

Locomotive Idling

Linda Gaines

National Idling Reduction Planning Conference Albany, NY May 17-19, 2004

Center for Transportation Research Argonne National Laboratory



A U.S. Department of Energy Laboratory Operated by The University of Chicago

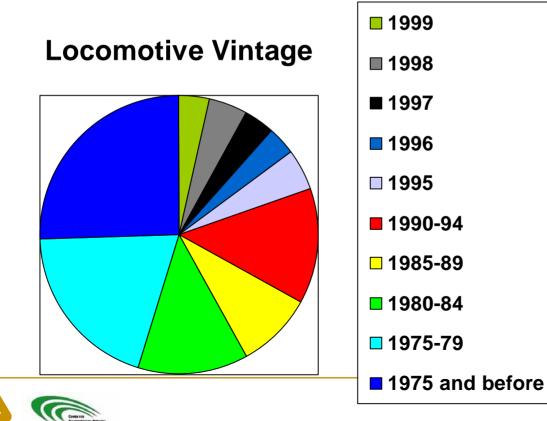




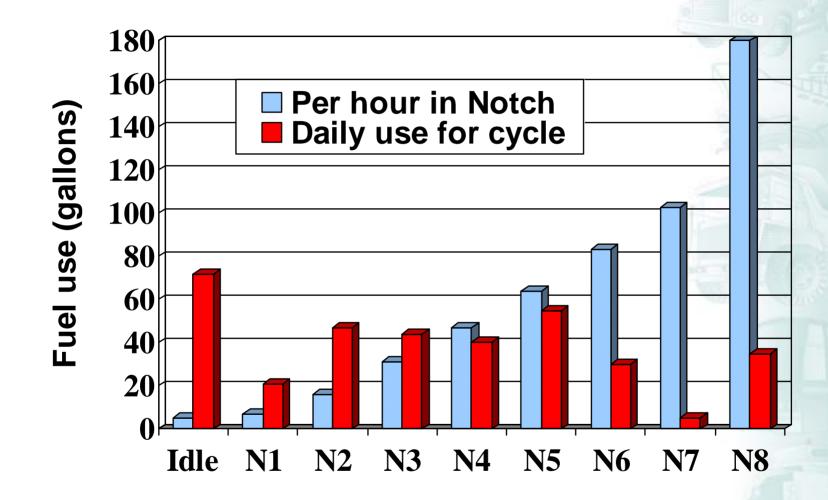
Rail's fleet turns over slower than truck's

Class I freight railroads

- Own 20,000 locomotives but only buy 2-5% new each year
- 15,000 greater than 3000 horsepower
- Consume 500 trillion BTU (3.7 billion gallons) of fuel



Switcher uses most fuel in idle for EPA cycle (GP38-2 data)







Several technologies can reduce idling

- Automatic engine stop-start controls (AESS)
- Auxiliary power unit (APU)
- Diesel-driven heating system (DDHS)
- Shore power plug-in unit
- Hybrid switching locomotive
- All devices can be used on locomotives from any manufacturer
- All reduce impacts



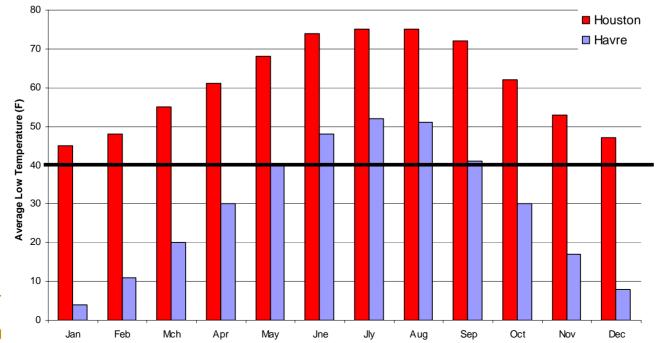
Can be

retrofitted



Start/stop systems avoid impacts when engine is off

- Engine is shut down after set idle time
 - Idling reduced up to 50% for road unit, 70% for switcher
- Sensors monitor water T, brake P, battery charge
 - Engine restarts if any parameter out-of-range
- Engine stays on below 40°F
- Installed on new locomotives and as retrofits



APU supplies heat, power, and cab comfort

- Shuts off and restarts engine

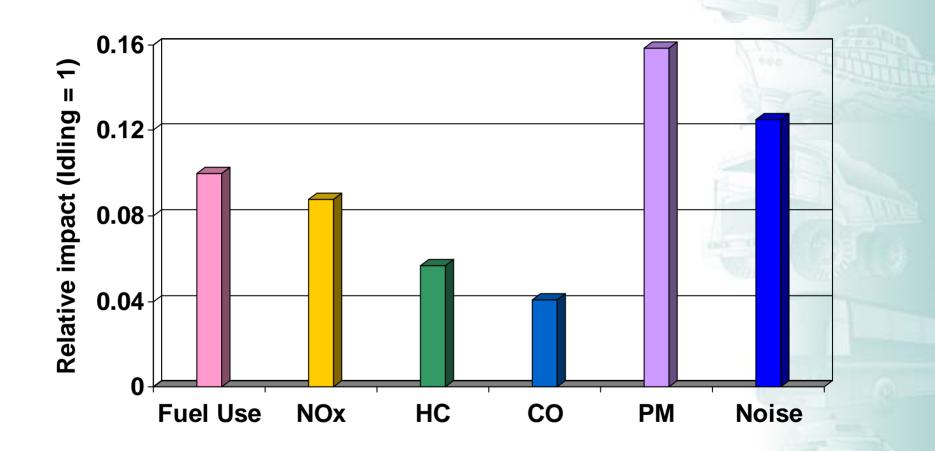
 No operator required
- Heats water and oil
- Enables 60 Hz power
 - Cost-effective, reliable appliances
 - optional air conditioning
 - lighting and communication
- Heats cab and toilet
- Maintains brake air pressure
- Keeps batteries charged
- Enables engine shut-down in winter
 - Down to –30°F in Alaska
- Installs behind engine or on walkway
- CSX has 1400 installed







