Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy

Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the City of Grand Prairie to effectively utilize vehicles and equipment. Fuel for vehicles and equipment comprises a significant portion of the City's day-to-day operating cost.

Motor vehicles, off-road vehicles and combustion equipment that are allowed to idle unnecessarily waste fuel and resources. Unnecessarily idling also releases harmful pollutants that contribute to poor air quality in the region. By adopting an idle reduction policy for City owned vehicles and equipment, the organization will conserve fuel, reduce air pollution, and serves as a role model for environmental stewardship to other governments, local businesses and the public.

Applicability

This policy applies to all City departments, City vehicles and equipment including those for general use, safety and off-road uses on private property as well as local, state and federal alleys, roads, streets and highways. This includes all City, employee or vendor vehicles parked or unloading goods on all City parking lots that are restricted for City vehicles or employee vehicles use.

Procedure

1. No driver of a City vehicle shall cause or allow the vehicle to idle for a period of more than five (5) consecutive minutes upon stopping at a destination.
2. No operator of a City off-road vehicle or piece of equipment shall cause or allow the piece of equipment to idle at any location for more than five (5) consecutive minutes.
3. At no time shall a vehicle or piece of equipment be allowed to idle when unattended.
4. Vehicles and equipment will be shut off during lunch breaks. City employees should avoid using drive-through lanes of business, if possible.

5. No City vehicle shall be permitted to idle more than five (5) consecutive minutes in any City, public or private parking lot
6. All employees that routinely drive City vehicles will be required to take an education class called Fuel-Efficient Driving and will received periodic educational material as a reminder of the policy and general fuel-efficient driving tips from time to time. It is mandatory that all employees from the departments of Public Works, Airport, Transit, Police, Fire, Parks & Recreation, Housing, Building Inspection, and Engineering shall attend one Fuel-Efficient Driving training sessions.
7. From April 1- October 31st, vehicles should be re-fueled at the end of the day or in the cooler part of the evening, if possible.
8. Fleet Services will provide monthly vehicle fuel consumption data reports to all Department Directors that routinely have employees driving City vehicles if requested.
9. Department Directors will ensure that City vehicles are promptly delivered to Fleet Services facility for service if a) the vehicle does not appear to be operating correctly and b) if Fleet Services schedules the vehicle for service.
10. The policy shall not apply to:
    - *Special equipment and vehicles for safety, emergency service and mass transit that are operating and "In Service" including buses and other specialty vehicles such as Police vehicles, Fire Apparatus, or Hazmat units;
    - Vehicles or equipment stopped by traffic control device or vehicles or equipment standing in traffic;
    - *Airport support equipment required for use or stand-by use;
    - *Animal control vehicles or K-9 unit vehicles that contain one more animals or when the safety of an animal or animals may be compromised by shutting down the engine;
    - Vehicles or equipment be inspected, tested, service or repaired by Fleet personnel;
    - *Idling that is required to accomplish work for which the vehicle or equipment was designed other than transporting goods;
    - *Idling that is required to operate equipment that runs intermittently in normal use (not to exceed thirty (30) minutes);
    - Idling that a driver/operator believes would compromise safety if the engine was off;

- Idling to provide heat within the cab of the vehicle if the outside temperature is less than 40 degrees F and there is no accessible temperature-controlled area within a reasonable distance;
- Idling to provide cooling within the cab of the vehicle if the outside temperature is more than 85 degrees F, there is no accessible temperature-controlled areas within a reasonable distance, and the vehicle is equipped with air conditioning; or

- Idling during an exceptional event that an employee believes could endanger the health or safety of a person or animal or that has occurred as a result of an emergency. In the case of an exceptional event or emergency, the employee may be asked to document the details of the situation.

* Each exception of a vehicle or piece of equipment expected to routinely idle over five (5) minutes per hour shall be identified by the responsible department. The responsible department will list the general reason(s) why idling is necessary and how long idling is expected. This information is required to be reported to the Fleet Services Manager each year when requested. The Fleet Services Manager will evaluate each type of idling to determine if there are alternative vehicles and/or equipment that could be utilized to permit the vehicle or equipment to operate without extensive or recurring idle time.

Additional Guidance for Fuel Efficiency and Conservation:

- Vehicles that are properly maintained and tuned up will burn fuel more efficiently.
- Tires properly inflated to recommended pressure will increase fuel mileage, make tires safer, and increase product life. Tires that are 4-5 PSI under the recommended tire pressure increases fuel consumption by 10%.
- Gasoline engines require a three (3) minute maximum warm up. Excessive warm up creates carbon and soot deposits which decrease fuel economy and can lead to premature engine damage. A gasoline engine typically uses 0.2 to 0.4 gallons of fuel per hour idling.
- Diesel engines require a 3-5 minute warm up and a five (5) cool down. Beyond that, operator is wasting fuel. A diesel engine typically uses 0.6 to 1. Gallons of fuel per hour idling.
- With fuel injection engines, it is more fuel efficient to stop engine and restart if stopped for longer than one minute including waiting on a train or for a funeral procession. Restarting a vehicle does not prematurely wear out components.
-

- The operator should utilize an ice scraper for removing ice on a windshield and not solely rely on the defroster while the engine idles.
- Defensive driving techniques should be employed for efficiency. The Department of Energy suggests that there can be a 33% saving of gas mileage at highways speeds when drivers refrain from rapid acceleration and rapid braking.
- Cruise control could be used whenever possible. Maintain a constant speed improves gas mileage.
- Combing trips and mapping routes for entire day is the most energy efficient.
- The number of vehicles driven to a job site each day should be limited to those needed.
- Monitor unnecessary weight carried in the back of vehicles. Adding 200 pounds or more will increase fuel consumption for each vehicle mile traveled.
- If possible, park vehicles in shade to reduce fuel evaporation that occurs when parked in the hot sun plus the air conditioner does not have to work as hard cooling that vehicle.
- Reduce travel during rush hours to avoid traffic congestion
- If possible, avoid left hand turns. To avoid traffic stops and higher risk of accidents, utilize right hand turns.
- Consider carpooling to meetings or hold telephone conference calls to eliminate or reduce the need for off-site meetings.