

Coalition for a
Liveable
Sudbury

Making connections. Working toward sustainability.

**Written submission to Policy Committee
August 11, 2010**

An anti-idling by-law for the City of Greater Sudbury

The Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury respectfully requests that an effective anti-idling by-law be enacted in the City of Greater Sudbury, and that this by-law be supported by appropriate education and enforcement. Doing so would fulfill one of the Local Action Plan's stated actions to "enact and enforce an anti-idling by-law". Benefits include improved air quality, reduced carbon emissions, and reduced fuel costs for drivers. With a previous anti-idling public education campaign, and an idling control policy for municipal employees and contractors, the City of Greater Sudbury has laid a good base for reducing idling in our community. An anti-idling by-law is the next logical step. It is a step many Ontario municipalities have taken, and for which there is substantial support and resources from Natural Resources Canada.

Benefits of reducing idling

Reducing idling improves air quality, often in key areas such as school pick-up zones and daycares. It also reduces carbon emissions: ~2.3 kg of carbon dioxide is generated for every litre of gasoline. Natural Resources Canada states that "if Canadian motorists avoided idling for just three minutes every day of the year, CO₂ emissions could be reduced by 1.4 million tonnes annually. This would be equal to saving 630 million litres of fuel and equivalent to taking 320,000 cars off of the road for the entire year." Eliminating unnecessary idling is an easy action that Canadians can take to reduce emissions. It also saves them money at the pump.

Anti-idling action in Ontario

More than 20 Ontario municipalities have stand-alone idling control by-laws, or anti-idling provisions in other by-laws. These include Pickering, Huntsville, London, Stratford, and Toronto.

Anti-idling actions in the City of Greater Sudbury

In 2002, led by EarthCare, the City of Greater Sudbury held an anti-idling campaign. Surveys revealed that a very high percentage (close to 90%) of Sudburians believe that turning off their engines is the "right thing to do". Using community based marketing, this campaign was able to significantly reduce idling at test sites. In 2008, the City announced an idling control policy for municipal employees and contractors. These are the first two components of a comprehensive by-law policy. The third, and final component is an anti-idling by-law. Enacting such a by-law is the logical next step,

consistent with the transportation section of EarthCare's Local Action Plan which has as one of its stated actions that "The City of Greater Sudbury will enact and enforce an idling by-law".

An anti-idling by-law for the City of Greater Sudbury

An anti-idling by-law for the City of Greater Sudbury should be prepared and enacted. There are many examples of existing by-laws in comparable communities. These are conveniently summarized by Natural Resources Canada, who also provide a model by-law. The by-law should have regard to the best practices identified by Natural Resources Canada, including their discussion of how to avoid weaknesses discovered in other communities (such as listing too many exceptions). EarthCare Sudbury should also be consulted in drafting this by-law.

A public education campaign leading up to, and accompanying the by-law is important in a comprehensive anti-idling campaign. Promotion and education on the impacts of idling have been shown to increase the number of people who turn off their engine. This result has already been experienced in the City of Greater Sudbury during the 2002 anti-idling campaign, which could be used as a model. Natural Resources Canada has many free resources for public education and signage. It is important to note that experience from case studies has shown that *a by-law is a useful education tool in itself*.

There are several ways in which municipalities can choose to enforce the by-law: complaints-based enforcement; enforcement blitzes; and/or on-going enforcement. A lead up period that emphasizes education of idlers rather than punishment is often useful. Again, the by-law becomes part of increased public awareness.

Conclusion'

The residents of the City of Greater Sudbury would benefit from a reduction in idling, that would improve air quality, and reduce carbon emissions. The City has built the groundwork with a public education campaign, and an internal idling control policy. An anti-idling by-law is the next logical step, and is one of the actions stated in EarthCare's Local Action Plan. The Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury respectfully requests that an effective anti-idling by-law be enacted in the City of Greater Sudbury, supported by appropriate education and enforcement.

