Policy: 03-10-17 Print
Vehicle and Equipment Idling

Passed By Council on:01/29/2007

Purpose
To state City policy on the idling of City vehicles and equipment.

Policy Statement
The problem.... Vehicle idling is an important environmental and economic problem, resulting in unnecessary fuel waste, accelerated engine wear and greenhouse gas emissions. Burning fuel creates harmful greenhouse gases: 2.9 kilograms of greenhouse gases for every litre of diesel consumed and 2.5 kilograms for every litre of gasoline.
The solution.... Modern diesel and gasoline engines are designed to start easily and to be operated following a very short warm up period. Idling *does not* improve their performance.

Recommended normal warm up period for **Light duty vehicles** (cars, vans, light trucks and sport utility vehicles):

- Above 0 degrees Celsius 30 seconds
- Below 0 degrees Celsius 1 minute

Recommended normal warm-up period for **heavy duty vehicles**:

- Above 0 degrees Celsius 3 to 5 minutes
- Below 0 degrees Celsius 7 to 10 minutes

In addition no person shall idle a **light duty vehicle** for more than **2 minutes** in a sixty minute period.

In all cases, ensure that oil pressure and air pressure are within the normal operating ranges and all windows are clear of ice and snow before operating the vehicle or equipment. After a short warm up period and for the first few minutes of use, the engine should be operated at gentle throttle until the normal operating temperature is reached. Normal operating temperature is reached much faster if the vehicle or equipment is operated at a gentle throttle rather than left idling. Driving your vehicle cuts warm up times in half.

The benefits....This department spends in excess of $1,000,000 every year on diesel and gasoline. By eliminating unnecessary idling, we can achieve at least a 10% savings on fuel purchases plus additional savings from reduced engine wear. This represents a saving of over $100,000 every year. Besides this direct financial saving, reducing greenhouse gases means a cleaner environment for the benefit of everyone. The city has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and reducing idling will help us achieve this goal.

Your contribution.... You can be part of the solution to this problem by stopping unnecessary idling of you vehicle or equipment.

Operators who do not follow these guidelines are subject to the disciplinary process.

Application

Responsibilities
All employees

Definition

References/Appendix

Monitoring and Contravention

Approvals
Public Works and Environment Standing Committee report - January 18, 2007; Regular Meeting of Council - January 29, 2007.

Review Period

Back