

Air Quality: Improve air quality by reducing emissions of pollutants that harm human health and the environment.

Cities across America are banning the construction of fast-food drive-thru's, in a bid to cut air pollution and combat climate change.

Minneapolis is one of the latest to bring in rules [prohibiting new drive-through restaurants](#), while towns in California, Missouri and New Jersey already have similar bans in place.

Drive-through lines – where people order food through a window and wait in their car while it's prepared – are a common place for this to happen. [Idling engines contribute](#) to emissions and increased fuel consumption - bad for drivers' wallets and the planet. [US government advice](#) suggests that idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions than restarting your engine.

Vehicle emissions contain gases including carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change, as well as harmful pollutants **nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons**.

Around 7 million people die each year as a result of exposure to air pollution, according to the [World Health Organization](#). This is equivalent to 13 early deaths every minute.

The US [Department of Energy](#) estimates that eliminating the idling of car engines would be the same as taking 5 million vehicles off the roads.