

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Campus Sustainability
AREA: Sustainability – Air Quality

Number: Assigned

SUBJECT: Anti-Idling Policy

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy seeks to limit unnecessary idling of university vehicles to reduce campus user exposure to harmful exhaust, improve fuel economy, and better university air quality. This policy also aligns with the City of Houston's existing commitment to the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality \(TCEQ\)](#) vehicle idling restrictions, as listed in [Texas Administrative Code §114.512](#) and the [Texas Clean Air Act \(Chapter 382\)](#), and [MAPP 14.01.01 \(Campus Sustainability\)](#).

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Idle--The operation of an engine in the operating mode where the engine is not engaged in gear, where the engine operates at a speed at the revolutions per minute specified by the engine or vehicle manufacturer for when the accelerator is fully released, and there is no load on the engine.
- B. Motor vehicle--Any self-propelled device powered by an internal combustion engine and designed to operate with four or more wheels in contact with the ground, in or by which a person or property is or may be transported.
- C. Primary propulsion engine--A gasoline or diesel-fueled internal combustion engine attached to a motor vehicle that provides the power to propel the motor vehicle into motion and maintain motion

III. POLICY

- A. Prohibition of Idling
 - 1. No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle to idle for more than five consecutive minutes when the motor vehicle is not in motion.
 - 2. This policy applies to all employees, students, university affiliates, contractors and visitors and is applicable twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
- B. Responsibilities
 - 1. All members of the University community are responsible for adherence to this Anti-Idling Policy
 - 2. Students, Faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors are responsible for complying with this policy while on UH campus.

3. Public event organizers on campus are responsible for communicating the Anti-idling policy to program attendees. Organizers and attendees at University public events are required to follow the Anti-idling policy.
4. University community members are empowered to respectfully inform others about the policy in an ongoing effort to enhance awareness of, and encourage compliance with, this Anti-idling policy
5. Effective implementation of this policy relies on the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of all University community members. If someone is seen idling on University property, an individual may inform the vehicle operator of the Anti-idling policy and request that he/she comply.

IV. EXEMPTIONS

- (1) a motor vehicle that has a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or less;
- (2) a motor vehicle that has a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds and that is equipped with a 2008 or subsequent model year heavy-duty diesel engine or liquefied or compressed natural gas engine that has been certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or another state environmental agency to emit no more than 30 grams of nitrogen oxides emissions per hour when idling;
- (3) the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle being used to provide air conditioning or heating necessary for employee health or safety in an armored vehicle while the employee remains inside the vehicle to guard the contents or while the vehicle is being loaded or unloaded;
- (4) a motor vehicle forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions over which the operator has no control;
- (5) a motor vehicle being used by the United States military, national guard, or reserve forces, or as an emergency or law enforcement motor vehicle;
- (6) the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle providing a power source necessary for mechanical operation, other than propulsion, and/or passenger compartment heating, or air conditioning;
- (7) the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle being operated for maintenance or diagnostic purposes;
- (8) the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle being operated solely to defrost a windshield;
- (9) the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle that is being used to supply heat or air conditioning necessary for passenger comfort and safety in vehicles intended for commercial or public passenger transportation, or passenger transit operations, in which case idling up to a maximum of 30 minutes is allowed;
- (10) the primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle being used to provide air conditioning or heating necessary for employee health or safety while the employee is using the vehicle to perform an essential job function related to roadway construction or maintenance;

V. COMPLIANCE

- A. The University of Houston seeks to secure compliance of this policy by establishing a culture of cooperation, courtesy and mutual respect for the health of each individual in the community. Individuals may first seek compliance by respectfully informing any person who is idling on campus, that the University prohibits idling.

- B. Progressive Discipline – Policy enforcement shall be on a basis of progressive discipline as outlined in [MAPP 02.04.03 \(Discipline and Dismissal of Staff Employee\)](#). In response to the first two reports on any individual, the Assistant Vice President or designee shall send the reported individual a standardized e-mail message, containing a policy reminder and information about exemptions or alternative strategies. On the third and subsequent reports of violations of this policy, resolution shall include a referral to:
 - 1. The Office of Human Resources to handle in compliance with [MAPP 02.04.03 \(Discipline and Dismissal of Staff Employees\)](#) when the alleged violation is related to a staff member. Discipline for repeated violations may include corrective action up to and including termination of employment.
 - 2. The appropriate dean, when the alleged violation is related to a faculty member. Discipline for repeated violations may include corrective action up to and including termination of employment.
 - 3. The Office of the Dean of Students to handle in compliance with the Student Code of conduct, when the alleged violation is related to a student.

VI. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible Party: AVP responsible for implementing and monitoring policy

Review: Review schedule

VII. APPROVAL

VP responsible for oversight of policy

President

Date of President's Approval: _____

VIII. REFERENCES

- [Texas Administrative Code §114.512](#)
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Anti-Idling Jurisdictions](#)
- [Texas Clean Air Act](#)
- [MAPP 02.04.03 \(Discipline and Dismissal of Staff Employees\)](#)
- [University of Houston Office of Sustainability Website](#)
- [MAPP 14.01.01 \(Campus Sustainability\)](#)

REVISION LOG

Revision Number	Approved Date	Description of Changes
1	11/15/2018	Initial edition