
DEPARTMENT: ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TITLE: VEHICULAR IDLING CONTROL POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Air quality, climate change and energy conservation discussions are becoming increasingly common among all levels of government. One issue that incorporates all three concerns is unnecessary vehicle idling. It is recognized that contaminants from vehicle exhaust are a major contributor to deteriorating air quality and climate change. In addition, these contaminants are linked to significant respiratory health effects.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Employees of the Town of Amherst shall not allow a vehicle to idle for more than 60 seconds, as stated in the definition of idling.

DEFINITIONS:

Idling

The operation of the engine in a vehicle while the vehicle is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the basic operation of the vehicle.

Vehicle

A motor vehicle, trailer, traction engine, farm tractor or road-building machine as defined in the Highway Traffic Act and any vehicle drawn, propelled or driven by any kind of non muscular power. Vehicle also includes a motorized snow plow or other conveyance which operates by way of a combustion engine.

EXEMPTIONS:

This policy does not apply to the following:

- A. Police and Fire vehicles in operational activities where idling is required (i.e. idling required to keep flashing lights working).
- B. Vehicles participating or assisting in an emergency activity;

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- C. Older mechanical style engines (i.e. diesel) which require specific shut down procedures;
- D. Occupied vehicles when the ambient temperature outside the vehicle is:
 - (i) More than twenty-seven degrees Celsius (27°C) if vehicle is equipped with an air conditioner.
 - (ii) Less than five degrees Celsius (5°C)
- E. Vehicles engaged in a parade or any other authorized event that requires the vehicle to idle;
- F. Vehicles required to remain motionless because of an emergency, traffic, weather conditions or mechanical difficulties over which the driver has no control;
- G. Safety is the primary consideration of the operator. In situations where shutting off the engine may compromise safety, vehicles may idle under the discretion of the operator (i.e. stopped in traffic).