



# City of Winooski

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## **PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE IDLING POLICY**

The Winooski Public Works Department has based the following policy on information gathered from the “American Lung Association Vermont’s Idle-Free Fleets program” and other neighboring Municipality’s plans to improve employee health, save fuel, and reduce engine maintenance costs.

### Purpose:

The Winooski Public Works Department seeks to reduce engine idling to:

- Protect the health of vehicle operators and people in the vicinity of our vehicles from harmful emissions,
- Improve air quality,
- Reduce the City fleet’s carbon footprint,
- Conserve energy and our Nation’s dependency on foreign oil,
- Help reduce operating costs by increasing fuel economy and extending engine life.

### Operating Policy:

Winooski Public Works employees who operate any City vehicle will limit idling in the following ways:

1. Idling inside the Public Works Facility will be limited to building air pressure to remove the vehicle. Idling to perform routine maintenance shall only be allowed when required.
2. The operator shall limit warm up idling of all vehicles to 5 minutes in cold weather. Warm up idling is not necessary in temperatures above 40 degrees F. unless directed otherwise by the manufacturer.
3. The operator shall not leave vehicles unattended and idling. The operator shall shut off the engine upon arrival at his destination.
4. Vehicles shall not be left idling during fueling operations.

5. In general, the operator will use best judgment to eliminate unnecessary idling whenever possible.

Exceptions and Non-exceptions:

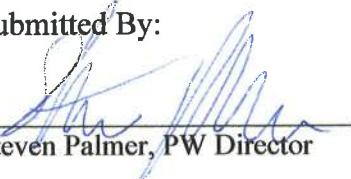
When Public Works vehicles are involved in Public Safety operations such as snow plowing, fire & rescue, or other emergencies, the vehicle operator will make exceptions at their discretion.

- 1) Idling may be maintained as needed to keep vehicle windows defrosted. Idling may be permitted to generate heat in extremely cold conditions (<10 degrees F) but not to maintain air conditioning in an unoccupied vehicle.
- 2) Idling may be necessary to maintain the electrical system when using vehicle accessories but is not necessary when using strobe lights on a parked vehicle for short durations.
- 3) Driver's, using their best judgment, will employ exceptions only when lack of idling will prevent the efficient performance of duties.


Achieving Stated Goals:

The Public Works Department has not had any procedural guidelines related to engine idling in the past. This operating policy has been prepared for all employees to review in hopes that the stated policy objectives can be achieved. For six months this policy will be considered a draft for training, discussion, and input. A final operating policy will then be developed and implemented.

Submitted By:

  
Steven Palmer, PW Director

Approved By:

  
Katherine Decarreau, City Manager

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011.