



PW-18 Municipal Fleet Idling Policy

Department: Public Works

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The County of St. Paul desires to preserve our natural environment by reducing (GHG) Green House Gas emissions produced by municipal fleet vehicle idling. Eliminating idling will save fuel consumption and decrease wear and tear on municipal vehicles.

1.0 Policy Definitions

Idling Vehicle refers to running a vehicle's engine when the vehicle is not in motion. This commonly occurs when drivers are stopped at a red light, waiting while parked outside a business or residence, or otherwise stationary with the engine running. When idling, the engine runs without any loads except the engine accessories.

SCOPE

This policy applies to idling of municipal owned, leased, or rented vehicles and motorized equipment.

POLICY STATEMENTS

2.0 Policy Directive

2.1 Motor vehicles and motorized equipment shall not be permitted to:

- (a) Stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, and removing the key.
- (b) Idle in a parked position for a period longer than 5 minutes.
- (c) Idle within 20 meters of any building ventilation system, and open window or an entrance point for any employee.

2.2 Exemptions for idling municipal motor vehicles are permitted under the following conditions:

- (a) The vehicle remains motionless due to on-highway traffic, a traffic device or signal, an emergency, or at the direction of law enforcement official.
- (b) A vehicle idles when operating defrosters, heaters, air conditioners to prevent a health or safety emergency or to provide clear vision for the operator during extreme weather conditions (i.e. Snowstorm, extreme cold weather)
- (c) A public safety vehicle or any other vehicle being used in an emergency situation where required for functional purposes of the vehicle (i.e. emergency lighting)

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- (d) The engine idles for purpose of maintenance, servicing and repairing, or diagnostic purposes, if idling is required for such activity.
- (e) A vehicle idles as part of a provincial or federal inspection program to verify that all equipment is operating properly.
- (f) A diesel engine is required to idle to complete an active regeneration cycle on its diesel particular filter (DPF). Diesel engine requires proper airflow for cooling of the turbo, not in excess of 5 mins.
- (g) While ambient outside temperature is above 25°C or below minus 20°C.

3.0 Monitoring

The direct supervisor/ foreman of each crew shall be responsible for receiving complaints and/or concerns regarding this policy.

Council Approval: December 14, 2021