

Vehicle Idling Policy

The purpose of this policy is to eliminate unnecessary idling of all vehicles on Library property. Vehicle idling wastes fuel, degrades air quality, and causes the unnecessary emission of pollutants and greenhouse gasses that promote the “greenhouse” effect. This policy is in accordance with New York State’s Climate Act which requires New York to reduce (economy-wide) greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030.

The Smithtown Library seeks to enhance the efficient use of vehicle fuels in an effort to reduce emissions and operating costs. To reduce deleterious emissions and improve air quality, all vehicles on Library property are prohibited to idle unnecessarily. Vehicle operators will adhere to the following standards:

- Idling is prohibited (with the limited exceptions listed below) when the ambient temperature is above 32°F.
- 5-minute maximum idle time limit when ambient temperature is 32°F and below.
- Vehicles will not be left idling when the operator is away from the vehicle (with the limited exceptions listed below).
- Idling is prohibited in ‘No Idle Zones’. Signs indicate the location of these zones.

The following exceptions apply to the above policy:

- Emergency response vehicles when responding to an emergency.
- Vehicles that must remain at a specific temperature to preserve onboard materials.
- Health or safety reasons (e.g., severe weather conditions, use of vehicle safety features).
- Below 0°F for diesel vehicles.

Supervisors may approve exemptions for specific vehicles when warranted.