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Item No. 4
Halifax Regional Council
February 16, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: 28 January, 2010

SUBJECT: Green Fleet Initiative: HRM DriveWiser Programme for 2010

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from Staff.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, Halifax Regional Municipality commenced a Reduced Idling campaign as a component of our Clean Air strategy within the municipality's integrated approach to environmental sustainability. Information on the Reduced Idling campaign can be found at:
http://www.halifax.ca/environment/Reduced_Idling.html.

In 2008, the Chief Administrative Officer approved a corporate Vehicle Anti Idling Policy (Attachment One).

Collaboratively, with Clean Nova Scotia, the Manager of Corporate Fleet and Equipment, the Manager of Municipal Operations and Acting Manager of Sustainable Environment Management Office have developed a plan for 2010 to continue to integrate and mainstream fuel efficient driving behaviors at the municipality.

DISCUSSION

Halifax Regional Municipality, through discussions with Clean Nova Scotia, have been able to develop a plan that will blend the Clean Nova Scotia DriveWiser program, the Natural Resources Canada ecoENERGY for Fleets FleetWiser program, and existing HRM policy and strategy (i.e., Corporate Vehicle Anti Idling policy, Green Vehicle Filter, etc.) into an educational delivery that will focus on Municipal Operations fleet drivers and supervisors.

Clean Nova Scotia is a non-profit environmental education organization that provides information and resources to the public in order to help them make positive decisions about the environment. Clean Nova Scotia's motto is Inspiring Environmental Change and their mission statement is "Clean Nova Scotia seeks to create a cleaner, healthier environment by informing, enabling, and inspiring Nova Scotians to respect and consider the environment in all their choices." As a registered charity since 1988, Clean Nova Scotia offers over 20 active programs across the province by working cooperatively with individuals, households, schools, governments, businesses and other organizations.

Drivewiser is an environmental engagement program that has been working with Nova Scotian drivers since October 2006. The program pioneered a unique approach to eco driver education, and has since coached and shared information with other programs around the country. It is delivered primarily through community based social marketing and partnerships, using a driver to driver training style to personally engage drivers through education. The program focuses on raising general awareness in conjunction with encouraging behavioral change. Attachment Two is a Drivewiser brochure, and more information can be seen at www.drivewiser.ca

The FleetWiser project, funded by NRCan, has Clean Nova Scotia working with Nova Scotian municipalities and utilities toward vehicle fleet efficiency. The goal is to assist operators and managers to reduce business costs, fuel consumption, and GHG Emissions. The target is to reduce fleet fuel consumption and related emissions by 5% to 10%.

With the blended HRM program, Clean Nova Scotia will be:

- Providing equipment for 12 vehicles to measure fuel consumption and conducting baseline and post training testing using Scan Gauge
- 12 Lunch and Learn training sessions for Municipal Operations staff (one per month at various locations throughout the municipality)
- Performing Fleet operator surveys
- Providing Idle Free Signs to HRM Fleet and Municipal Operations Buildings
- In Car Eco-Driver Instruction for about 4 fleet leaders
- Providing a Train the Trainer messaging for HRM Municipal Operations supervisors to deliver at frequent tool box or tailgate meetings about driving behavior.

The cost to customize the programs and deliver as outlined to HRM Municipal Operations is \$4,460.

The goal is to educate HRM Municipal Operations fleet operators about eco-driving and maintenance habits which reduce fuel use and driving emissions and inform operators about all HRM policy and procedures involving new green fleet initiatives.

HRM fleet operators will...

- understand the link between fuel consumption and climate change
- know the fuel reduction capacity of eco-driving
- know the cost benefit to eco-driving
- understand the link between maintenance and fuel consumption
- remember the Drivewiser tools available to them to help them undertake behavioral change; and
- become aware of HRM policies and procedures involving its fleet
- believe their driving behavior will contribute to a significant reduction in CO2
- believe eco-driving habits truly affect fuel consumption
- believe that eco-driving is easy and everyone can do it; and
- believe that our continued rate of fuel consumption will be a real and direct contributor to climate change.
- reduce fuel use and emissions through eco-driving and reduced idling
- follow a regular vehicle maintenance schedule
- consider fuel efficiency when buying a new vehicle
- track fuel use
- relay Drivewiser messaging to others
- enhance safe driving behaviors as a result of adopting eco-driving behaviors

HRM Corporate Operations consumes approximately 1.2 million litres of gasoline annually for its light fleet (cars, small trucks, etc.), creating approximately 4,500 tonnes of GHG emissions and costing approximately \$1.2 million. The potential environmental and financial savings possible through improved driving behavior are potentially \$100,000 and 450 tonnes of GHG emissions per year.

