



City of Barre, Vermont

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Idle Reduction Policy

Effective Date: October 1, 2025

Department: Public Works, Police, Fire, Facilities & Grounds

Approved by: Barre City Council

1. Purpose

This policy aims to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling within the fleets operated by the City of Barre to lower fuel costs, decrease emissions, and extend vehicle life while maintaining operational efficiency.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all City of Barre employees operating City-owned vehicles and equipment, including but not limited to:

- Fleet vehicles (light- and heavy-duty)
- Construction and maintenance equipment
- Snowplows, street sweepers, and utility trucks
- Police cruisers
- Ambulances
- Fire trucks

3. Idling Restrictions

- Vehicles shall not idle for more than **five (5) consecutive minutes** in any 60-minute period unless exempt under Section 4.
- When vehicles are stopped for loading, unloading, or waiting, the engine must be turned off if not required for operations.
- Operators should turn off the engine when parked or stationary for extended periods.

4. Exceptions

Idling is permitted under the following conditions:

- **Extreme Weather:** If outside temperatures are **below 32°F or above 80°F**, vehicles may idle for climate control, but operators should limit idle time as much as possible.

- **Emergency & Safety Situations:** Vehicles responding to emergencies or requiring idling for safety reasons (e.g., flashing lights, radios, or essential equipment).
- **Operational Necessity:** Vehicles that require idling for equipment operation, such as lift mechanisms, onboard generators, or hydraulics.
- **Traffic Conditions:** When vehicles are in traffic, at railroad crossings, or other unavoidable delays.
- Any conditions permitted under 23 V.S.A. §1100.

5. Anti-Idling Technology & Fleet Management

- Vehicles equipped with **automatic engine shut-off systems** must have them enabled.
- The City will explore **telematics systems** to monitor idle times and improve efficiency.

6. Compliance & Enforcement

- Supervisors will conduct random checks and review telematics data to ensure compliance if available.
- Employees violating the policy may face **progressive discipline**, including verbal warnings, written notices, or further training consistent with City of Barre Human Resources policies and/or any applicable collective bargaining agreement.
- Continuous training and awareness campaigns will be conducted to reinforce idle reduction practices.

7. Reporting & Policy Review

- Operators are encouraged to report excessive idling incidents and suggest improvements.
- The policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed based on new technology and best practices.