

**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**
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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 exempt 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.

