

#### **Prevent Excessive Idling Policy 7.10.4**

Part of Glastonbury's commitment to clean air and energy efficiency is to reduce excessive vehicle idling. An idling vehicle discharges toxics, chemicals, gases and particulate matter into the air, contributing to regional haze, acid rain, and global climate change. Breathing in exhaust can aggravate asthma, allergies, and cardiovascular disease. Exhaust emissions increase school absences, ER visits, and even premature deaths.<sup>13</sup>

Multiple school buses idling while waiting in a line are a primary exposure pathway for diesel exhaust emissions. The proximity of school bus drop off and pick up locations allows diesel exhaust to enter school buildings via air intakes, where lower air exchange rates can result in elevated pollution levels for extended periods of time. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has invited school districts to participate in the anti-idling program. Once participating, DEEP provides school districts with signs to remind drivers and school visitors to turn off their engines. Glastonbury Schools are active participants in this important initiative, and display signs at each school. **(Photo Documentation below)**

As part of the Town of Glastonbury Sustainable Fleet Operations **(Highlighted sections below)**, multiple practices have been enacted across multiple departments, including:<sup>14</sup> **(Item S below)**

- Established anti-idling practices for all Town-owned vehicles
- Installed a GPS-based automated vehicle location system to improve route choices and eliminate unnecessary idling
- Installed fuel saving devices in selected Police vehicles to automatically minimize the idle time necessary to operate auxiliary vehicle functions
- Installed LED warning lights on Police vehicles to reduce electrical draw and the need to idle vehicles during use

#### **Submit:**

**Depending on the specific strategy or combination of strategies you chose, submit photographs of signage; a list of names of any trainings for municipal staff and the dates that they were held; or any other documentation that verifies your municipality's efforts to reduce excessive idling of motor vehicles.**

#### **Documentation Items:**

- S. Web link to Glastonbury Transportation practices for idling: <http://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/about-us/community-profile/town-accomplishments/green-initiatives-committee/glastonbury-s-green-initiatives/transportation-fleet-highways>

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<sup>13</sup> [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

<sup>14</sup> [www.glastonbury-ct.gov/about-us/community-profile](http://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/about-us/community-profile)

## Town of Glastonbury Sustainable Fleet Operations, applicable idling section highlighted:

### III. SUSTAINABLE FLEET OPERATIONS

#### A. Steps to Sustainable Fleet Operations

1. Continue to evaluate and observe preventative maintenance schedule goals. Regular preventative maintenance will allow for smaller fleet sizes by reducing downtime. Vehicle fuel efficiency and particle emission rates are also reduced when vehicles are regularly and properly maintained
2. Continue to regularly check and maintain correct tire pressures. Maintaining correct tire pressure reduces fuel consumption. Use of nitrogen tire inflation reduces air leakage. Eliminating oxygen reduces airborne moisture in the tire that reduces tire rubber life span.
3. Enforce existing policies prohibiting excessive idling. Winter and summer idling is common in order to control cab temperature. Policies prohibiting such should be formulated and/or consideration of auxiliary power units where appropriate to control cab climate to minimize emissions and fuel consumption.
4. Continue to consider vehicle weight when purchasing new equipment and evaluate the necessity of baseline vehicle loading for existing vehicles. Lighter vehicles consume less fuel.
5. Route optimization and employee carpooling. Employees are strongly encouraged to be cognizant of using the shortest and/or quickest routes when advancing to their destination. Similarly, crew transportation to job sites should be coordinated such that the minimum number of vehicles necessary are utilized. Department supervisors are charged with monitoring employee observance of this directive.

#### Photo Documentation:



Buttonball School, Glastonbury



Glastonbury High School