

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
People Serving People

CITY SOLICITOR/CLERK'S OFFICE

OPEN SESSION REPORT

TO: Mayor Bradley and Members of Sarnia City Council

FROM: Brian W. Knott
City Solicitor/Clerk

DATE: January 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Idling Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

1. That Council adopt the attached in-house policy for idling of City vehicles.

BACKGROUND & COMMENTS

As recommended by the Community Round Table Environmental Committee, Council had previously approved a 3 tiered approach to the issue of idling:

1. City Staff Develop an In-House Policy regarding Idling of City Vehicles
2. Public Education be Conducted in Tandem with the In-House Policy
3. Develop a City By-Law that is Informative and Empowers Citizens

The attached in-house policy is intended to satisfy the first step in the idling initiatives. This policy is similar to the policy adopted by the County of Lambton.

It is understood that the Community Round Table Group has secured some funds for education purposes, and staff will continue to work with the Environmental Committee and the Community Round Table Group to develop and implement a public education program.

Once we are in a position to adopt a comprehensive idling by-law for all of Sarnia, the in-house policy will be able to be amended to reflect any likely restrictions on time limits/temperature requirements, etc. It should also be noted that our transit system currently has in place a policy dealing with vehicle idling (a copy of the transit policy has been attached); this policy will remain in place until such time as the comprehensive by-law is adopted.

CONSULTATION

Input on the in-house policy has been sought from all departments within the City. The Community Round Table group, and in particular, the Environmental Committee have been involved as champions of the program to implement idling initiatives for the City of Sarnia.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

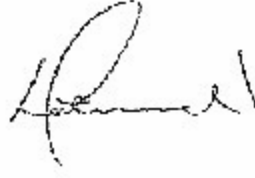
There should be no financial consequences resulting from the adoption of this policy.

Prepared by:



Brian W. Knott
City Solicitor/Clerk

Reviewed by:



Lloyd Fennell
City Manager

Attachments: In-House Idling Policy
County of Lambton Idling Policy
Transit Idling Policy

City of Sarnia Idle Free Policy

PURPOSE

Motor vehicle and equipment emissions are the single largest source of smog causing pollutants in Ontario. These emissions can be harmful to human health and the natural environment. For this reason, the City of Sarnia has adopted the following policy to reduce air pollutants resulting from the operation of vehicles and equipment owned and/or used by the City.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy will reduce unnecessary idling of City of Sarnia Vehicles and equipment to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and smog pollutants being released into the atmosphere.

DEFINITIONS

Idling – Parking a vehicle and keeping it running while it is not operational or performing a job function.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all City employees who operate City of Sarnia Vehicles.

1. City vehicles and equipment shall never be left idling when unattended.
2. Engine warm-up periods will not exceed 3 minutes (provided proper airbrake pressure and/or other critical settings have been reached).
3. Vehicles shall be shut off whenever idling time is expected to exceed 3 minutes.
4. This policy applies to all City owned, leased, and/or rented vehicles and equipment.
5. City employees using their personal vehicles on City business are required to follow this policy.

The following circumstances are exempt from the application of this policy:

- a) Vehicle maintenance and diagnostic purposes (to be kept at an absolute required minimum).
- b) Extreme cold weather conditions, heat alerts, or any other time when the health and safety of employees may be jeopardized.
- c) The unit is not expected to be able to restart due to a mechanical problem (must be repaired ASAP).
- d) The engine is immediately required to power auxiliary equipment (e.g. hoist, lift platform, hydraulic tools, compactors, computers, etc.).

MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Manager, department heads, managers and supervisors have a responsibility to:

- Ensure that staff are aware of the policy
- Educate and inform drivers when they are spotted idling in non-operational situations
- Post information relating to the idle free policy in all workplaces.
- Investigate and invest in technologies that limit vehicle idling, where appropriate.

Workers/drivers/operators that do not follow the guidelines of this policy are subject to the disciplinary process.

