

EXAMPLE POLICIES

Clean Air Counts Idling Reduction Programs

Several communities in the Chicago Metropolitan Region have implemented strategies to reduce idling. Idling reduction can yield substantial cost savings as well as pollution reduction experienced within the home community.

The City of Chicago's Fleet Management Department and DuPage County Forest Preserve have written policies that can be used as models for other local governments. Both policies limit idling to 5 minutes in a 60-minute period if the outside temperature is between 40 and 80°F. The City of Chicago provides exceptions for emergency service vehicles, vehicles standing in traffic and airport support equipment.

In Wood Dale Illinois, the Police Department established a program to reduce excessive idling and travel. Fuel usage is tracked on a monthly basis and compared to usage in the previous year. Regular communications to employees is used to share the results and remind them of the policy. The Wood Dale policy asks officers to shut off their vehicles when parked or running radar. Employees are frequently reminded not to add unnecessary miles on vehicles and to be logical in their random patrol efforts. Disciplinary action may be taken if vehicles are observed idling at the police station.

In addition to instituting idling reduction strategies for municipal fleets communities are creating voluntary idling reduction programs. The Village of Lombard, Illinois has implemented a practical public awareness campaign from which others can learn. In 2007 Lombard worked with its local schools to determine strategic locations, where vehicles often idle while waiting to pick-up children. Lombard also extended the program to their commuter rail station. In total, the village purchased 30 signs for approximately \$900. Interestingly, the Lombard program is paying dividends beyond its target audiences at the schools and commuter rail station. Dave Gorman, Acting Director of Public Works Department, has said that the department used less fuel in June 2008 than it did in May even though it logged in an additional 3,000 miles. Mr. Gorman believes that while hanging the signs, his department's employees internalized the idling reduction message.



Signage in the Village of Lombard

Participating Communities

***Carol Stream
Chicago
Evanston
Lombard
Northbrook
Wilmette
Wheaton
Winfield***

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