turn of the engine when on break and not in use

Questions

1) What is a consequence of idling?
2) What have McGee Invested into to reduce idling?
3) What can you do to reduce idling?