

To: Town of Newmarket Town Council

Council Meeting Date: April 24, 2023

Proposal: Amending the Town's Vehicle Idling By-law #2005-157

Background: In 2005, the Town of Newmarket took proactive measures to reduce idling in the Town early on, being one of the earlier municipalities to adopt an anti-idling bylaw.

Proposed Amendment: The change proposed is the removal of section 4.0 xi from Bylaw #2005-157, the exemption for the idling bylaw when temperatures are more than twenty-seven degrees Celsius (27C) or below five degrees Celsius (5C).

Reasoning: As noted on the Town's website, vehicles emit nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxides and volatile organic compounds, all toxic contaminants. These contaminants from vehicle exhausts are major contributors to climate change, poor air quality and smog.

The Town of Newmarket's website also states that the town is "idle free", however the current temperature exemptions limit the Town from truly being idle free for a significant portion of the year. In 2021, there were 113 days where the maximum daily temperature was five degrees Celsius or colder, and 38 days where the maximum daily temperature was 27 degrees Celsius or higher. In 2022, there were also 113 days where the maximum daily temperature was five degrees Celsius or colder, and 32 days where the maximum daily temperature was 27 degrees Celsius or higher. This represents 41% and 40%, respectively, of the year where the idling bylaw would be exempt for some or all of the day.

(source: https://climate.weather.gc.ca/climate_data for King City North station - closest to Newmarket)

This simple amendment to the idling bylaw will help the Town in its commitment to being idle-free, countering the negative effects idling has on the environment and encouraging positive driving habits for its residents. This amendment will provide additional enforcement options for excessive idling cases, idling near schools, school bus stops, and other areas where children or other vulnerable citizen may be exposed to unnecessary idling and the associated, harmful exhaust. It is adaptive to the new technologies and efficiencies in automobiles that have developed since the original bylaw was adopted almost 20 years ago, in 2005, which eliminate the need to drivers to warm their vehicles up prior to driving in cold weather. It is also consistent with other municipal by-laws across Ontario and Canada (please see appendix).

Alignment with Town Strategic Priorities:

This amendment will contribute to the Town's Strategic Priority to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita by 50% (2018-2022).

For more information, please contact Aileen Barclay [REDACTED]
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Appendix

Municipalities in Canada that do not include, or have amended bylaws to eliminate temperature limits on anti-idling bylaws:

1. Aurora, ON**
2. Burlington, ON
3. Banff, AB
4. Cambridge, ON
5. Capital Regional District, BC
6. Collingwood, ON
7. Erin, ON
8. Guelph, ON
9. Hamilton, ON
10. Invermere, BC
11. Jasper, AB
12. Kentville, NS
13. Markham, ON*
14. Orillia, ON
15. Oshawa, ON
16. Peterborough, ON
17. Pickering, ON
18. Port Hope, ON
19. Saint-Lambert, QC
20. Stratford, ON
21. Surrey, BC
22. Toronto, ON
23. Vancouver, BC
24. Victoria, BC
25. Whistler, BC
26. Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON*

*Other York Region municipalities

** Town Policy with an exemption for where weather conditions justify the use of heating or refrigeration system powered by the engine or motor for the safety or welfare of the operator, passengers or animals or the preservation of perishable cargo.