

A. Purpose

The Idle-Free Campaign was developed by Columbia University to raise awareness of idling and educate the community, helping meet the NYC and Columbia University's goals around clean air, greenhouse gas reductions, noise reduction, and efficient resource use.

B. Applicability/scope

According to the New York City Administrative Code Section 24-163, it is illegal to idle a non-emergency motor vehicle for more than three (3) minutes. No person shall cause or permit the engine of any vehicle, other than a legally authorized emergency motor vehicle, to idle for longer than three (3) minutes while parking, standing, or stopping unless the engine is being used to operate a loading, unloading, or processing device.

C. Responsibilities

According to the New York City Administrative Code Section 24-163 and Columbia University policy, all vehicle drivers are responsible to follow the policy and adhere to the guidelines provided in the policy.

D. Definitions

Idling is the running of a vehicle's engine at any location while the vehicle is stationary.

E. Procedures

1. Turn off ignition if you are waiting more than 10 seconds. Turn off your ignition to avoid unnecessary idling. For every 10 minutes your engine is off, you will prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.
2. Warm up your engine by driving it, not by idling. The most cost-efficient way to warm up your engine is by avoiding excessive engine revving and allowing it to warm up once you already start driving. Once a vehicle is driving, the engine warms up twice as quickly then if parked. Warming the vehicle once driving is also better for your health. If you warm your car while stationary, you are breathing in more of the fumes from the vehicle's exhaust pipe. If idling is necessary, shift your vehicle into neutral so that it consumes less fuel.
3. Drive your vehicle less. Find alternative ways to travel besides using your own vehicle. Using mass transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, and walking, all help to reduce your individual carbon footprint. You can also schedule personal or business meetings over the phone or video conferencing technology and live closer to work to reduce your carbon dioxide output. When traveling in your own vehicle, avoid making a lot of small trips. Instead, when you are making multiple stops, go to your farthest destination first to warm up your engine more quickly and for better fuel economy.
4. Drive the posted speed limit or the minimum allowed. When a vehicle is driven over 60 miles per hour (mph), fuel consumption increases about 5 percent for every 5 mph. You can save from 7 percent to 23 percent in fuel costs from driving at a slower speed.
5. Avoid rapid starts and stops and maintain a constant speed. When accelerating or decelerating your vehicle, do so gradually. When you accelerate quickly or decelerate abruptly, you can increase fuel consumption by up to 40 percent, but reduce travel time by only 4 percent. Drive your vehicle at a constant rate to avoid red lights and help keep other vehicles moving at a safer

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and more efficient pace. Following this recommendation will help you save from 5 percent to 33 percent in city driving costs.

6. Lighten your load. Remove unnecessary items from your vehicle to increase efficiency and improve better fuel economy. For every additional 100 pounds in or on top of your vehicle, mpg may reduce by up to 2 percent. To increase your vehicle's mpg, remove unused roof, ski, or bike racks, and avoid carrying items on your roof.
7. Put down the windows to cool your vehicle instead of using air conditioning. When cooling off your hot vehicle put your windows down and let air come through the vents instead of using air conditioning, typically when driving under 40 mph. When driving above 40 mph, it is more fuel efficient to put on the air conditioning than open the windows. When you do use air conditioning, use your vehicle's "recycle inside air" feature to reuse the cooled air inside the car to use less fuel. When you are parking your vehicle in hot temperatures, look for shaded areas and use a window heat reflector. By doing so, you will use less energy to cool off your car once you return.
8. Check your tire pressure monthly. In the United States, an estimated 25 percent of all vehicles are driving on underinflated tires. Check your tire pressure monthly to ensure your tires are inflated correctly. By maintaining your vehicle's proper tire pressure you increase its safety, extend its tire life, and improve its mpg by up to 3 percent. To maintain your vehicle's proper tire pressure, purchase a quality tire pressure gauge and check your tire pressure when tires are not driven for at least 3 hours or for less than 1.5 miles. Keep in mind that tire pressures change an average of 1 PSI for every 10°F change in air temperature and can deflate naturally up to 1.5 PSI per month.
9. Consider alternative fuel vehicles when purchasing a vehicle. Consider purchasing a hybrid, electric, flexible fuel, or fuel cell vehicle. In addition to reducing your carbon footprint, hybrid electric vehicles help you prevent idling. They are designed with innovative idling prevention features. New diesel truck technology also provides innovative idle shut down features in recent models.

F. Emergency contacts N/A

G. Medical Surveillance: N/A

H. Recordkeeping

I. Appendices

J. Forms

K. References

New York City Administrative Code, Section 24-163

L. Acknowledgements (optional)

N/A