

## College of Charleston Vehicle No-Idling Guidelines

To improve the environmental footprint on the College of Charleston campus all vehicles are encouraged to avoid unnecessary engine idling. This includes State owned vehicles and vehicles operated by contractors, delivery vehicles and service vendors.

### Why support a No-Idling Guideline?

1. **Economics:** Saving fuel means less money spent. An idling vehicle gets zero (0) miles per gallon, wastes fuel and causes premature engine wear. For most vehicles avoiding ten seconds of idling uses less fuel than it takes to restart the vehicle.
2. **Human Health:** Idling vehicles emit air toxins, which are pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. Idling is usually done close to buildings or near high pedestrian areas and can contribute to poor air quality, especially indoors if idling is done close to building air intakes or open windows.
3. **Environmental Benefits:** Using less fuel means less emissions, which means a reduction in the campus greenhouse gas emissions. It all adds up to cleaner air.
4. **Good Stewardship:** Supporting the first three reasons promotes good stewardship and better environmental practices.

### Guidelines:

- Vehicles should not park with the engine operating for more than one minute unless it is essential to the performance of the work being performed.
- If operating the engine while parked is necessary, avoid parking near building air intakes, open windows and high pedestrian traffic areas.
- Vehicles will not be left idling when the operator is away from the vehicle (with limited exceptions – emergency responders, etc.)

### Exceptions:

- Emergency vehicles, such as Public Safety vehicles, while engaged in operational activities;
- Vehicles that are required to idle in order to actively power ancillary equipment mounted on the vehicle;
- Vehicles equipped with temperature sensitive equipment;
- When necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers.

### Additional Resources:

- City of Charleston Ordinance Sec. 19-244. - Running engines or other equipment while stopped or standing on street:  
[https://library.municode.com/sc/charleston/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=CICO\\_CH19MOVE\\_TR\\_ARTVIIIISTTPA\\_DIV2PAME\\_S19-256DUDEPAOVPA](https://library.municode.com/sc/charleston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CICO_CH19MOVE_TR_ARTVIIIISTTPA_DIV2PAME_S19-256DUDEPAOVPA)
- SC policy on unattended vehicles: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t56c005.php>
- SC policy for commercial diesel vehicles: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t56c035.php>
- EPA Healthy School Environments:  
<https://www.epa.gov/schools/idle-free-schools-toolkit-healthy-school-environment>