

Attachment 2 - Local Best Practices (Municipal Scan) on Limiting Idling

Many municipalities, especially in regions that suffer from frequent smog episodes, have adopted policies and programs to address unnecessary vehicle idling. The most common initiative is the development of by-laws that target vehicle engine idling. Currently, more than 35 Ontario municipalities have either stand-alone idling control by-laws, or anti-idling provisions within other by-laws. Some local examples are listed here:

Town of Newmarket

In 2005, the Town of Newmarket Council enacted By-law No. 2005-157 to Prohibit Excessive Idling of Vehicles within the Town of Newmarket. These regulations prohibit the idling of motor vehicles for more than 2 minutes. The By-law also provides exemptions for emergency vehicles, public transit, vehicles in parades, vehicles with passengers with a medical letter and during extreme weather conditions (below 5° and above 27°C).

<https://www.newmarket.ca/LivingHere/Documents/2005-157%20Prohibition%20of%20Excessive%20idling.pdf>

Town of East Gwillimbury

In 2019, the Town of East Gwillimbury Council enacted By-law No. 2019-085 To Prohibit Excessive Idling of Vehicles within the Town of East Gwillimbury. These regulations prohibit the idling of motor vehicles for more than 3 minutes. The By-law also provides exemptions for emergency vehicles or vehicles involved in an emergency or traffic violation, vehicles receiving or discharging passengers, public transit, vehicles in parades, funeral processions, or due to traffic, mobile workshops and during extreme weather conditions (below 5° and above 27°C).

<http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/Assets/Idling+control+Bylaw+2019-085.pdf>

City of Richmond Hill

On June 24, 2020 Richmond Hill Council enacted By-law No. 44-20 to Regulate the Idling of Vehicles within the City of Richmond Hill. These regulations prohibit the idling of motor vehicles for more than 3 minutes. The By-law also provides exemptions for emergency vehicles or vehicles involved in an emergency or traffic violation, public transit, armored vehicles, vehicles stopped due to rail crossing, in drive thru or due to traffic, vehicles with passengers with a medical letter, mobile workshops, unanchored or tied boats, and during extreme weather conditions (below 5° and above 30°C).

<https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/shared-content/resources/Idling-By-law-44-20.pdf>

City of Markham

In 2005, the City of Markham Council enacted By-law 2005-192 to Regulate the Unnecessary Idling of Vehicles within the City of Markham. These regulations prohibit the idling of motor vehicles for more than 3 minutes. The By-law also provides exemptions for emergency vehicles or vehicles involved in an emergency or traffic violation, public transit, armored vehicles, vehicles stopped due to traffic or involved in parades, receiving or discharging passengers, stopped due to weather conditions.

https://www.markham.ca/wps/wcm/connect/markham/cb23cfb4-647c-4aa5-b6ba-9e262a64b408/Bylaw-2005-192.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_2QD4H901OGV160QC8BLCRJ1001-cb23cfb4-647c-4aa5-b6ba-9e262a64b408-mrLW-bz

Township of King

In 2005, the Township of King Council enacted By-law 81-142 to Prohibit and Regulate Certain Types of Noise within the Township of King in residential areas and quiet zones. These regulations prohibit the idling of any motor vehicle or item of attached auxiliary equipment for more than 5 minutes. The By-law also provides exemptions for when equipment requires idling for proper function, due to weather conditions and idling for the purpose of cleaning or flushing radiators.

[http://www.king.ca/Government/Departments/By-Law%20Enforcement%20Services/By-Law%20Enforcement%20Issues/Documents/81-142%20-%20Noise%20By-law%20\(Consolidation\).pdf](http://www.king.ca/Government/Departments/By-Law%20Enforcement%20Services/By-Law%20Enforcement%20Issues/Documents/81-142%20-%20Noise%20By-law%20(Consolidation).pdf)