

Shawn Pfaff, Mayor
Introduced By

Public Works Staff
Drafted By

Resource Conservation Commission, CEDA
Committee

July 12, 2011
Date

RESOLUTION R-60-11

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IDLING REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR THE CITY OF FITCHBURG

WHEREAS, the City of Fitchburg Common Council unanimously approved and the Mayor signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement on August 12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, reduction of vehicle idling is one element of the Fuel Efficiency Action Item under the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fitchburg Common Council unanimously approved and the Mayor signed a resolution in support of the State of Wisconsin's energy independence goals for 2025 (25x25) on August 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence encourages using idling reduction as a means to reach the State's energy independence goals; and

WHEREAS, taking concrete steps to protect earth's climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is in the common interest of every living thing in Fitchburg; and

WHEREAS, annual eCO₂ emissions in the U.S could be reduced by approximately 13 million tonnes if each family reduced voluntary idling by an average of 5 minutes/day; and

WHEREAS, an idling engine is not running at its optimum operating temperature resulting in incomplete combustion and increased emissions; and

WHEREAS, the pollutants from vehicle emissions can linger in the environment and lead to long-term health impairment and environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, during the last decade, Dane County has been on the threshold of reaching a non-attainment designation for federal air quality standards for ozone and fine particle pollution; and

WHEREAS, a non-attainment designation for federal air quality standards would cause expensive and disruptive new regulations to be imposed on Dane County governments and businesses and increase public health-related costs in the county, putting the region at an economic disadvantage compared to regions continuing to attain federal air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, Dane County has worked over the last several years to reduce air pollution emissions, and has shown improvements in air quality as a result; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA, continues to review, propose and adopt more stringent air quality standards to protect public health, thereby making it essential that Dane County communities continue to pursue ways to reduce emissions in order to meet these more stringent standards; and

WHEREAS, reducing vehicle idling is one of the easiest actions anyone can take to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, fine particles, unburned hydrocarbons, ozone precursors, and other pollutants; and

WHEREAS, in May 2010, the City of Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission requested a report with recommendations for reducing voluntary idling in Fitchburg and such report was finalized in September 2010; and

WHEREAS, in May 2011, the City of Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission presented the Common Council with the "Idling Reduction Strategies for the City of Fitchburg" report along with its "Idling Reduction in Fitchburg," which included the following recommendations: 1) Develop an education and monitoring program for city vehicle fleet, 2) Develop a community educational campaign pilot program, 3) Draft for Council consideration regulating idling on City property, 4) Monitor technological advances to reduce the need for municipal fleet idling to operate machinery or electronic equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City added an idling policy to its Employee Policies and Procedures Manual in January 2011,

NOW THEREFOR BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Fitchburg accepts the recommendations 1 through 4 above regarding idling reduction strategies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City staff are directed to assist with the development of the recommendations 1 through 4 above.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Fitchburg this 27th day of September, 2011.

Approved By: Shawn W. Pfaff
Shawn Pfaff, Mayor

Attested By: Linda Cory
Linda Cory, City Clerk