



## Vehicle No-Idling Policy

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to eliminate the unnecessary idling of vehicles by City staff as part of an effort to reduce fuel consumption and reduce the City's environmental footprint.

An idling vehicle gets zero (0) miles per gallon. Idling vehicles produce unnecessary pollution that contribute to smog and health problems, causes premature engine wear and wastes fuel, which increases costs to taxpayers.

When a vehicle will be stopped from more than thirty (30) seconds, turning off the engine can have a dramatic impact on fuel consumption and the environment. All City departments will implement the Vehicle Idling Policy for all City vehicles as outlined below.

### **Policy**

This policy applies to all employees while operating any City owned vehicles unless otherwise listed as an exception below. It is recommended employees adhere to this policy at any time they are performing City business in a vehicle that is not owned by the City.

Appropriate use of City vehicles includes the following:

- Vehicles will not park with the engine operating for more than thirty (30) seconds unless it is essential to the performance of the work being performed.
- Initial "warm up" idling should be minimized. If a vehicle's windows are clear, driving should start after no more the thirty (30) seconds.
- Initial "warm up" for diesel vehicles should be limited to three (3) to five (5) minutes, or as otherwise recommended by the vehicle's manufacturer.
- If the vehicle is going to be stopped for more than thirty (30) seconds, except as required while operating the vehicle in routine traffic, the engine should be turned off as idling for more than ten (10) seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart the vehicle.

### **Exceptions**

Due to the diverse nature of the City's vehicle fleet, exceptions are needed to the Vehicle Idling Policy. The provisions of the policy do not apply to:



- Emergency vehicles, such as public safety vehicles while engage in operational activities;
- Vehicles that are required to idle in order to power ancillary equipment mounted on the vehicle without risking damage to the battery;
- Public safety vehicles performing emergency operations, but only when the vehicle must be operating for the warning device or emergency systems to function;
- Vehicles equipped with temperature sensitive equipment;
- Public safety vehicles transporting prisoners, victims, or witnesses, or when performing traffic control;
- The primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle providing a power source necessary for mechanical operation of equipment required for job performance;
- A motor vehicle forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions over which the operator has not control;
- The primary engine of a motor vehicle being operated for maintenance or diagnostic purposes;
- The primary engine of a motor vehicle when necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers;
- During a period of any emergency, such as a tornado, ice storm, flood, or any other act of nature, the requirement may be waived by the Department Head or their designee.

STATE OF GEORGIA

FULTON COUNTY

March 16, 2009

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ROSWELL, GEORGIA  
ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES AND STANDARDS INCLUDING  
ENERGY EFFICIENT TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND SCHOOL SIGNALS;  
LIGHTS OUT AND POWER DOWN; AND NO-IDLE POLICIES.**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Roswell is committed to promoting and encouraging energy efficiency to reduce energy costs and the effects of energy use on our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, all City employees are expected to contribute to energy efficiency by understanding how to use energy more efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Energy (DOE) adopted new minimum standards for traffic lights which now require traffic signal modules and pedestrian modules manufactured on or after January 1, 2006, to meet performance requirement specifications in the ENERGY STAR program for traffic signals; and

**WHEREAS**, the DOE minimum standards also outline performance requirements for eight (8) inch and twelve (12) inch light emitting diode (LED) vehicle traffic signals. These standards apply to any new modules as well as replacements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Roswell has one-hundred and one (101) traffic signals, of which ninety-six (96) have been retrofitted with LED bulbs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Roswell has thirty-two (32) school zone flashers, of which thirty (30) have been retrofitted with LED bulbs; and

**WHEREAS**, the remaining four (4) traffic signals and two (2) school zone flashers will be retrofitted within calendar year 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the City currently has 808 LED bulbs in stock as a result of a substantial donation from the State Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated annual savings from the LED bulbs is \$62,231; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Lights Out/Power Down Policy is to reduce unnecessary energy use associated with operating electronic equipment and lighting at City facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the Lights Out/Power Down Policy will save energy and money while reducing pollution, heat load and promoting consciousness about the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to promoting, maintaining, and monitoring energy saving measures in order to reduce vehicle fuel consumption for automobiles owned by the City and used in the daily operations of delivering services; and

**WHEREAS**, all City employees who use or drive City vehicles are expected to contribute to energy efficiency by understanding how to use fuel more efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the No-Idling Policy will save fuel and money while reducing pollution and promoting consciousness about the environment. Energy conservation measures such as the No-Idle Policy also reduce air pollution emissions, added heat load in the atmosphere and vehicle wear and tear; and

**WHEREAS**, air pollution is a major public health concern in Georgia. Air pollution can cause or aggravate lung illnesses such as acute respiratory infections, asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and lung cancer. In addition to health impacts, air pollution imposes significant economic costs and negative impacts on our quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, exhaust from vehicles (both on and off road) is a substantive source of ozone precursors in north Georgia. Vehicle exhaust is also a source of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases. Although new engines have become leaner due to improved emission control technologies, the slow turn over in their inventory and number of miles/hours these vehicles idle each year is hindering progress in improving air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Roswell utilizes a fleet of approximately one hundred and twenty-two (122) medium and heavy-duty (diesel-powered) vehicles and two hundred and seventy-seven (277) automobiles and light-duty (gasoline-powered) vehicles to carry out its municipal operations. Exhaust from these vehicles contains chemicals that form ground-level ozone (smog) and may contribute to global warming. These pollutants may aggravate respiratory ailments (like asthma), cause lung damage, and may lead to cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, vehicle idling can also produce avoidable wear and tear on engines. Because an idling engine operates below its optimum temperature, residue deposits can form within the engine to reduce fuel efficiency by five percent (5%) and diminish engine life. Lower operating temperatures can cause premature corrosion damage to exhaust piping and mufflers; and

