

The No Motor Vehicle Idling Policy

The No Motor Vehicle Idling Policy applies to all staff, contractors and visitors while on council premises and to all staff that use their own car or a fleet vehicle for conducting council business

Here are the key things you need to know. The full policy is available at the bottom of the page.

Engines should be switched off and not left idling when on council premises.

Staff using their own car or a fleet vehicle for council business should switch off their engine whenever they are stationary, for example when:

- Parked
- Loading or unloading
- Taking a rest break in a vehicle
- At level crossings (for example Eastgates when the level crossing is down)
- At traffic light junctions where there are long delays of one minute or over (for example Brook St & Magdalen St - both in air quality management areas)

Exemptions

- Waste and recycling collection vehicles, while they are operational collecting refuse, recycling and food waste
- Street cleaning vehicles while they are operational

This policy has been introduced to reduce the impact of the Council's operations on the local environment and air quality.

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No Motor Vehicle Idling Policy

As part of Colchester Borough Council's commitment to reducing the impact of its operations and services on the local environment and air quality a No Motor Vehicle Idling Policy has been introduced.

CBC staff driving fleet vehicles or using their own vehicles for business travel should switch off their engines when stationary on CBC sites and while out conducting CBC business.

The only exemption is waste and recycling collection vehicles, while they are operational collecting refuse, recycling and food waste along with street cleaning vehicles, again while they are operational.

This includes when parked up (including for rest breaks), but also at locations where there are significant delays of one minute or over. For example when the level crossing is down at Eastgates or at traffic lights at complex junctions such as on Brook Street and Magdalen Street (which are also areas that are in the air quality management areas for exceeding the EU objective for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide)

By getting into the habit of turning off vehicles when stationary and encouraging others to do the same, we can all do our bit to reduce pollution and carbon emissions, improve the environment and make Colchester a cleaner, healthier place to live, work and breathe.

Switching off when stationary is a simple action everyone can take that can make a big difference. A recent study showed in areas of high air pollution due to traffic congestion, switching off engines can reduce peak concentrations in air pollution by as much as 20-30%.

Transport is a massive source of air pollution. Toxic gases (such as nitrogen dioxide) and particulate matter emitted by vehicle engines can cause a whole range of health problems, ranging from coughing and itchy eyes to an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer and even premature death. Children are particularly at risk with air pollution linked to low birth weight and poor lung development. The health impacts of air pollution cost the NHS around £54 billion a year. Colchester has 4 declared air quality areas, and air pollution is believed to have contributed to over 140 early deaths in Colchester last year alone.

If you want to know more about Air Quality in Colchester visit the [CBC website](#).

If you are concerned about switching your engine on and off please read 'The truth about pollution – Myths busted'

For more information about the health consequences of air pollution and what you can do to reduce your impact and avoid exposure to air pollution visit www.cleanairday.org.uk.