



**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE COUNCIL
REPORT # 26 - 2006**

PRESENTED: Regular Council Meeting - April 4, 2006
FROM: Committee of Whole Council
SUBJECT: Vehicle/Equipment Idle Free Policy

DATE: March 30, 2006
FILE: 1-52-11, 2-1-0

The Committee of Whole Council met on March 28, 2006 to consider the above matter and makes the following recommendation to Council:

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of Whole Council recommends Council approve implementation of an Idle-Free Policy for all City vehicles and equipment as contained in the report of the Manager of Shared Services dated March 13, 2006, for the purpose of reducing green house gas emissions and fuel consumption; and further, this Policy be referred to the Air Shed Quality Committee for their information.

Respectfully submitted,

Alberto De Feo
Chief Administrative Officer



**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE COUNCIL REPORT**

DATE OF REPORT: March 13, 2006
DATE AND TYPE OF MEETING: March 28 Committee of Whole Council
FROM: Danny Moxey, Manager of Shared Services
SUBJECT: Vehicle/Equipment Idle Free Policy
FILE: 1-52-11, 2-1-0

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council approves implementation of an idle-free policy for all City vehicles and equipment for the purpose of reducing green house gas emissions and fuel consumption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Williams Lake can provide a leadership role in helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and smog causing pollutants and improve our local air quality by introducing an anti-idling policy for City vehicles and equipment. This would be the first step in a campaign to educate the community on the importance of reducing exhaust emissions.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENTS:

I concur with the recommendation.

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with the information required to initiate an idle-free policy for all City vehicles and equipment with future plans to expand into a community awareness campaign.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

As we are all aware, vehicle and equipment exhaust emissions are a major source of pollutants that are damaging our environment and our health. Unnecessary vehicle and equipment idling damages the environment and wastes fuel and money. Idling gets you nowhere. Most Canadians idle their vehicles 5-10 minutes a day which creates unnecessary pollution that is released into our environment, contributing to poor air quality.

Health Canada estimates that over 5,000 Canadians die prematurely each year due to air pollution. Children, the elderly, and those with respiratory problems are most sensitive to poor air quality. Idling affects our environment and the extra pollution created by idling contributes to climate change which is putting Canada's forests and water supplies at risk and endangering plant and animal species.

Research through the Municipal Fleet Manager's Group, Natural Resources Canada and Fleet Challenge British Columbia has provided some startling facts and statistics on vehicle and equipment idling. More than 27% of all greenhouse gas emissions in Canada are produced by the road transportation sector. These emissions can be harmful to human health and the natural environment. Smog and acid rain is a problem in many areas with a large number of motor vehicles. It is linked to a rise in respiratory ailments.

It is estimated that an idling gasoline vehicle with an average-sized engine uses about 2.2 litres of fuel per hour and that an idling diesel truck engine uses about 3 litres of fuel per hour. Reducing idling time by 10 minutes a day translates into a total of 60.8 hours a year and fuel savings of more than 100 L. Contrary to popular belief, turning off and starting an engine uses less fuel than letting the engine run for 30 seconds. An idling vehicle emits nearly 20 times more air pollution than one traveling at 50 km/hr. Engine wear is greater at prolonged idle than during normal operation. Although some fuels pollute less than others, they all contribute to pollution.

Idling is not an effective way to warm up a vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, only several minutes of idling is necessary before starting to drive, even on winter days, assuming the vehicle has been plugged in for a couple of hours and has been maintained properly. Excessive idling can actually damage an engine's components, including cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust system.

Idling warms only the engine, not the wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission and tires. These parts also need to be warmed up and the only way to do that is to get the vehicle moving. Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components such as the battery and starter motor and if you idle your vehicle for more than 10 seconds, you use more fuel than it would take to restart your engine.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Moxey
For
Shared Services

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

CONCURRENCES	
Division	Name
GMCS	
CAO	Alberto De Feo

Attachments:

Attachment A – Vehicle/Equipment Idle Free Policy

**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE
COUNCIL POLICY**

195

ISSUED: APRIL 4, 2006
PREPARED BY: MANAGER OF SHARED SERVICES
AUTHORIZED BY: COUNCIL
TITLE: **VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT IDLE FREE POLICY**
PAGE: ONE HUNDRED & NINETY - FIVE (195)

1.0 Purpose:

The City of Williams Lake is committed to reduce unnecessary vehicle/equipment idling as a means of reducing air pollution and fuel expense.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for unnecessary idling of municipal vehicles and equipment. Limiting idling times reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and contributes to healthier work environments and the efficient use of city resources.

2.0 Scope:

This policy applies to all staff operating vehicles and equipment owned or leased by the City of Williams Lake and Transit buses.

3.0 Definition

3.1 Idling

Idling means the operation of a vehicle or equipment while they are not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the operation of the vehicle or equipment.

3.2 Fuels

For the purpose of this policy this includes all vehicles or equipment that run on fossil fuels which include gasoline, diesel, propane, hydrogen and natural gas.

3.3 Vehicles

For the purposes of this policy, vehicles or equipment refers to cars, light trucks, vans, heavy truck, snow equipment, transit buses, loaders, backhoes, street sweepers, and any other equipment operated by staff and utilizing fossil fuels.



4.0 Procedures:

4.1 Manufacturer's Guidelines (Recommendations)

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

4.2 Initial Warm-Up

4.2.1 Gasoline and Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Idle times up to 5 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.