**WHEREAS**, through field tests, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers have shown that restarting a car with a six-valve (V6) engine consumes approximately the same amount of fuel as idling for five (5) seconds. Idling is not an effective way to

warm up a car. Even in winter, only 30 seconds is needed to warm the car's engine. Other vehicle parts, such as the axles, do not warm up until the vehicle is driven; and

**WHEREAS**, the No-Idle Policy is designed to promote the improvement of air quality while realizing significant savings in fuel and operating costs. Unnecessary idling of the City's fleet wastes approximately one (1)1 gallon of fuel per hour for diesel vehicles and roughly three-quarters (0.75) of a gallon of fuel per hour for automobiles or light-duty vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of this policy requires action and cooperation at all levels of the City organization; and.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Roswell is committed to promoting and maintaining energy saving measures in its efforts to be responsible economically and environmentally; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the City's desire to promote environmentally sustainable policies and practices for our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Roswell, Georgia, pursuant to their authority do hereby adopt a Resolution as follows:

ENERGY EFFICIENT TRAFFIC SIGNALS

1.

All existing traffic signals, including school signals, will be replaced or retrofitted with LED lamps.

2.

All newly installed traffic signals, including school signals, will have LED lamps at the time of installation.

LIGHTS OUT/POWER DOWN

3.

All electrical and electronic devices, including but not limited to tools, equipment, lighting, computers, monitors, printers, copy machines, fax machines, fans, blowers, HVAC systems, and other office and shop equipment used in the course of a work day, will be turned off except when in use. The use of natural lighting is encouraged in offices and rooms with windows when ever possible. All devices shall be operated on the lowest power load practicable.

4.

Employees will make certain that lights and equipment are turned off when leaving an area. Energy saving modes/features on all electronic devices will be enabled.

5.

All computers, except for network servers that must be left on, should be turned off (power switch OFF) at the end of the workday. This includes computers used as personal workstations and does not include computers that control critical operating or communication equipment. Energy-conserving technology and features will be implemented when available.

6.

The lights out/power down policy shall not apply to:

- Equipment that has manufacturer documentation stating that turning the equipment off is detrimental to the equipment or its operation.
- Lighting that is being used for security purposes. This security lighting should be kept to a minimum.
- Equipment, machinery, or electrical devices that when turned off create a hazard to the well being and safety of employees or the public.

NO-IDLE POLICY

7.

Drivers of city vehicles shall turn off vehicles when parked and not re-start vehicles until it is necessary to depart. This policy applies to all city owned, rented, or leased vehicles operated by city employees, volunteers or contractors.

8.

This operating procedure establishes a prohibition on the idling of City owned vehicles when the vehicle is not moving or when the vehicles are not performing work for a period of time greater than three (3) minutes in any one-hour period.

9.

It is understood that an emergency call for service may supersede this policy when time and necessity may be critical. Also, during times of extreme weather conditions; it may be essential to leave the vehicle running. All incidents in violation of this standard operating procedure will be observed on a case by case basis.

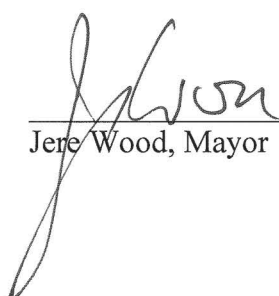
10.

The No-Idle Policy shall not apply to:

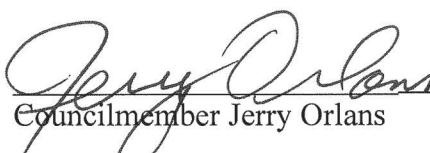
- Vehicles standing in traffic;
- Idling when necessary to operate auxiliary equipment that is required to accomplish the intended use of the vehicle (primarily Public Safety);
- Idling to provide heat within the cab of the vehicle if the outside temperature is less than 40° F and if there is no accessible temperature-controlled area within a reasonable distance; or
- Idling to provide cooling within the cab of the vehicle if the outside temperature is more than 80° F, and if there is no accessible temperature-controlled area within a reasonable distance, and the vehicle is equipped with air conditioning.

11.

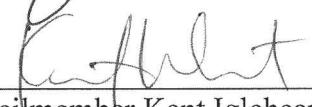
The above Resolution was read and approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Roswell on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

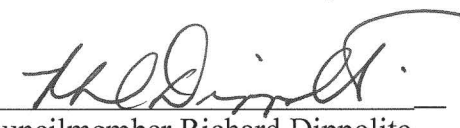
  
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Jere Wood, Mayor


Attest:  
  
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Sue Creel, City Clerk  
(Seal)


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Jerry Orleans

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Rebecca Wynn

  
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Councilmember Kent Igleheart

  
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Councilmember Richard Dippolito

  
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Councilmember David Tolleson

  
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Councilmember Lori Henry

