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DeKalb County, Georgia Greenest Urban County in America



Reduce Unnecessary Diesel Engine Idling

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DeKalb County Government
2009 Bronze Certification

As DeKalb County Government strives to reach higher environmental goals for both its employees and the public, employees are reminded that unnecessary engine idling wastes fuel, and harms human health and the environment. Lets take a deep breath and review the County's Executive Order on the "No Idling Policy."

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1. All county vehicles, except public safety and emergency response vehicles, shall limit idling to five minutes or less
2. During a morning start-up, vehicles should idle no longer than necessary to bring engines to proper operating temperatures, defrost all windows and operate all heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to ensure the safety and health of the driver and all passengers
3. In temperatures that are less than 40 degrees, idle time shall be limited to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally three to five minutes)
4. In temperatures that are more than 93 degrees, idling will be permitted on work sites where cooling off of employees is necessary
5. County vehicles should not be restarted until the vehicle is ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit
6. All service delivery vehicles shall turn off the engines while making deliveries
7. This policy shall not apply to vehicles that use the vehicle engine to operate tools and equipment while working on a job site or vehicles that are used as rehabilitation stations for employees
8. Those employees who fail to follow this policy may be subject to disciplinary action

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Why Idle Reduction Matters

Protect Employee Health

Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 hazardous air pollutants and carcinogens

Air Pollution

Diesel exhaust concentrates at ground level and can enter buildings through air intakes, doors and windows

Wasted Fuel and Money

Idling wastes more fuel and causes twice the wear on internal parts compared to driving at highway speeds

Engine Wear and Tear

Prolonged idling can reduce the operating life of engine oil by 75%



DeKalb County Government's Employee Recycling Program



Do you recycle at your desk? How about the copy room? Lunch room? Did you know you can recycle almost anywhere within DeKalb County government buildings? DeKalb County's Sanitation Division provides both recycling receptacles for your desk, as well as 65-gallon bins for common spaces such as copy rooms, main entrance and exits to the department, and other areas of importance that contain high foot traffic. The Sanitation Division accepts both paper products and commingled items.

Worried about how it's going to get picked up? No problem, the Sanitation Division can help assess where the recycling receptacles should go and the best way for the receptacles to be maintained and sent off to our recycling center.

Interested in seeing the "Close the Loop" process? Want to watch your plastic container become a recycling bin? The Sanitation Division along with SP Recycling Co. provides tours. You can see the whole process from collection to new life. Call Sanitation for a tour at (404) 294-2900.

"What Can You Recycle?" You Ask...

What Goes in the Bag?

Plastic bottles & containers such as, water bottles, soda cans, milk jugs, laundry & cleaning products

Aluminum cans

Tin cans

Aerosol cans

Glass bottles & containers

What Goes in the Bin?

Newspaper, magazines, office paper, catalogs, mail, envelopes, junk mail, colored copy paper

Cardboard /chipboard

Phone books

Remember to rinse containers before placing them in the recycling bags.



Since 2005 —DeKalb County has diverted 57,000 tons from the landfill—the weight of more than 9,500 elephants.

Residential recycling and increased efficiencies have added 10 years to the county landfill capacity.

Recycled materials generate \$600,000 in revenue for the county each year.

Recycle with Cartridge World

Through the DeKalb County Employee Recycling Program, employees are able to recycle ink and laser jet cartridges with the Decatur Cartridge World store. When cartridges are empty simply place them in the bin. Once your bin is full, contact Cartridge World and they we will collect the bin and give you another receptacle.

Discounts are provided when reordering ink and laser jet cartridges. It's that simple.

Visit InDeKalb, Forms Section to sign your department up for ink and laser jet cartridge recycling, or call the Decatur Cartridge World store at (404) 321-3220.

