



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Jim Newberry  
Mayor

## **NO IDLING POLICY**

Guidance for implementing this policy is given below. For situations where guidance is not provided, employees are expected to use good judgment in determining whether vehicles and equipment should be allowed to idle.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENT FOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

All LFUCG gasoline and diesel powered vehicles and equipment shall idle only as necessary to perform required duties or essential functions. Idling vehicles can create opportunities for theft as well as safety concerns and are not to be left unattended as this violates local ordinances. Sec. 18-111.1 of Ord. No. 113-70, § 2, 5-28-70 states “It shall be unlawful to leave the key in the ignition of a motor vehicle while said vehicle is left parked, standing or otherwise unattended on the streets or public thoroughfares within the urban county limits.”

### **EXCEPTIONS**

Exceptions to this policy are allowed under the following circumstances. These exceptions do not apply when idling is done solely for the convenience of the vehicle operator.

- (1) Vehicles are allowed to idle when forced to remain motionless because of on-road traffic, an official traffic control device or signal, or at the direction of a law enforcement official.
- (2) In cold or hot weather, vehicles may idle when operating defrosters, heaters, and air conditioners as needed to maintain visibility and create an appropriate work environment inside the vehicle. Vehicle operators are encouraged to only idle vehicles for the minimum amount of time needed to maintain visibility and create the appropriate work environment. During mild weather, vehicle operators are encouraged to “roll down or roll up the windows” as opposed to idling the vehicle and running the air conditioner or heater.
- (3) A police, fire, ambulance, other emergency or law enforcement vehicle or any vehicle being used in an emergency capacity, may idle while at an emergency scene, in training mode, or when transporting patients/persons. Ambulances may also idle as needed to maintain the environment of the patient compartment of the ambulance.
- (4) The engine is idling for maintenance, diagnostic, or inspection purposes (to include inspections conducted by the vehicle operator).

(5) Idling is necessary to power hydraulic, mechanical or electrical operations (e.g. hoist, lifts, compactors, hydraulic tools, inverters, or similar equipment).

(6) Idling is necessary to “warm up” diesel engines. In these situations, idling shall be restricted to the minimum time needed.

#### **IDLE REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES**

The LFUCG will explore the use of cost-effective idle reduction technologies that support this policy and will employ these technologies when practical.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each employee of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has a responsibility to follow this policy. LFUCG Commissioners and Directors shall have the responsibility to ensure that employees are made aware of this policy as well as steps they can take to reduce unnecessary idling. The Division of Environmental Policy will provide assistance in efforts to educate employees. Departments/Divisions are free to develop additional policies and procedures to minimize unnecessary idling of LFUCG vehicles should they so choose.