

## **Anti-Idling Policy**

This policy applies to municipal fleet and school fleet vehicles operated by or within the Town of Seekonk.

### **Objectives**

1. To eliminate unnecessary idling of vehicles in order to reduce the community's exposure to exhaust from gasoline and diesel engines.
2. To educate and inform municipal employees and residents about the health and environmental effects of gasoline and diesel exhaust.

### **Purpose**

Idling vehicles pollute the air and present several health and environmental hazards. Gasoline and diesel vehicles produce carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx). Carbon monoxide respiratory distress and in high concentrations can be lethal; carbon dioxide is a primary contributor to global warming; and VOCs and NOx form ozone, ground-level smog and impair lung function. In addition, diesel exhaust contains fine particulate matter, which the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as a likely carcinogen. The elderly, chronically ill and children are all particularly vulnerable to these health effects because their lung function is respectively decreased, impaired or still in development.

In addition, Massachusetts General Law (MGL Chapter 90, Section 16A) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) idling reduction regulation (310 CMR 4.11(1)(b)) both prohibit unnecessary vehicle idling by stating that the engine must be shut down if the vehicle will be stopped for more than five minutes. Exemptions include: 1) the vehicle is being serviced and the idling is required to repair the vehicle; or 2) the vehicle is making deliveries and needs to keep its engine running (to power refrigerators, for example); and 3) the vehicle's accessory equipment needs to be powered, such as a fork lift or a truck's rear dump bed, or wheelchair lift in a bus or van. To provide additional protection for children, MGL Chapter 90, Section 16B further restricts unnecessary idling in school zones.

In order to reduce the health and environmental effects of vehicle exhaust, comply with the state's idling reduction regulations and law, and decrease our use of fuel by reducing unnecessary idling, the following actions shall be implemented to the maximum extent practicable:

1. Posting of signs in public areas, educating municipal employees and residents
2. Establish best management practice for municipal vehicle operations

*This policy is hereby approved by the Board of Selectmen, on October 17, 2018, to eliminate unnecessary idling.*