
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.16	ACTION			Ward: All
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Cutting down on idling in Toronto - by Councillor Jaye Robinson, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Jaye Robinson, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Fleet Services to enhance in-service training for drivers employed by the City of Toronto on emissions reductions initiatives and idling by-laws, with updates to be informed by the City's TransformTO strategy.
2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Environment and Energy, in consultation with the General Manager, Transportation Services, to report back to City Council with options to increase public awareness of, and compliance with, Toronto's idling by-laws, including posting of signage on public buildings, and an education campaign.

Summary

Last December, City Council accelerated our TransformTO commitments, setting a new target of net-zero emissions by 2040. Tackling vehicular emissions, which comprise roughly 36 percent of Toronto's total emissions profile, is a critical step toward reducing our city's climate impact and achieving our TransformTO goals.

Reducing idling has been a key component of the City's efforts to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality since 1996, when the City of Toronto introduced Canada's first stand-alone idling control by-law. The impacts of idling on local air quality and individual health are well-documented, but the practice also has broader implications. Natural Resources Canada estimates that if Canadian drivers limited their idling time to three minutes per day, our annual CO₂ emissions could be reduced by 1.4 million tonnes – the equivalent of taking 320,000 cars of the road for an entire year.

Despite the long-standing by-laws in place, many Torontonians are unaware of the restrictions on idling in our City - even the within City's own fleet. Increasing awareness of and compliance with our idling by-laws is a small but impactful way we can advance toward our emissions reductions targets in the City of Toronto.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.16