4.2.2 Diesel Fueled Vehicles/Equipment

Idle times up to 5 minutes are allowed for diesel fueled vehicles/equipment during their 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 vehicle/equipment conditions similar to those prior to initial shift warm up.

4.3 Operation of Equipment in the field

4.3.1 Gasoline and Alternative Fuel Vehicles

No operator shall idle the engine of an unleaded fueled vehicle in excess of 1 minute, if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Operators making multiple or frequent stops that require their vehicle to be stationary for time periods of several minutes may idle up to 3 minutes in such circumstances.

4.3.2 Diesel Fueled Vehicles/Equipment

No operator shall idle the engine of a diesel-fueled vehicle in excess of 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 3 minutes.

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



5.0 Exceptions

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

- 5.1 Emergency vehicles and equipment are exempted while engaged in operational activities such as fire, police, or ambulance services.
- 5.2 Vehicles assisting in an emergency activity are exempt.
- 5.3 Where engine power is necessary for an associated power need such as, but not limited to, electrical power, compressed air, and various power take-off devices such as auxiliary hydraulics.
- 5.4 Vehicles may idle for the purpose of defogging, defrosting or deicing 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 windows with a scraper must be attempted before idling.
- 5.5 Vehicles used solely to power emergency lighting and 2-way radios can operate the lighting for 30 minutes and can be idled at intervals to charge batteries. A large number of city vehicles have a dual battery system and the lighting can be operated for long periods without idling.
- 5.6 Staff may idle vehicles/equipment for the purpose of getting warm and/or dry if indoor accommodations are not available at the work site.
- 5.7 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 well being of the operator and passengers.
- 5.8 This policy does not apply to vehicles being serviced or inspected.
- 5.9 Where safety may be compromised by shutting down the engine, vehicles/equipment may idle at the discretion of the operator.
- 5.10 Transit vehicles, 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 well being of the operator and passengers.



Ready to do your part?

Here's a simple, five-step process to change your idling habits:

STEP 1: Reduce warm-up idling. Start driving after no more than 30 seconds of idling, assuming your vehicle's windows are clear.

STEP 2: If you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, except in traffic, turn off your engine. Idling your vehicle for longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it would take to restart the vehicle.

STEP 3: Avoid using a remote car starter. These devices encourage you to start your vehicle before you are ready to leave, which means wasteful idling.

STEP 4: In temperatures below 0°C, use a block heater to warm the engine before you start your vehicle. This will improve fuel efficiency and reduce exhaust emissions.

STEP 5: Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the benefits of reduced idling. Encourage them to join you in saving money, protecting the environment and contributing to a healthier community.

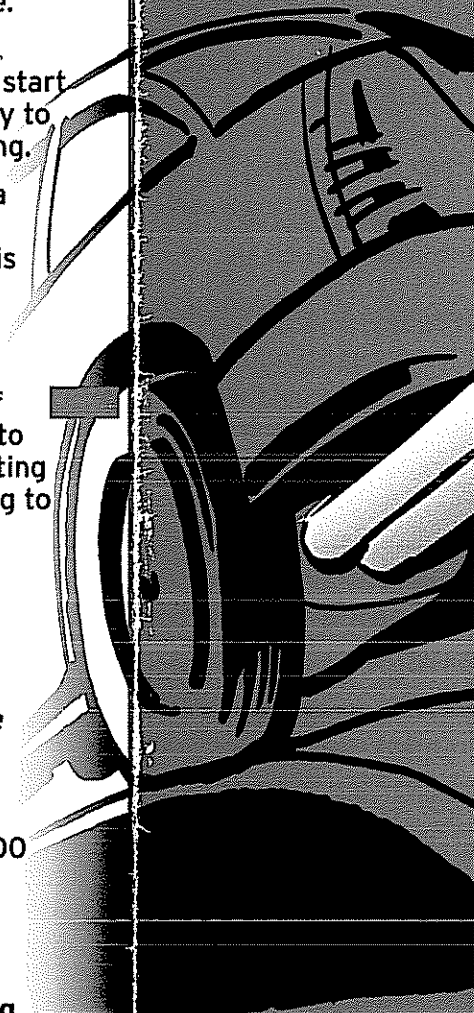
For More Information

For more information, visit the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada's *Idle-Free Zone* (<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/autosmart/idling>), a web site devoted to helping communities reduce vehicle idling at the local level, or call 1-800-387-2000 for a free information kit.

Idle Free BC

Fleet Managers - Interested in participating in Idle Free BC? We can help you develop a strategy that reflects the needs of your

Idling is Killing Environment



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possibly putting
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air we breathe.

So it's easy to see that
changing the way we
drive, even just a little,
can have an enormous
impact on our environ-
ment, both globally and
locally.

That's why we're asking
motorists to think about
their driving habits, and
particularly about how
much they idle their
vehicles. When your
engine runs for no reason
– after all, idling gets you
nowhere – it needlessly
harms the environment.
It also wastes fuel and
money and diminishes
our quality of life.

Do the World A Favour – Don't Idle

To combat problems like
climate change and urban
smog, we all need to use
energy more wisely. In
the case of idling, the
solution is literally in
your hands – it's as easy
as turning a key.

If every Canadian motorist avoided idling
their vehicle for just five minutes a day,
365 days of the year, more than 1.6 million
tonnes of carbon dioxide, along with other
toxic substances, would be spared from
entering the atmosphere.

