

# **VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT IDLING POLICY**

(Adopted by Council – November 7, 2005)

(Effective date – March 1, 2006)

## **Preamble**

Unnecessary vehicle idling wastes fuel and generates needless harmful emissions. Canadians unnecessarily idle their vehicles from over 46 million minutes a day in the summer months to over 75 million minutes a day in the winter months. This wastes over one million litres of fuel on an average summer day to over 1.8 million litres of fuel on a cold winter day<sup>1</sup>. The City of Moncton currently owns and/or leases more than 250 vehicles of all shapes and sizes. If each reduced idling by as little as 5 minutes per day, the City would save as much as 11,900 Litres of fuel per year. According to Natural Resources Canada, if every driver of the light duty vehicle in Canada avoided idling for just 5 minutes every day, we could prevent 1.6M tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere each year. For additional idling facts and statistics see *appendix “a”*.

The City of Moncton is an environmentally conscious corporation who is continually looking for environmentally friendly initiatives to incorporate in its daily activities which are beneficial not only to the corporation but also to the community and to the environment. One such initiative is vehicle and equipment idling which has negative effects on the environment. Some of these negative effects include: reduced outdoor activities due to respiratory problems, increase production of green house gases, inefficient use of our limited fossil fuel resources, and unnecessary fuel costs.

## **1.0 Policy Statement**

The City of Moncton has established a Vehicle and Equipment Idling Policy which places limitation on engine idling. The Policy applies to the entire fleet of vehicles and equipment in use by the City of Moncton. For this reason the policy applies to ALL City owned or leased vehicles, and equipment (including those equipped with air conditioning systems).

## **2.0 Definitions**

“Idling” means the engine is running while the vehicle is stationary or the piece of equipment is not performing work.

“Lay-over” means non-revenue time spent before the start of the next trip.

“Vehicle” means any on-road or off-road, self-propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a license plate by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

“Equipment” means any self-powered/person-operated equipment used in support of municipal operations and services (i.e. lawn mower, boat engine, bush cutter, etc.).

## **3.0 Purpose**

The City of Moncton is always looking at ways of improving our environment for the benefit of all our citizens and this is the prime rationale for this Policy which is meant to:

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<sup>1</sup> Source of information: Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resource Canada and Ontario Ministry of Transportation

- Reduce air pollution from vehicle and equipment exhausts;
- Promote energy (fossil fuel) conservation;
- Reduce noise pollution; and
- Reduce wear and service needs on vehicles and equipment.

#### **4.0 Idling Limitation**

To ensure we approach vehicle idling in a consistent manner, all employees operating a City vehicle must adhere to the following idling limitations:

- Vehicles shall never be left idling when unattended.
- Engine warm-up periods will not exceed one minute (provided required airbrake pressure and/or other critical settings have been reached).
- Vehicles will be shut off whenever idling time is expected to exceed one minute.
- Transit buses on lay-over during the period from April 15 through to October 15 must shut down engines when the lay-over is expected to exceed one minute, observing proper shutdown procedures (one minute low idle before shut down).

#### **4.1 Exceptions**

As with all policies there will be some scenarios which are not conducive to the implementation of the limitations described in 4.0. Therefore, exceptions to this policy have been identified and only exist under the following circumstances:

- a) For vehicle maintenance and diagnostic purposes (to be kept to an absolute required minimum);
- b) Under extreme weather conditions or any other time when the health and safety of employees or others may be jeopardized;
- c) If the unit is not expected to be able to restart due to a mechanical problem (must be repaired ASAP);
- d) Emergency response units while on an emergency scene;
- e) Transit vehicles in revenue service while carrying passengers.
- f) Engine is immediately required to power auxiliary equipment (e.g. hoist, lift platform, hydraulic tools, inverters, compactors, medical equipment, computers, etc.).

#### **5.0 Personal Vehicles**

Although this Policy only applies to City of Moncton staff and vehicles, we encourage all drivers to reduce their personal vehicle idling time in order to reduce air and noise pollution, and promote energy conservation. Moreover, while improving the quality of our environment, drivers will reduce their fuel consumption and the wear and tear on their personal vehicle(s) thus saving money. For informative vehicle idling facts and statistics see *appendix "a"*.

## *Appendix “a”*

### **Idling facts and statistics<sup>2</sup>**

Some startling facts and statistics on idling:

- More than 27% of all greenhouse gas emissions in Canada are produced by the road transportation sector. These emissions can be harmful to human health and the natural environment.
- Smog and acid rain is a problem in many urban areas with a large number of motor vehicles. It is linked to a rise in respiratory ailments.
- It is estimated that an idling gasoline vehicle with an average-sized engine uses about 2.2 litres of fuel per hour and that an idling diesel truck engine uses about 3 litres of fuel per hour. Reducing idling time by 10 minutes a day translates into a total of 60.8 hours a year and fuel savings of more than 100 L.
- Contrary to popular belief, turning off and starting an engine uses less fuel than letting the engine run for 30 seconds. An idling vehicle emits nearly 20 times more air pollution than one traveling at 50 km/hr. Engine wear is greater at prolonged idle than during normal operation. Although some fuels pollute less than others, they all contribute to pollution.
- Idling is not an effective way to warm up a vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today’s modern engines, no more than 30 seconds of idling is necessary before starting to drive, even on winter days, assuming the vehicle has been plugged in for a couple of hours and has been maintained properly.
- Excessive idling can actually damage an engine’s components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust system.
- Idling warms only the engine, not the wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission and tires. These parts also need to be warmed up, and the only way to do that is to get the vehicle moving.
- Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components such as the battery and starter motor and if you idle your vehicle for more than 10 seconds, you use more fuel than it would take to restart your engine.

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<sup>2</sup> Source of information: Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resource Canada and Ontario Ministry of Transportation