

Denison University Idling Reduction Policy

Statement of Purpose

The goal of an idling policy at Denison University is to eliminate all unnecessary idling time by vehicles on campus to minimize harmful emissions. Denison is a member of The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and is committed to reducing carbon emissions by moving towards carbon neutrality. Implementing an idling reduction policy on campus is in line with Denison's goal of reducing green house gas emissions. The idling policy applies to buses and delivery vehicles, as well as Denison's staff, student, athletic, and maintenance vehicles. While exceptions in all cases can be observed (for warming up or drop-off purposes), engine idling that extends over a reasonable amount of time will be prohibited under normal conditions.

Statement of Policy

Each driver will be responsible for ensuring that the vehicle he or she is operating does not idle unnecessarily. Vehicles should be turned off when parked and should not be restarted until loading or unloading is complete and the vehicle is ready to depart.

Buses will be allowed to idle no more than 10 minutes. Buses will also be permitted to idle when temperatures are below freezing, or above 80 degrees Fahrenheit. If bus drivers refuse to shut off their engines after 10 minutes of idling time, Campus Safety reserves that right to request that the bus driver idle elsewhere, off campus property.

All vehicles should turn off their engines when parked and making deliveries.

Exemptions

The policy of turning off vehicles when stopped does not apply for the period or periods during which idling is necessary under the following circumstances:

1. To provide for the safety of vehicle occupants, such as in cases of extreme hot or cold conditions (e.g., to run the air conditioner or heater under extreme heat or cold).
2. When using trailer engines for the purpose of controlling freight temperatures
3. When using lift equipment or other equipment necessary to accommodate individuals with one or more disabilities.
4. When stopped in traffic
5. When specific traffic, safety, or emergency situations arise.

Implementation & Enforcement

Vehicles will be monitored for compliance, and all employees are encouraged to ensure full implementation of this policy.

This policy will be included in the college's parking rules and incorporated into departmental driving policies at Denison. Security has the authority to inform drivers of this policy.

Denison will inform bus drivers and busing companies of the policy when requesting transport of students and when visitors come to campus using bus transport. Denison will also make every attempt to inform drivers of delivery vehicles of this policy (i.e. UPS, Fex-Ex, Office Max, Food Service Delivery, etc).

This policy shall be effective immediately as of July 1, 2011.

Benefits

Financial Benefits:

Idling of Denison's vehicle fleet wastes fuel and financial resources. A reduction in idling time can extend vehicle life as well as reduce the maintenance costs of vehicles.

Environmental Benefits:

Turning off idling engines helps to reduce noise pollution and carbon emissions, improving air quality.

Social Benefits:

Idling vehicles create an unhealthy environment; fumes produced by idling vehicles present a health risk to students, staff, faculty, and the community at large. Exposure to exhaust fumes can damage lungs and contribute to respiratory problems and the onset of asthma. An idling policy will help to decrease the amount of externalized costs to those affected by the carbon emissions from our business activities.