This initiative provides sound results and benefits when viewed through an economic, environmental, and social lens. EcoDriving saves money, reduces CO2 emissions (a contributor to climate change), reduces air pollutants, and also creates safer driving habits.

This initiative contributes to actions outlined in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Local Action Plan, a Functional Plan of Regional Plan.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This program is paid under SEMO Projects, D945 and paid within the existing operating budget envelope. Savings from reduced fuel consumption would remain in respective fleet operating budgets.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment One: HRM Vehicle Anti Idling Policy

Attachment Two: Clean Nova Scotia Drivewiser Brochure

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Report Approved by:



Paul Beauchamp, Manager, Corporate Fleet and Equipment



Peter Verge, Manager, Municipal Operations

**Halifax Regional Municipality
Vehicle Anti Idling Policy
August 2008**

Policy Intent

HRM is committed to becoming a healthy, sustainable and vibrant community. This includes an integrated systems approach to clean air, land, water and energy through a sustainable approach to the services and programs we deliver.

Vehicle emissions produce pollutants that contribute to climate change, smog and acid rain, some of the biggest environmental problems facing our planet today.

Reducing unnecessary idling has a positive effect on our air, land and water.

Policy Statement

The Halifax Regional Municipality has established a Vehicle Anti Idling Policy, which places limitations on engine idling. The policy applies to all vehicles used by HRM employees in the performance of their duties.

Definitions

Idling - means the engine is running while the vehicle is stationary or the piece of equipment is not performing work.

Vehicle - means any on road, or off road, self propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a licence plate issued by the Department of Motor vehicles

Equipment - means any self propelled/person operated equipment used in support of Municipal operations and services. (lawn mowers, bush cutters, boat engines, etc.)

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to reduce the effect of HRM operations on our physical environment by:

- Reducing air pollution from vehicle and equipment exhaust
- Promoting energy conservation
- Reducing noise pollution
- Reducing wear and tear on HRM vehicles and equipment
- Reduce operational costs

Idling limitations

To ensure we approach vehicle idling in a consistent manner, all employees operating Municipal Vehicles and Equipment must adhere to the following idling limitations:

- Vehicles shall never be left idling when unattended
- Engine warm up periods will not exceed one (1) minute (provided air pressure for air brake systems are fully charged and all safety provisions are in place)
- Vehicles shall be shut down whenever idling periods are expected to exceed one (1) minute

* note HRM vehicles are not permitted to access “drive through services” as this too is unnecessary idling

Exceptions

As with all policies there will be some scenarios which are not conducive to the implementation of the limitations described above. Therefore, exceptions to this policy have been identified and only exists under the following circumstances:

- For vehicle maintenance and diagnosis purposes (to be kept to a minimum)
- Under extreme weather conditions or any other time when the health and safety of the employee or others may be jeopardized. To enable proper snow/ice clearing from vehicles.
- If the unit is not expected to be able to restart due to a mechanical problem. In this case, the vehicle is to be sent to Fleet Services for repair.
- Vehicles that need to be running to support operational requirements or while on an emergency scene
- Transit Vehicles in revenue service while carrying passengers.
- Engine is immediately required to power auxiliary equipment. (Hoist, lift platforms, hydraulic pumps, water pumps, etc.)
- This policy does not apply to typical stop and go traffic or when the unit is used for traffic control and is required to be running.



Dan English CAO

August 18, 2008

Date

I CAN BE



IDLE FREE

Did you know?

Reducing fuel consumption by just 10 tanks a year can save you hundreds of dollars and reduce your personal emissions by almost a tonne.

Visit drivewiser.ca for more information.

Drivewiser
drive, maintain and buy for fuel efficiency

conserve
NOVA SCOTIA

Clean Nova Scotia
inspiring environmental change

Idling Gets You Nowhere

If every driver in Canada avoided idling for 5 minutes a day, it would be like removing **520,000 cars** from the roads for 1 year.

10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting.

Your engine requires no more than 30 seconds of idling to warm up the oil on a cold day. The best way to warm up your car is to drive it!



Take Action. Turn Off Your Engine.

How can you decrease unnecessary idling?

- Reduce “warm-up” idling to 30 seconds max.
- Turn your engine off if parked for more than 10 seconds.
- Avoid using a remote car starter.
- Spread the word to family and friends.

