

December 10, 2008

Corporate Anti-Idling Policy

1. What is the corporate anti-idling policy?

The anti-idling policy is intended to reduce emissions produced by City vehicles, improve air quality for residents and employees and lower City operation expenses.

- City vehicles are not to be left running when the operator is absent from the vehicle
- City vehicles are not permitted to idle more than 3 to 5 minutes unless exempted
- City vehicles are not permitted to idle near building intakes, school grounds, or groups of people
- Block heaters (with timers) will be installed when possible as an alternative for vehicles not garaged in heated buildings.

2. Why is The City implementing a corporate anti-idling policy?

The City is committed to leading by example when it comes to environmental sustainability.

Reducing emissions produced by City vehicles is just one more way we can reduce our impact on the environment and encourage Red Deer citizens to do the same. The new anti-idling policy will also help reduce City operation expenses.

3. Does this policy apply to the public?

No. This policy applies to City owned vehicles only. Privately owned vehicles or privately owned vehicles used for City business are not subject to this Policy.

4. Will The City implement an anti-idling bylaw?

The City understands the importance of protecting our air quality and is currently exploring options to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling and the air pollution that it causes. Implementing an anti-idling bylaw is one of these options. However, before any new bylaw is put into place, The City will undergo a public consultation process to ensure that the needs of our citizens and businesses are considered.

5. Are any City vehicles exempt from the anti-idling policy?

Yes:

- Emergency Services and other City vehicles are permitted to idle at the scene of an emergency where lights and other accessories are needed in order to respond to the situation
- Emergency Services and other City vehicles may idle during a non-emergency response situation in order to perform the job at hand and keep the vehicle battery charged
- Emergency Service vehicles which have contents sensitive to extreme heat or cold may be allowed to idle as necessary to maintain adequate internal temperatures
- Vehicles with passenger compartments may idle in order to maintain a reasonable compartment temperature of 18 degrees C
- Transit vehicles when maintaining their schedules or waiting for passengers at the bus terminal or bus stop may have extended idling times – typically 5 minutes while on a layover
- Any vehicle that needs to run during service or repair is permitted to idle only for as long as necessary
- Any vehicle that needs to defrost its windshield in order to drive safely is permitted to idle only for as long as it takes to defrost and maintain a clear windshield
- Diesel powered vehicles and equipment will be allowed to warm up for longer periods of time depending on the outside temperature
- Ice maintenance equipment must stay running to keep pumps from freezing

6. How was the anti-idling policy developed?

The City of Red Deer Public Works department developed the anti-idling policy based on research conducted by Natural Resources Canada. Their research indicates:

- Modern vehicles don't need more than 30 seconds to warm up
- Excessive Idling damages engines and releases needless pollutants into the environment
- Block heaters are good for engines and the environment

7. Will the anti-idling policy really make a difference?

Natural Resources Canada estimates that if 100 driver's of light duty vehicles avoided idling for 5 minutes a day, over the course of a year the impact would be:

- Fuel consumption would be reduced by 4,663 litres
- The City would save \$3,795.69 annually
- Green House Gas emissions would be reduced by 11,333 kilograms per year
- The equivalent of taking 8 vehicles off the road

8. How many vehicles are in The City of Red Deer fleet?

There are 450 vehicles in The City of Red Deer's fleet which will be impacted by the corporate anti-idling policy.

9. How will the anti-idling policy be enforced?

Fleet managers are responsible for training drivers during new hire orientation and at their tailgate meetings. They will also be responsible for ensuring drivers of City vehicles follow the Anti Idling policy.

10. When does the anti-idling policy take effect?

The anti-idling policy takes effect on January 5, 2009.

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