

Town of Tolland Anti-idling Policy

PURPOSE

This document outlines the policy for the Town of Tolland of a one-minute idle time, to reduce the air pollution from vehicle and equipment exhausts, create a healthier environment, promote energy (fossil fuel) conservation, reduce noise pollution, reduce wear, and service needs on Town vehicles and equipment.

GENERAL

Vehicles and equipment idling have a significant impact upon the environment. The main areas of environmental impact are air quality and fuel consumption. Air quality is affected by the creation of smog (ozone in the lower levels of the atmosphere and production of carbon monoxide and other air borne pollutants). The affects on humans (and animals) may include respiratory problems ranging from not being able to handle extended outdoor activities to asthma and related disorders.

Idling Facts and Statistics:

1. An idling vehicle emits nearly 20 times more air pollution than when traveling at 31 mph.
2. Ontario Ministry of Transportation estimates that an idling gasoline vehicle with an average sized engine uses about 2.2 liters of fuel per hour and that an idling diesel truck engine uses about 3 liters of fuel per hour. Reducing idling time by 10 minutes a day translates into approximately 60.8 hours a year in fuel savings of more than 100L (26 gallons).
3. Turning off and starting an engine uses LESS fuel than letting the engine run for 30 seconds.
4. Modern vehicles need a maximum of 30 seconds of idle at start up. The best way to warm up a vehicle is by driving it (gently).
5. Engine wear is greater at prolonged idle than during normal operation.
6. Although some fuels pollute less than others do, they all contribute to air pollution and are therefore equally affected by this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Town of Tolland employees who are authorized to operate vehicles/equipment owned, leased, or rented by the Town of Tolland. Additionally, it is a violation of Connecticut State Law to Idle, an automobile or Truck for more than three consecutive minutes with the following exceptions.

EXEMPTIONS:

- a. It is forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties;
- b. It is necessary to operate defrosting, heating, or cooling equipment to ensure the health or safety of its occupants;

- c. It is necessary to operate auxiliary equipment located in or on the vehicle (I.E., hoist, lift, computers, safety lighting, and internal equipment);
- d. It is necessary to bring the vehicle to the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature;
- e. The outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit;
- f. Vehicle maintenance, inspection, or diagnostics requires it to be operated for more three consecutive minutes;
- g. It is waiting in line to gain access to a U.S. military installation or a drive-in establishment.
- h. Assisting on an emergency scene;
- i. if the vehicle is not expected to restart due to mechanical problems (to be repaired ASAP).

POLICY

1. The driver/operator shall:

Not idle the vehicle/equipment while completing a circle check (unless required for air brake pressure or other critical checks necessary); not leave the vehicle/equipment unattended while idling; shut down the vehicle/equipment when it is expected to exceed the one minute idle time; ensure that vehicle/equipment deficiencies are reported immediately to the immediate supervisor or if it is unsafe to turn the unit off; idle the vehicle/equipment only if the motor is required to power auxiliary equipment; idle the vehicle/equipment only under extreme weather conditions; and idle the vehicle/equipment only when the health and safety of employees or others may be jeopardized.

2. Any Department Head with employees that drive vehicles shall: make sure that employees are made aware of this policy; and ensure that all employees adhere to this policy.
3. Mechanics shall: idle vehicles/equipment only when necessary for maintenance and diagnostic purposes; and ensure that idling be kept to a minimum.

PROCEDURES

1. The driver/operator will:
 - a. check the vehicle/equipment prior to leaving to ensure that safe turn off of the unit can be accomplished;
 - b. report defects on the Vehicle Inspection Sheet and submit it to the immediate supervisor to determine if it is safe to be operated or needs to be repaired immediately if the unit can not be turned off;

- c. turn off and remove the keys from the ignition when the vehicle/equipment is left unattended;
 - d. turn off the vehicle/equipment, unless the vehicle/equipment motor is to be used for auxiliary power; and
 - e. Turn off the vehicle/equipment when it is expected to exceed the one minute idle time, and it is safe to do so.
- 2. The Highway Superintendent or Parks and Facilities Supervisor or appropriate Department Head will
 - a) Refer the vehicle to the senior mechanic when the vehicle/equipment is reported to be unsafe to turn off;
 - b) Determine if vehicle/equipment is to be operated or put in for immediate repair;
 - c) Put in a request to the senior mechanic with copy of the Vehicle Inspection Sheet;
 - d) Instruct employees of this policy; and
 - e) Ensure that all employees adhere to this policy.

POLICY CONSEQUENCES

- a) Non-compliance with this policy by Town Employees may result in disciplinary action; and
- b) Any Department Head with employees that drive vehicles shall ensure that all employees adhere to this policy and deal promptly with all non-compliance issues.