

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINE IDLING POLICY

Statement of Policy

It is the policy of University of Strathclyde that drivers of ALL vehicles coming to the University campuses turn the engine off when a vehicle is stationary for more than 30 seconds, except when in traffic.

Background

Air pollution such as diesel particulates, Carbon Monoxide, particularly ground-level NO_x, is an immediate and ongoing concern in the UK. The documented impacts on health, economic growth, and quality of life are of great concern. Vehicle exhaust emissions from idling vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution.

Purpose

This policy has been developed to meet University of Strathclyde obligations to protect air quality by reducing the environmental impact of our operations in relation to engine idling by our employees in company vehicles. This in turn will greatly improve the fuel efficiency of our operations, reduce fuel costs and ensure we avoid the increasing fines and penalties associated with engine idling.

Exemptions

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

1. To provide for the safety of vehicle occupants, such as in extreme cold weather conditions (e.g. to run the air heaters). This sort of requirement would be seen as only required in very exceptional circumstances.
2. When a driver is conducting a daily driver walkaround check of a vehicle which requires the engine to be idling to check for excessive smoke, to build up air pressure and to check for air/liquid leaks and dash faults.
3. To use lifting/auxiliary equipment powered by the engine for the loading and unloading of products or goods.
4. When stopped in traffic.
5. When unforeseen traffic, safety, or emergency situations arise.

With the exception of exemption 4, if in the above exemption cases equipment can be run from the battery alone i.e. tail lifts, drivers must refrain from idling unless there is a significant concern of draining the battery.

The place of useful learning

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