

Bowdoin College Vehicle Idling Policy

Engine emissions are increasingly connected to a wide variety of health complaints and contribute to global warming. Turning off your vehicle is a simple and cost-effective way to reduce noise, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect your health, and extend engine life. For these reasons, Bowdoin is adopting this policy. This idling policy is directed to Bowdoin staff as well as Bowdoin contractors, vendors, and others who deliver supplies or convey passengers to and from our facilities.

Idling gets you nowhere. By shutting off your engine you:

- **Save Money** - because idling your vehicle for 10 minutes a day uses up more than 25 gallons of gasoline in a year. Cars these days don't need to be warmed up. Except in below-zero conditions, you can just start the engine and drive off.
- **Reduce Noise**- Idling of buses and other large vehicles causes noise pollution and can disturb our neighbors.
- **Breathe Easier** - you won't have to breathe in exhaust fumes from a vehicle that is going nowhere. An idling engine produces twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion.
- **Reduce Impacts of Global Warming** – idling engines contribute unnecessarily to global warming.
- **Spare your engine** - an idling engine is not operating at its peak temperature, which means fuel combustion is incomplete. Soot deposits can accumulate on cylinder walls leading to oil contamination and damaged components. Idling, while warming an engine, does not warm the wheel bearings, steering, transmission and tires--only driving does this.

Some facts:

- Idling a diesel-powered engine for over 30 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Idling a gasoline-powered engine for over 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

Procedures:

Employees using Bowdoin gasoline or diesel powered passenger vehicles and light trucks should turn them off if idling more than 30 seconds. Larger diesel vehicles operating under heavy load should be allowed to idle for 3 minutes to cool down. Finally, vehicles should not be left running while unattended. Visitors to campus including buses and contractor/vendor vehicles are subject to this policy and will be asked to comply. This policy does not apply if it creates a safety issue, disrupts work, or creates discomfort in extreme cold.