

## **Reduced Idling Policy**

In an effort to reduce pollution, fuel consumption and engine wear, Cape Elizabeth Public Works is implementing a new policy designed to control the amount of idling time of Town-owned and contracted vehicles.

This policy reminds all employees and contractors that under most circumstances, engines should only be on when vehicles are moving. Any warm-up idling should follow manufacturer recommendations, which is generally limited to no more than five minutes.

However, this policy lists five exceptions when vehicle idling may be necessary:

- For turbo-diesel engine cool down or warm-up, in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- If the outside temperature is between 32 and 15 degrees, vehicles shall be moved inside the public works facility (if practical) to avoid idling, otherwise idling shall not exceed 20 minutes. There is no time restriction if the temperature is below 15°, but it is assumed that the vehicles will be stored indoors if not in use.
- If for safety, health and extreme weather considerations it is necessary to operate defrosters, heated mirrors, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment.
- If necessary to verify a vehicle is in safe operating condition as part of the daily pre-trip vehicle inspection, or as otherwise required.
- If running the vehicle is necessary to perform a job function, such as plow trucks, emergency lights at work zones, or running auxiliary equipment. Employees are asked to use common sense and recognize when the vehicles should be turned off.

