

Summary for Staff

2 minute read

As part of the Council's commitment to reducing the impact of its operations and services on the local environment and air quality this policy has been introduced. In July 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This policy forms part of the work being undertaken as part of the Climate Emergency declaration and as part of the Council's Clean Air for Colchester project which aims to improve air quality.

It is of importance that Council operations and services, where possible, mitigate to reduce the Council's impact on air quality and the environment. Road transport is the main source of air pollution within Colchester. By switching off our engines when stationary we can improve air quality and reduce unnecessary pollution.

Health effects of air pollution are wide ranging. These include asthma, respiratory disease, coronary heart disease, stroke and lung cancer. In addition, vulnerable groups are especially susceptible to the effects of air pollution and include the elderly, children, and people with underlying heart and lung conditions or diseases.

When using a vehicle for Council business staff are asked to switch off their engine when stationary. There is exception to some services, vehicles, operations and in exceptional circumstances.

Staff are asked to switch off their vehicle's engine when:

- Parked
- Loading or unloading
- Taking a rest break in a vehicle
- At level crossings when the crossing is down
- At traffic lights when the driver estimates that the vehicle will be stationary for one minute or over. For example, the traffic light junction at Brook Street/Magdalen Street, the stop light is over two minutes in duration.

There are exemptions to services and vehicles due to operational requirements and safety. These include:

- Waste and recycling collection vehicles when collecting refuse, recycling and food waste as part of their operations.
- Street cleaning vehicles when operational.
- Where the driver perceives a health and safety risk of switching off their engine or in other exceptional circumstances.

Visitors and contactors have also been asked to switch off their vehicles engines when they are stationary on Council sites.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact your line manager.

For a copy of the full Motor Vehicle No Idling Policy search 'Colin' the Council intranet or ask a member of your management team.

*Idling is when a vehicles engine has been left running when stationary.