



Town of Digby

Administrative Policy # 2010-02

Vehicle Idling Policy

1.0 Preamble:

The Town of Digby is committed to becoming a healthy, sustainable and vibrant community. This includes an integrated systems approach to clean air, land, water and energy through a sustainable approach to the services and programs we deliver. Vehicle emissions produce pollutants that contribute to climate change, smog and acid rain, some of the biggest environmental problems facing our planet today. Reducing unnecessary idling has a positive effect on our air, land and water.

2.0 Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to reduce the effect of Town of Digby operations on our physical environment by:

- 2.1 Reducing air pollution from vehicle and equipment exhaust
- 2.2 Promoting energy conservation by posting Idle Free Zones on Town owned property.
- 2.3 Reducing noise pollution
- 2.4 Reducing wear and tear on Town of Digby vehicles and equipment
- 2.5 Reduce operational costs

3.0 Policy Statement:

The Town of Digby has established a Vehicle Idling Policy which places limitations on engine idling. The policy applies to all vehicles and equipment used by Town of Digby employees in the performance of their duties. The Town of Digby will also encourage the public at large to reduce idling activity by promoting the need to conserve fuel and assist with emission reduction and encouraging the need for individual participation and concern for our environment by reducing vehicle idling.

4.0 Definitions:

- 4.1 Idling** – means the engine is running while the vehicle is stationary or the piece of equipment is not performing work.
- 4.2 Vehicle** – means any on road, or off road, self propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a license plate issued by the Department of Motor vehicles
- 4.4 Equipment** – means any self propelled/person operated equipment used in support of Municipal operations and services. (Lawn mowers, bush cutters, boat engines, etc.)

5.0 Policy:

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

- 5.1** Vehicles shall never be left idling when unattended
- 5.2** Engine warm up periods will not exceed three (3) minutes (provided air pressure for air brake systems are fully charged and all safety provisions are in place)
- 5.3** Vehicles shall be shut down whenever idling periods are expected to exceed three (3) minutes

* **Note:** Town of Digby vehicles are not permitted to access “drive through services” as this too is unnecessary idling

6.0 Exceptions

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

- 6.1** For vehicle maintenance and diagnosis purposes (to be kept to a minimum)
- 6.2** Under extreme weather conditions or any other time when the health and safety of the employee or others may be jeopardized. To enable proper snow/ice clearing from vehicles.
- 6.3** If the unit is not expected to be able to restart due to a mechanical problem. In this case, the vehicle is to be sent for repair.
- 6.4** Vehicles that need to be running to support operational requirements or while on an emergency scene

- 6.5 Engine is immediately required to power auxiliary equipment. (Hoist, lift platforms, hydraulic pumps, water pumps, etc.)
- 6.6 This policy does not apply to typical stop and go traffic or when the unit is used for traffic control and is required to be running.

Clerk's Annotation for Official Policy Book

Date of Notice: **May 17, 2010**

Date of adoption: **June 07, 2010**

Policy effective date: **July 01, 2010**

I certify that this **Vehicle Anti Idling Policy** was adopted by Council as indicated above.


Edwin J. Reinger

June 08, 2010

Clerk

Date