

**Policy Statement**

This policy will reduce unnecessary idling of City of Toronto vehicles and equipment, to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and smog pollutants being released into the atmosphere.

**Application**

This policy applies to all City employees who operate City of Toronto vehicles.

**Definitions**

*Idling –*

Parking a vehicle and keeping it running while it is not operational or performing a job function.

*10 second rule –*

If you're stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn off your vehicle. Ten seconds of idling uses the same amount of fuel as stopping and starting your vehicle.

*Warm-up time –*

The time needed for a vehicle to be at an operational temperature.

*Carbon dioxide –*

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a "greenhouse gas" which is causing global climate change. Vehicle emissions are the largest source of greenhouse gases in Toronto.

*Smog pollutants –*

Vehicles emit a mixture of pollutants that contribute to smog formation, poor air quality and health problems such as asthma symptoms and breathing problems.

**Responsibilities**

**Divisions will:**

- Ensure their staff are aware of the policy
- Educate and inform drivers when they are spotted idling in non-operational situations
- Post information relating to the Idle-Free policy in all workplaces

**Those with supervisory responsibilities will:**

- Work with Fleet Services to ensure their staff are educated and aware of the policy and what is expected of them
- Alert drivers that do not conform to the Idle-Free policy
- Abide by the 10 second rule: if stopped in a non-operational situation for more than 10 seconds, turn the vehicle off

**Workers/drivers/operators will:**

- Abide by the 10 second rule: if stopped for more than 10 seconds in a non-operational setting, turn the vehicle off
- Follow these warm-up times for vehicles:

**Heavy duty** vehicles and equipment:

- |                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| - Above 0 degrees Celsius (°C) | 3 to 5 minutes |
| - Below 0°C                    | 3 to 5 minutes |

**Light duty** vehicles (cars, vans, light trucks and sport utility vehicles):

- |             | Gasoline Engines | Diesel Engines   |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| - Above 0°C | 10 seconds       | 10 to 30 seconds |
| - Below 0°C | 10 to 30 seconds | 30 to 60 seconds |

- Use recommended shut-down idle time of diesel engines: 10 to 30 seconds
- 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, operate the engine at a gentle throttle until the normal operating temperature is reached

**Fleet Services will:**

- Create an Idle-Free education program for all City drivers and make it available to all interested parties
- Investigate and invest in technologies that limit vehicle idling, where appropriate

Workers/drivers/operators who do not follow these guidelines are subject to the disciplinary process.

**Exemption**

Emergency vehicles from Toronto Fire, Toronto Police, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) buses as outlined in Toronto's Idling Control By-law.

**Approved by**

Senior Management Team

**Date Approved**

April 23, 2007

**Related Information**

Idling Control By-law