



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date April 29, 2008

To CM Don Samuels, Chair, Public Safety & Regulatory Services

Subject Amending Title 3 Chapter 58, Idling to add Article II reducing idling in all vehicles not previously covered under this chapter.

Recommendation Approve amendments. Direct Regulatory Services to work with the Communications Department in developing and implementing an idling-reduction education and outreach campaign within the city. Direct the Department of Regulatory Services, with support from Traffic Control of the Minneapolis Police Department and Public Works, to report to the Public Safety and Regulatory Services of Council in 6 months on number of idling complaints with a breakdown of privately-owned vehicles vs. City-owned vehicles with department, and how complaints were resolved.

Previous Directives

Regulatory Services 5 year business plan requires review and amendment as necessary of City Ordinances enforced by the Department of Regulatory Services.

Prepared or Submitted by Daniel Huff, Supervisor Environmental Services, 673-5863

Approved by

Lori Olson, Deputy Director, Environmental, Management & Safety

Burt Osborne, Director of Operations, Licensing and Environmental Management & Safety

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not Applicable ___✓___

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable ___✓___

Note: The Policy Review Group is a committee co-chaired by the City Clerk and the City Coordinator that must review all requests related to establishing or changing enterprise policies.

Presenters in Committee (name, title)

Daniel Huff, Supervisor Environmental Services

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the _____ Capital Budget or _____ Operating Budget.
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves.
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. _____ Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department’s finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

Background/Supporting Information Attached

Background

Most of the air pollution in Minneapolis comes from gas- and diesel-powered traffic. Vehicle motors release particulate matter¹, dirt, nitrous oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide into the air. These chemicals are linked to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease and asthma. Vehicles also release carbon dioxide, the major source of human-caused global warming. Children are especially vulnerable to vehicle air pollution because their lungs are still developing, and they inhale more pounds of pollution per pound of body weight than adults do.

Reducing air pollution

In Minneapolis, reducing vehicle idling translates into substantially less air pollution. Reducing air pollution protects the public health and the environment.

Conserving fuel

¹ Particulate matter is a mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. The smallest pollutants can lodge deeply into the lungs and cause lung damage, aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis, increase the risk of strokes and heart attacks, lead to cancer and contribute to premature death.

For the driver, reducing idling saves money in fuel. On average a car will burn more than half a gallon of fuel for every hour spent idling. In general, 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the car. All vehicles get zero mpg when idling.

Warming up a car's engine in winter needs no more than 30 seconds, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Engines generally pollute more when cold, and driving a vehicle cuts warm-up time in half. Idling a cold engine actually pollutes more than driving it does, and idling is harder on the engine.