Resource

Penney, J. 2005. "Cracking Down on Idling: A Primer for Canadian Municipalities on Developing and Enforcing Idling Control By-laws". *Prepared for Natural Resources Canada and The Greater Toronto Clean Air Council*
<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/communities-government/transportation/municipal-communities/reports/index.cfm?attr=28>

Contact:

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August 9, 2010

Policy Committee
City of Greater Sudbury
Tom Davies Square
P.O. Box 5000 Station A
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

Re: Support for Anti-Idling By-Law

reThink Green, formerly the Greater Sudbury Environment Network, is a not for profit, membership organization dedicated to the facilitation of environmental efforts in the City of Greater Sudbury. Working with our membership, we jointly tackle new environmental projects and help bring these to life. In the community, we strive to deliver educational programs in the form of projects, workshops and the annual Greater Sudbury Earth Day Festival.

We support the implementation of an anti-idling by-law and encourage Mayor and Council to adopt a strategy to combat unnecessary idling. Vehicle emissions are one of the largest sources of air pollution and greenhouse gases in Canada; and it's been proven that greenhouse gas is largely generated by burning fossil fuels, such as when we drive a vehicle. Furthermore, it's been proven that climate change is caused by rising levels of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. The City of Greater Sudbury must address climate change wherever possible through strong leadership.

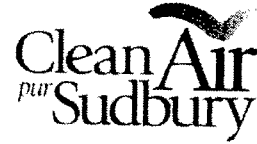
Recently, the Sustainable Mobility Plan demonstrated that it will become increasingly important to change our daily habits through a network of bike trails, walkways and enhanced public transportation options that offer sustainable alternatives to driving. However, despite these exciting new opportunities, personal vehicles will still be a primary mode of transportation for many years to come. While vehicles are necessary for transport, unnecessary idling is not; and a strong anti-idling by-law needs to be created and enforced.

As a member of Earth Care Sudbury, and also the Earth Care Sudbury Advisory Panel, reThink Green supports the goals of the Local Action Plan. One of these goals is the creation and enforcement of an anti idling by-law. The time has come to achieve this goal and continue moving forward. reThink Green would be happy to host public workshops at our Resource Centre in downtown Sudbury to help launch any recommendations.

Sincerely,

Scott Card

Scott Card
Coordinator, reThink Green



August 6, 2010

Policy Committee
City of Greater Sudbury
Tom Davies Square
P.O. Box 5000 Stn A
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

Re: Support for Anti-Idling By-Law

Clean Air Sudbury is a non-profit organization focused on community air quality in Greater Sudbury. Our mission is to compile, summarize and disseminate local air quality information; to promote education and awareness of community air quality issues; and to provide opportunities for the public to get involved in air quality improvements.

We support initiatives that reduce air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle idling in Greater Sudbury. Here are some facts about vehicle idling:

- Every 10 minutes of idling emits 600 to 1200 grams of carbon dioxide and a variety of air pollutants.
- A 2001 study in Greater Sudbury discovered that 60% of vehicles in designated pick-up areas near supermarkets and shopping malls were idling.
- In a telephone survey conducted for EarthCare Sudbury's Anti-Idling Campaign, 43% of Sudburians said they idled at least once per day.
- The most popular idling situations include drive-thru restaurants, waiting to pick up people, and idling to warm up vehicles on winter mornings.

Clean Air Sudbury recently implemented a fuel efficient driving program to encourage local citizens to reduce vehicle emissions due to idling and other inefficient driving habits. We have supported initiatives by EarthCare Sudbury's Anti-Idling Campaign and have distributed educational resources. Despite these voluntary programs, many citizens continue to idle their vehicles every day. An anti-idling by-law is the next logical step towards further reducing vehicle idling in Greater Sudbury.

As a member of EarthCare Sudbury, we are committed to working towards and implementing the goals, objectives and actions of the Local Action Plan pertaining to air quality and transportation. One of the stated actions within this plan is to "enact and enforce an anti-idling by-law". Clean Air Sudbury fully supports this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mucklow".

Laura Mucklow
Coordinator, Clean Air Sudbury

Graeme Spiers
Co-Chair, Clean Air Sudbury