

# State of Colorado



**Bill Ritter, Jr.**  
*Governor*

**Rich Gonzales**  
*Executive Director*

**Jennifer Okes**  
*Deputy Executive Director*

**Scott Madsen**  
*Division Director*

**Art Hale**  
*Fleet Manager*

## DPA

Department of Personnel  
& Administration

Division of Central Services  
State Fleet Management  
1001 East 62nd Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80216  
303-866-5222 1-800-723-8023  
Fax 303-866-5511  
[www.colorado.gov/dpa/dcs](http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/dcs)

### **Summary:**

State Fleet Management supports reducing fuel waste and the public's exposure to vehicle exhaust by limiting unnecessary idling in State-owned vehicles.

### **BACKGROUND:**

An idling vehicle gets zero miles per gallon, which wastes fuel and pollutes the air. Running an engine at low speed (idling) also causes twice the wear on internal engine parts compared to driving at regular speeds. The break-even point for shutting off and restarting gasoline engines as compared to leaving it to idle is 30 seconds – from the point of view of both emissions and fuel consumption. For more information, visit the EPA [Fuel Economy](#) website.

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the petroleum consumed and pollution emitted by state fleet vehicles and to reduce costs to Colorado taxpayers.

### **POLICY:**

No person who operates a state - owned Vehicle that is managed by Colorado State Fleet Management, and designed to operate on public roads, shall allow the vehicle to idle in excess of three (3) consecutive minutes in any 60 minute period for gasoline-powered vehicles or five (5) consecutive minutes in any 60 minute period for diesel-powered vehicles. NO VEHICLE SHALL BE LEFT RUNNING AND PARKED/UNATTENDED FOR ANY REASON (GASOLINE OR DIESEL), UNLESS SITUATION 2, 3, 4, OR 5 APPLY, OR WITH THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONAL EXCEPTIONS:

1. The vehicle is forced to remain motionless on a public road because of traffic conditions over which the operator has no control;
2. The vehicle is being used as an emergency vehicle in an emergency situation;
3. The vehicle's engine is providing auxiliary power for activities other than heating or air conditioning, such as loading, refrigeration, well drilling, or farming;
4. Required by a federal, state, or local law or official, but only to the extent necessary to comply with such requirement;
5. Running the vehicle's engine is necessary for maintenance, servicing, repair, or diagnostic purposes;
6. Running the vehicle's engine during adverse weather conditions is necessary to ensure the safe operation of the vehicle; or
7. The ambient air temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit for gasoline-powered vehicles; below 32 degrees Fahrenheit for diesel-powered vehicles, and idling of the vehicle is necessary to ensure the safety or health of the passengers or driver.
8. Idling is necessary to cool down a turbo-charged vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

Individuals who do not adhere to this policy are subject to discipline and the loss of the privilege of using a state vehicle.

This policy will remain in effect until further notice.

**Other Policy:**

The Greening Government Executive Orders D011 07 and D012 07 require state government to reduce petroleum consumption by 25% by June 30, 2012 from baseline SFY 2005-06. Fuel is wasted and petroleum consumption is increased when vehicles are allowed to idle.