

IDLING GUIDELINES FOR UNIVERSITY VEHICLES¹

Effective March 1, 2007

University employees have the opportunity to help minimize air pollution and maximize fuel efficiency by operating University vehicles and equipment in an environmentally and economically responsible manner.

It is known that:

- One hour of idling consumes approximately one gallon of fuel.
- Idling for one hour equates to approximately 33 miles of engine wear on a standard automobile.
- Idling causes premature engine wear. An idling engine creates minimal oil pressure resulting in insufficient engine lubrication.
- Diesel engines actually cool-down when idling during the wintertime, causing cab-heat loss.
- Drivers are exposed to elevated levels of exhaust while a vehicle is idling due to the lack of air circulation that typically occurs while the vehicle is in motion.
- Franklin County does not meet the Federal standards for ozone and particulate pollution. Idling contributes to poor air quality that may result in cost mandated controls.

For the above reasons, as of March 1, 2007, operators of University owned or operated vehicles are asked to:

- Not allow University vehicles and equipment to idle for any length of time unless idling the vehicle is necessary to accomplish work related tasks.
- Minimize idling and conserve fuel whenever possible.
- Ensure an assigned vehicle is properly maintained.
- Ensure tires are properly inflated. Under inflation decreases fuel economy and cuts short the life of the tire.
- Plan and map out trips to minimize distances traveled.
- Avoid ‘jackrabbit’ starts by accelerating gradually and anticipating stops to avoid sudden breaking.
- Obey posted speed limits. Excessive speed reduces fuel economy, increases air pollution, creates hazardous driving conditions, and is unlawful.
- Car-pool whenever possible or practical.
- Schedule meetings wisely, especially if travel is required. Meeting times and locations should be selected so as to minimize the travel of the majority of the participants.
- Reduce the amount of vehicle warm-up time. Consult vehicle manual to determine the manufacturer’s recommendations for guidance on idling in extreme weather conditions.
- Eliminate unnecessary weight in the vehicle.
- Ensure that vehicle emission controls, systems, and components, are not altered or disconnected unless approved by the Director of Transportation and Parking Services.

¹ These guidelines mirror the City of Columbus’ Executive Order on idling.