APU has lower impacts than idling





DDHS heats water and oil with waste heat

- Variable engine speed generates optimum waste heat
 - No 60 Hz power
- Charges batteries and powers cab heaters
- Year-round system
 - Locomotive starts easily in Alaska
- Start/stop system optional
 - Maintains brake pressure
 - Fuel savings reports
 - Remote monitoring
 - Failsafe redundancies
- Installed on 11 railroads, 14 locomotive models









Plug-in units are inexpensive

- Heat and circulate water and oil, optional battery charger
- Minimal equipment required
- Ideal for commuter trains
- Can also be used for yard units
- Over 2000 installed on commuter, short line, regional, and Class I locomotives
- Locomotive must be at equipped location
 - Probably not appropriate for line-haul locomotives
- No local impacts
 - Yard is quiet and pollution-free
 - Impacts from electricity generation are relatively small







The Green Goat is a battery-diesel hybrid switcher

- Replaces 2000 hp switcher
- Uses 125 hp diesel and 60,000 lb of sealed Pb-acid batteries
- Small diesel charges batteries
 - Runs when switcher in use
 - And a bit more
- Batteries expected to last 10–15 years
 - Kept at 80% SOC
 - Lifetime unproven
- Hybrids are in demonstration stage





Hybrid switcher has pros and cons

- Small engine is quieter and cleaner than large diesel
- Small diesel at full load more efficient than large one at low load
- Goat or smaller Kid (1000 hp) can be remote-controlled
- Does not need to idle
- Designed for yard use but could haul short distances
 - Top speed 40 mph
 - Not suitable for long-haul use
- Costs much more than add-ons
 - Costs \$750 K on old locomotive bed
 - Cheaper than new unit at >\$1 million







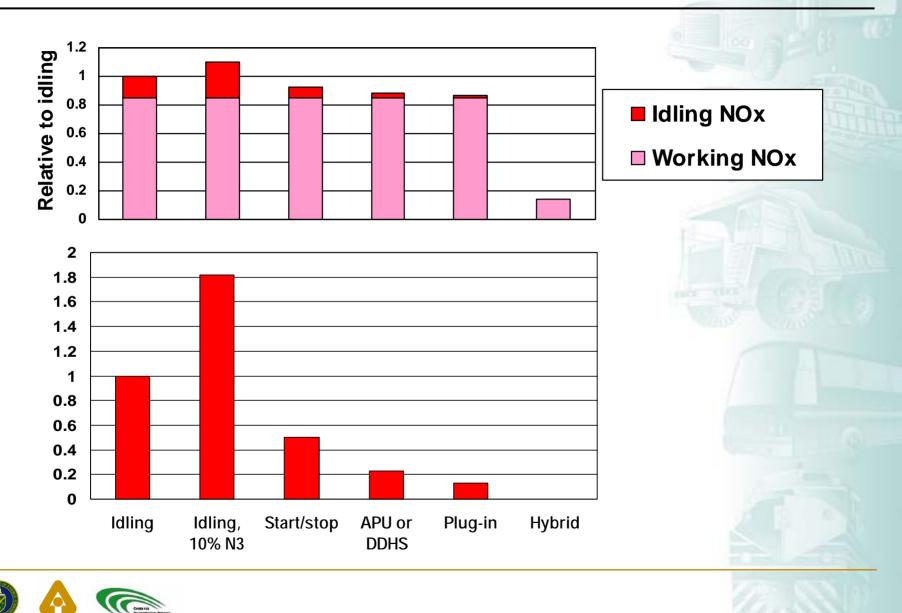
Technology comparison summary

System	Reduction in energy use and emissions	Working noise	Non-working noise	Advantages/ Disadvantages
Idling	None	Noisy	Noisy	
Start/stop	Minimum	Noisy	Alternates noisy/silent	No cab comfort, minimal benefit in winter
APU or DDHS	Good	Noisy	Quiet	Anywhere, any time; APU supplies all services
Plug-in	Good	Noisy	Silent	Requires equipped location
Hybrid	Maximum	Quiet	Silent	Switcher only





Alternatives all reduce emissions



All of the add-ons have good payback times

System	Energy saving (gal/d)	Annual savings (\$1000s)	Cost (\$1000s)	Payback (months)
Start/stop	36	15	7.5–15	6–12
APU or DDHS	60	25	25–35	12–17
Plug-in	50	19	4–12	3–11
Green Goat	291	122	700	69

Basis: GP38-2 with EPA switcher cycle for all technologies, 330 d/y, 50% idle replacement by AESS; (will be less in cold climate), 90% by APU, DDHS, or plug-in unit, .05 gal oil used/gal fuel, \$0.10/kWh

Caveats: Costs depend on vendor and options included. Energy savings depend on climate, duty cycle, locomotive type.



NO ENDORSEMENTS IMPLIED!