



TOWN OF NEW LONDON IDLING POLICY FOR TOWN VEHICLES

I. Purpose

This Anti-Idling Policy is intended to reduce Town operation expenses, lower emissions produced by Town vehicles and improve air quality for residents and employees. The Town of New London strives to improve the quality of life for its residents by protecting the natural environment, and also to assure that its citizens are obeying State Law.

II. Research:

Well-documented research has proven that

1. Warm-ups of more than 30 seconds are harmful to the engine and to the environment.
2. Excessive idling (longer than 10 sec.) hurts engines and the environment.
3. Block-heaters are good for engines and the environment.
4. It is illegal under NH law to have an engine running while a vehicle is unattended and unlocked. RSA 265:72

III. Policy:

No Town of New London vehicle or piece of equipment should be left running when the driver is not present after proper start procedures. Town vehicles will not be permitted to idle for more than 10 seconds, unless specifically exempted below. Diesel and gas engines are subject to different exemptions. There shall be no idling near building air intakes, e.g. ambulance docks, or near groups of people, e.g. parades. The town is encouraged to install block heaters as an alternative for vehicles that are not garaged in heated buildings.

IV. Exemptions:

A. For Fire, Police and Public Works vehicles:

1. Fire, Police and Public Works vehicles may be allowed to idle at the scene of an emergency response where lights and other accessories are needed in order to respond to the situation will be permitted. This includes vehicles that need to run in order to charge batteries and run lights, etc. for their primary function. The town will consider installing an extra powerful battery to power radar, computers, if the principal vehicle battery is not sufficient to run those instruments.
2. Fire, Police and Public Works vehicles may be allowed to idle during a non-emergency response situation, such as traffic detail, only when idling is necessary to perform the job at hand.

3. Emergency vehicles, such as ambulance, police and fire, which may have contents sensitive to extreme heat and cold may be allowed to idle as necessary to maintain adequate internal temperatures.
4. Vehicles with passenger compartments that need to be maintained at a reasonable temperature may be permitted to idle during extremely hot or cold weather conditions.

B. For all vehicles:

1. Any vehicle that needs to be running during service or repair is permitted to idle, but only for as long as is absolutely necessary.
2. Any vehicle that needs to defrost its windshield in order to drive safely is permitted to idle, only for as long as it takes to defrost and maintain a clear windshield.

C. Additional diesel engine specific exemptions:

1. When the outside temperature is above 32 degrees F, a diesel engine will be permitted to warm up for 3 minutes.
2. When the outside temperature is between -10F and 32F a diesel engine will be permitted to warm up for 5 minutes.
3. If the outside temperature is below -10F, and no nuisance is created, a diesel engine will not be subject to idling restrictions.
4. It is encouraged that block heaters (with timers) be installed and used in diesel-powered vehicles, in which case the above exemptions #1-3 for diesel engines will not apply, except when the vehicle is away from its garage.
5. Exemptions C.1-3, above, do not apply if a vehicle is already warmed up and an operator stops the vehicle for a short time (i.e. a quick coffee break)
6. Exemptions C.1-3, above, also do not apply if a diesel vehicle is stored inside and the inside temperatures are substantially higher than outside.

There will be an educational period of thirty days during which supervisors should educate their employees regarding this policy. After this period it will be the responsibility of supervisors to enforce this policy. Department Heads will be asked to monitor compliance and report to the Energy Committee within 6 months of this policy taking effect. They will also be encouraged to make suggestions for improvements or changes, especially in cases where the policy causes hardships, is unworkable or leads to unsafe conditions.

Passed by the New London Board of Selectmen, January 2, 2008