



Anti-Idling Policy

Effective Date: December 1, 2015

1. Policy Statement

The City of Pitt Meadows has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by signing onto the BC Climate Action Charter. Eliminating unnecessary vehicle / equipment idling supports this commitment while helping to reduce air pollution and make efficient use of City resources by decreasing fuel costs.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for unnecessary idling of municipal vehicles and equipment and to provide leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality community wide.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all municipal employees to refrain from any unnecessary idling of municipal vehicles or equipment.

4. Policy

Definitions

- 4.1 *Idling* means the operation of a vehicle or equipment while it is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the operation of the vehicle or equipment.
- 4.2 *Fuels* means all vehicles or equipment that run on fossil fuels which include gasoline, diesel, propane, hydrogen, and natural gas.



- 4.3 Vehicles means cars, light trucks, vans, heavy trucks, snow equipment, loaders, backhoes, street sweepers, and any other equipment operated by staff utilizing fossil fuels.

5. PROCEDURES:

5.1 MANUFACTURER'S GUIDELINES:

Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for idling unless otherwise advised by fleet services.

5.2 INITIAL WARM-UP

5.2.1 GASOLINE AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

Idle times up to three (3) minutes are allowed for vehicles during their initial shift warm up and at subsequent times when the vehicle is being restarted after a prolonged period of shut down that results in vehicle conditions similar to those prior to initial shift warm up.

5.2.2 DIESEL FUELED VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT

Idle times up to three (3) minutes are allowed for diesel fueled vehicles/equipment during initial shift warm up, and at subsequent times when the vehicle/equipment is being restarted after a prolonged period of shut down that result in the vehicle/equipment conditions similar to those prior to initial shift warm up.

5.3 OPERATION OF EQUIPMENT IN THE FIELD

5.3.1 GASOLINE AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

No operator shall idle an engine of an unleaded fueled vehicle in excess of one (1) minute if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time.

Operators making multiple or frequent stops that require the vehicle to be stationary for time periods of several minutes may idle up to three (3) minutes in such circumstances.

5.3.2 DIESEL FUELED VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT



No operator shall idle the engine of a diesel-fueled vehicle in excess of three (3) minutes if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Diesel fueled vehicles/equipment should only be turned off after enough time has passed to allow the proper circulation and cooling of the engine oil, coolant and turbo chargers, not to exceed three (3) minutes.

5.3.3 When engines must be left running for any reason, the operator must remain with the vehicle.

5.4 ANTI-IDLING IDENTIFICATION

5.4.1 All staff operating City vehicles and equipment shall be required to review and sign this policy for compliance.

5.4.2 All City vehicles/equipment will be marked with an anti-idling sticker.

5.4.3 Anti-idling signage will posted at all City buildings.

5.4.4 Anti-idling stickers will be made available to all City staff and to the public for their personal use. Individuals wishing to display an anti-idling sticker will be provided with a copy of this policy to sign.

6. EXCEPTIONS:

This policy does not apply to the following vehicles, equipment, or situations. Operators must use their own discretion in certain situations.

- 6.1 Emergency vehicles and equipment are exempted while engaged in operational activities such as fire, police, or ambulance service.
- 6.2 Vehicles assisting in emergency activities.
- 6.3 Where engine power is necessary for an associated power need such as, but not limited to, electrical power, compressed air, various power take off devices such as auxiliary hydraulics.
- 6.4 Vehicles may idle for the purpose of deicing, defogging, defrosting windows. Idling must end when fog, frost or ice conditions have been eliminated. When window ice or frost conditions are present, attempts to remove snow, ice or frost from the window(s) with a scraper must be attempted before idling.
- 6.5 Vehicles solely to power emergency lighting and 2-way radios can operate the lighting for 30 minutes and can be idled at intervals to charge the batteries. A



large number of City vehicles have a dual battery system and the lighting can be operated for long periods without idling.

- 6.6 Staff may idle vehicle/equipment for the purpose of getting warm and/or dry if indoor accommodations are not available at the work site.
- 6.7 During the winter season with below zero temperatures and/or blizzard conditions, and during summer periods of extreme heat, extended idling periods may be necessary for the wellbeing of the operator.
- 6.8 This policy does not apply to vehicles being serviced or inspected.
- 6.9 Where safety may be compromised by shutting down the engine, vehicles/equipment may idle at the discretion of the operator.

7. BEST PRACTICES

- 7.1 Turning off the vehicle's engine while waiting at the train crossing.
- 7.2 Turning off the engine if the vehicle is going to be parked for more than 60 seconds (except in traffic.)
- 7.3 Drive the vehicle to warm it up, rather than idling the engine (usually no more than two to three minutes of idling is needed on cold winter days.)
- 7.4 Use remote car starters wisely to avoid excessively long warm-ups.
- 7.5 Not starting the vehicle until all passengers are seated and buckled except for de-icing, defogging and defrosting time.

8. ANTI-IDLING MYTHS AND STATISTICS

It is the intention of this policy to dispel common myths regarding idling, including but not limited to the following:

- 8.1 *"Idling uses less gas than restarting the engine of my vehicle."* In truth, idling a vehicle for 10 seconds or longer uses more fuel and produces more CO₂ emissions than restarting the engine. As a general guideline, if a vehicle is stopped for more than 60 seconds, the engine should be turned off.
- 8.2 *"Idling warms my vehicle's engine."* Idling is not an effective way to warm up a vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to warm a car is to drive it, as tires,



transmission, wheel bearings and other moving parts need to be driven to warm up.

- 8.3 For an average 3 litre engine, every ten minutes of idling will use more than a quarter-litre of fuel and will produce approximately 0.6kg CO₂ emissions.
- 8.4 If Canadians avoided idling for just three minutes per day, CO₂ emissions could be reduced by 1.4 million tonnes annually. This is the equivalent of taking 320,000 cars off the road for an entire year.