EXEMPTIONS

- Sarnia Fire Rescue Services Emergency Vehicles
- Sarnia Transit Buses



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
COUNTY OF LAMBTON**

Subject	Anti-Idling	Section 200	Policy 218
Effective Date	October 7, 2009	Approved By: CAO General Managers	
Revision Date			

PURPOSE

Motor vehicle and equipment emissions are the single largest source of smog-causing pollutants in Ontario. These emissions can be harmful to human health and the natural environment. For this reason, the County of Lambton has adopted the following policy to reduce air pollutants resulting from the operation of vehicles and equipment owned by the County. County employees using their personal vehicles on County business are encouraged to follow this policy.

POLICY

1. County vehicles and equipment shall never be left idling when unattended.
2. Engine warm-up periods will not exceed three minutes (provided required airbrake pressure and/or other critical settings have been reached).
3. Vehicles shall be shut off whenever idling time is expected to exceed five minutes.
4. County employees shall not operate County vehicles through a drive thru.
5. This policy applies to all County owned, leased and/or rented vehicles and equipment and employee vehicles while on County property.
6. The following circumstances are exempt from the application of this policy:
 - a) vehicle maintenance and diagnostic purposes (to be kept at an absolute required minimum);
 - b) extreme cold weather conditions, heat alerts, or any other time when the health and safety of employees may be jeopardized;
 - c) the unit is not expected to be able to restart due to a mechanical problem (must be repaired ASAP);
 - d) the engine is immediately required to power auxiliary equipment (e.g. hoist, lift platform, hydraulic tools, compactors, computers, etc.).
 - e) Emergency Medical Services vehicles may idle on scene, provided the anti theft system is engaged.
7. County employees shall at all times observe anti-idling by-laws of local municipalities, if any. In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of this by-law and a local anti-idling by-law, the most stringent provisions between this policy and the by-law shall be observed.

DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

Date: May 25, 2009
To: All Employees
From: Jim Stevens
Director of Transit
Re: Vehicle Idling Policy

As we are approaching the warm weather, it appears as though some excessive idling has taken place. Please be advised that the following 3 minute idling policy takes effect immediately.

410.01 BUSES IDLING

The practice of starting engines long before the vehicle is scheduled to leave the garage, or starting someone else's bus and leaving it running unattended, is not permitted. When starting at the garage and leaving these buses running and unattended can result in warning indicators not being noticed and lead to engine damage. When you start a vehicle, you take responsibility for that vehicle and any damages that occur due to neglect. Remember, the next time someone asks you to start their bus; you are taking responsibility for their bus as well as the one assigned to you. Engines should only be allowed to warm up and build air pressure, during the circle check procedures and only be left running and unattended as indicated in the "vehicle securing" policy.

In order to reduce fuel consumption and emissions; the following anti-idling policy takes effect immediately.

SERVICE/SUPPORT VEHICLES

*All service/support vehicles will be required to have the engines turned off when the driver is out of the vehicle for any reason. Some exceptions will be permitted for safety reasons that include emergency repairs/servicing to other transit vehicles on the road and at accident scenes etc.
ie. accidents / breakdown situations for improved securing of the scene and to perform mechanical duties.*

BUSES

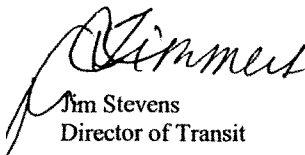
*All buses must have the engine turned off if sitting idle for longer than 3 minutes except during extreme heat or cold weather conditions when the engine is needed to operate the heat/air conditioning systems for driver and passenger comfort. During these times of extreme heat or cold, all doors and windows must remain closed with the exception of passengers disembarking and/or boarding the bus.
Additionally, when all Care-A-Vans and support vehicles return to the yard for short periods, these vehicles must have the ignition turned off at all times, and are not to remain with the engines running on the property.*

The above remains in effect unless at least one of the following conditions occurs:

- 1) If the lights on the bus are necessary for the safety of either passengers or the vehicle;
- 2) If maintenance staff or a Supervisor has directed that a vehicle is not to be turned off because it would result in a no-start situation, due to mechanical related issues with a particular vehicle

If you have any questions or concerns, please see me.

Thanks for your continued co-operation.


Jim Stevens
Director of Transit

JS/et

- c. All notice boards/Notice File/Notice binder
union
Policy review file