

CLC Idling Guidelines

The College of Lake County (CLC) is committed to sustainability. Unnecessary vehicle idling wastes fuel, pollutes the air, and is detrimental to human health. The following are guidelines for personal vehicles, college-owned vehicles, and non-college vehicles. This initiative supports CLC's Climate Commitment.

Rationale

Exhaust from idling vehicles is a source of pollution with health and ecological effects:

- Extensive research concludes idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more CO₂ than engine restarting [1].
- Exhaust can accumulate and pose a health risk to employees, drivers, and the community at large by exacerbating asthma and existing allergies, and long-term exposure is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer [2].
- Vehicle exhaust contributes to global climate change by increasing greenhouse gases [3].
- Exhaust contributes to air and water pollution through the release of particulate matter and acid precipitation [4].
- An idling vehicle gets ZERO miles per gallon subsequently wasting fuel [5].
- Excessive idling results in 'increased engine wear and carbon soot buildup' which can decrease engine life and increase maintenance costs [6].
- The fastest and most effective way to warm up an engine on a cold day is to idle the engine for a few seconds and then begin driving [7].

Guidance

In general, drivers should turn off their vehicles when they arrive/are waiting at their destination. When drivers arrive at loading or unloading areas to drop off or pick up passengers, they should turn off their vehicles if a wait is expected. Vehicles should not be restarted until passengers are ready to depart and there is a clear path by which to exit the pickup area. Students and CLC employees should avoid idling in parking spots. Service delivery vehicles should turn off their engines while making deliveries to the college. Exceptions include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as:

- Weather conditions that pose a safety issue, such as extreme heat or cold.
- Vehicle maintenance guidelines that require idling for engine efficiency.

All CLC personnel who supervise CLC employees that drive a CLC vehicle or use gasoline powered equipment are encouraged to discuss these Idle Guidelines with their staff.

All CLC personnel who oversee/employ contractors or vendors who use vehicles or gasoline powered equipment on CLC grounds are encouraged to discuss these Idle Guidelines with their contractor/vendor.

Awareness

The guidelines for idling will be disseminated through the following avenues:

- Inclusion in student and employee orientation/trainings
- Direct contact with vendors
- Signage in prominent drop-off locations
- Inclusion in Susty' e-blast, Wellness e-blast, and related energy, sustainability, and wellness online communication strategies
- Inclusion in training for individuals who operate college-owned vehicles

Implementation

Developing guidelines related to idling is intended to increase awareness and encourage responsible behavior. These guidelines will serve as a tool to discourage needless idling. Awareness of the guidelines can be brought to the Campus's attention through planned educational campaigns held Inside the Campus near "Student Street" and various building entrances. The Sustainability Council will develop signage and pamphlets to help educate employees, students, vendors, and visitors to the campus about the initiative to reduce idling.

References

- [1] https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/which_is_greener.pdf
- [2] <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/motor-vehicles-air-quality/idle-reduction/why-idling-harmful>
- [3] <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/communities-infrastructure/transportation/cars-light-trucks/idling/4415>
- [4] <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Air/Mobile-Sources/Anti-Idling/Anti-Idling---Home>
- [5] <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-010109.pdf>
- [6] <https://www.ornl.gov/sites/default/files/ORNL%20Idle%20Reduction%20Guide.pdf>
- [7] <https://www.aaa.com/autorepair/articles/how-long-to-warm-up-the-engine-before-driving>

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