Sustainability

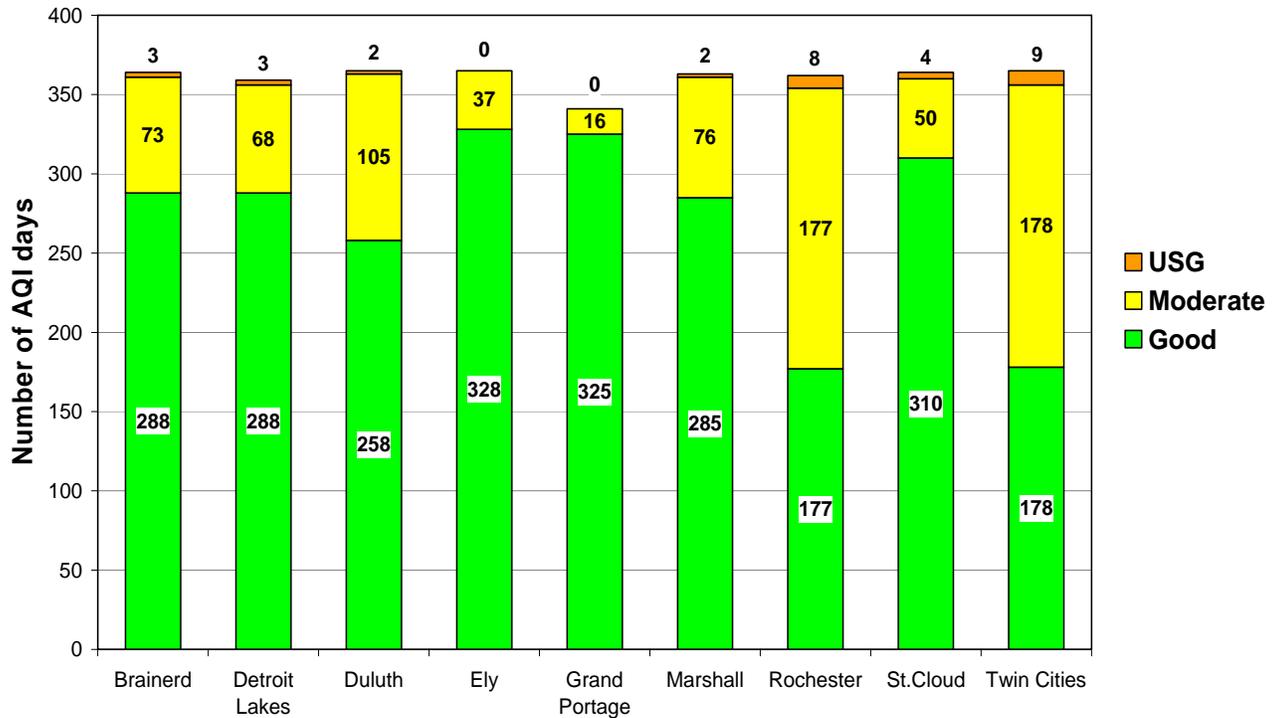
In 2003 the City launched its Sustainability Initiative aimed at protecting Minneapolis' Environmental and Community Health. Improving air quality, reducing global warming and reducing asthma rates are all goals of the Initiative. Improving the air we breathe and reducing carbon dioxide emissions are a major focus of the City. However, air quality has improved little over the past 5 years. The City's air quality target is to have fewer than 35 moderately unhealthy days per year by 2015. However, in 2007 there were 177 moderately unhealthy days. The City has set a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions city-wide by 12 percent by 2012 and 20 percent by 2020. While carbon dioxide emissions are currently not tracked by the City, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reports that Minnesotans release more carbon dioxide per capita than the national average and this rate is increasing. Sustainability targets for asthma-related hospitalizations are to have no more than 51 per 10,000 zero to four year olds, no more than 14 per 10,000 five to 64 year olds and not more than 24 per 10,000 people older than 64 hospitalized due to asthma. None of these targets have been attained. Reducing idling contributes to cleaner air, less carbon dioxide and healthier lungs.

Precedence

The City of Minneapolis Police and Public Works Departments currently have policies restricting idling for staff using City vehicles. In March, 2008 Title 3 Chapter 58 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances was passed by Council restricting idling of commercial-diesel trucks and buses. The following US States have restrictions on idling: Connecticut (three minutes), Hawaii (three minutes), Maryland (five minutes), Washington DC (three minutes), Massachusetts (five minutes) and New Hampshire (five minutes). The following US cities have restrictions on idling: Cupertino, CA (three minutes), Norwalk, CT (five minutes), Bar Harbor, ME (five minutes), Denver, CO (ten minutes), Aspen, CO (five

minutes), Owatonna, MN (15 minutes), St. Cloud, MN (five minutes), St. Louis, MO (ten minutes) and New York, NY (three minutes). The following Canadian Cities have idling restrictions: Vancouver, BC (three minutes), Jasper, AB (three minutes) and Toronto, ON (three minutes)

2007 Air Quality Index Days in Minnesota Cities



Source: MN Pollution Control Agency
USG = Unsafe for Sensitive Groups

The Twin Cities Metro Area has the poorest air quality in the state. This is due primarily to the high number of vehicle trips.

Air Quality Index for Minneapolis and surrounding metro area.

Year	Good days	Moderately unhealthy days	Unhealthy for sensitive groups days	Unhealthy days
2003	161	191	13	0
2004	187	172	7	0
2005	166	191	5	3
2006	193	169	3	0
2007	179	177	9	0

Source: MN Pollution Control Agency