

In The Zone - The Updated Anti-Idling Bylaw

Cambridge has expanded the anti-idling bylaw. The expanded bylaw now covers:

- Schools within the Public and Catholic school boards
- Cambridge City Hall, including adjacent streets and parking lots
- City-owned arenas
- Libraries
- Pools
- Seniors' centres
- And parks.

Parking enforcement officers will issue warnings and distribute education materials in the new areas covered by the bylaw for the first half of 2016. This public education period enables the City to spread the word about the expanded bylaw before \$40 fines go into effect July 1, 2016.

The exemptions to the bylaw include:

- Engaged emergency vehicles
- Work vehicles with specialized machinery dependent upon running an engine
- Vehicles with wheelchair or mobility assisted devices and lifts
- Coaches or tour buses while engaged in boarding and alighting, when weather conditions justify the use of heating or cooling systems powered by the motor for the welfare of the operator and passengers.

Council approved the expanded bylaw (164-09) in December 2015, which limits idling to one minute.

Air Quality

Parking enforcement officers will patrol all areas included under the expanded anti-idling bylaw as a part of their regular enforcement activities.

At schools, enforcement will focus on drop-off and pickup times where the best benefit can be achieved for the community. This approach is supported by a McMaster University study undertaken in 2008 around a Hamilton area school which confirmed Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) levels were highest during the morning and afternoon pickup times resulting in the poorest air quality readings (see chart).



Source: "Vehicle Idling outside schools" February 25, 2008.

Presented at the Upwind Downwind Conference Hamilton

Protect our children

Children are particularly vulnerable to smog and poor air quality because their lungs are still developing. Children spend more time outdoors being physically active, and they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per kilogram of body weight. A child's breathing zone is lower than an adult's which exposes them to vehicle exhausts and heavier pollutants that concentrate at lower levels in the air. Finally, due to commuting traffic, smog is already at its daily peak when parents are picking up or dropping off students. Asthma rates in children are four-times higher than they were 20 years ago...idling around schools doesn't help any of the above situations.

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Idling Gets You Nowhere Exhausting Myths And Facts

MYTH: The engine has to warm up before driving.

FACT: Idling is not an effective way to warm up a vehicle, even in cold weather. The tires, transmissions, wheel bearings, catalytic converter and other moving parts also need to be warmed up for the vehicle to perform well. Most of these parts don't begin to warm up until you drive the vehicle. Today's electronically controlled engines allow you to drive away after only 30 seconds of idling, even on the coldest winter days.

MYTH: Idling doesn't cost me anything.

FACT: Excessive idling wastes a significant amount of fuel and money and generates needless greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. If drivers of light-duty vehicles avoided idling by just three minutes a day, over the year Canadians would collectively save 630 million litres of fuel and 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (Co2) emissions, and \$630 million in fuel costs (assuming a fuel cost of \$1.00/L)

MYTH: The few minutes that I idle while I drop off my child at school, and when I pick them up doesn't make a difference.

FACT: Children are more vulnerable to health impairments (e.g. asthma and other respiratory illnesses) from air pollution than adults because children breath faster, inhale more air per kilogram body weight and have developing organs and tissues. Asthma rates in children are four times higher than they were 20 years ago. **Idling around schools doesn't help.**

Resources for Schools

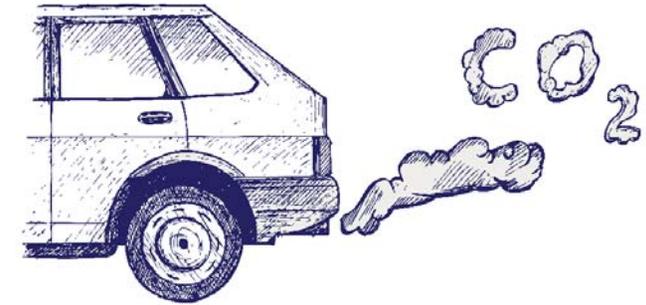
Clean Air Partnership
Clean Air Partnership
www.cleanairpartnership.org

Dads Against Dirty Air (DADA)
www.dadacanada.com

Natural Resources Canada
"Idle Free Zone"

For more information

General Bylaw Information and Enforcement
(519) 740-0740
parking@cambridge.ca



SPARE THE AIR...KIDS BREATHE HERE

City of Cambridge Anti-Idling Bylaw

