

CITY NO IDLING POLICY

CITY OF CHAMBLEE
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

[3506 BROAD STREET]
[CHAMBLEE, GA 30341]

CITY NO IDLING POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to eliminate the unnecessary idling of vehicles by City staff and other rolling stock as part of an ongoing effort to reduce fuel consumption and reduce the City's environmental footprint. This document will clarify our policy to reduce fuel consumption and describe departmental relationships, responsibilities and participation in the No Idling Policy.

An idling vehicle gets 0 miles per gallon. Idling vehicles produce unnecessary pollution that contribute to climate change, smog and health problems, causes premature engine wear and wastes fuel which increases our costs to our taxpayers.

When a vehicle will be stopped for more than 30 seconds, turning off the engine can have a dramatic impact on fuel consumption and the environment. All City departments and agencies shall implement the No Idling Policy for all City vehicles.

Furthermore, this policy reinforces the City's commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship. By incorporating environmental considerations into public use of resources, the City of Chamblee will positively impact human health and the environment, reduce costs and improve the environmental quality of the region.

DEFINITIONS

When used in this policy, the following words, terms and phrases, and their derivations shall be the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

AGENT means an official contracted or subcontracted person who is authorized to act on behalf of the City of Chamblee and represent their interests.

CITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR means the Development Director or other employee or agent as designated by the City Manager.

EMPLOYEE means an individual drawing a salary or wage from the City, whether on a full-time, part-time basis or contractual third-party. The term shall encompass all members of the City without regard to whether or not such individual is compensated.

OFFICIAL means any elected or appointed person who holds office or serves in a position of public capacity.

VEHICLE means mechanical means of conveyance, a carriage or transport. This includes both automobiles and other rolling stock powered by gasoline or other fuel alternatives.

SCOPE

The scope of this No Idling Policy covers all City owned vehicles or other rolling stock as well all vehicles operated by employees of the City while doing the work of the City.

Appropriate use of City vehicles and personal vehicles operated for the purposes of City business includes the following:

1. Vehicles will not be parked with the engine operating for more than 30 seconds unless it is essential to the performance of work.
2. Initial “warm up” idling should be minimized. If a vehicle’s windows are clear, driving should be started after no more than 30 seconds of idling.
3. Initial “warm up” for diesel vehicles should be limited to 3-5 minutes, or as otherwise recommended by vehicle’s manufacturer.
4. If a vehicle is going to be stopped for more than 30 seconds, except as required while operating the vehicle in routine traffic, the engine should be turned off as idling for more than ten seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart the vehicle.

EXCEPTIONS

Due to the diverse nature of the City’s vehicle fleet and operation of personal vehicles for City business, exceptions are needed to this No Idling Policy. Subsequently, the provisions of the policy do not apply to:

1. Emergency vehicles, such as public safety vehicles, while engaged in operational activities;
2. Vehicles that are required to idle in order to power ancillary equipment mounted on the vehicle without risking damage to the battery;
3. Public safety vehicles performing emergency operations, but only when the vehicle must be operating for the warning devices or emergency systems to function;
4. Vehicles equipped with temperature sensitive equipment;
5. Public safety vehicles transporting prisoners, victims, or witnesses, or when performing traffic control;
6. The primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle providing a power source necessary for mechanical operation of equipment required for job performance;
7. A motor vehicle forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions over which the operator has no control;
8. The primary engine of a motor vehicle being operated for maintenance or diagnostic purposes;
9. The primary engine of a motor vehicle when necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers.
10. During a period of any emergency, such as a tornado, ice storm, flood, or any other act of nature, the requirements of this policy may be waived by the City Manager or the City Manager’s designee.

RESPONSIBILITY

As the steward of the City’s sustainability program, the Development Director shall have the following duties and powers in regards to the No Idling Policy:

1. Work with all department heads to make certain that employees are aware and educated about this No Idling Policy.
2. Work with all department heads to make certain that this practice, not idling vehicles, is monitored.