DOUGLAS COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TITLE Vehicle Idling Internal Policy	**Approval Date** 6/11/10
POLICY CUSTODIAN Facilities, Fleet and Emergency Support Services	**Revision Date**

Purpose: To reduce County vehicle idling through the education and support of county employees resulting in reduced fuel consumption and maintenance costs and to improve air quality.

Vehicle Idling Information:
Warming up a vehicle means more that just the engine. The tires, transmission, wheel bearings and other moving components also need to warm up for optimum vehicle performance. Most of these components do not warm up until the vehicle is driven. With computer controlled, fuel-injected engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away.

The catalytic converter and diesel particulate filter, devices that clean pollutants from the engine exhaust, do not function at their peak until reaching between 750 and 1500 degrees Fahrenheit. The best way to warm the converter or DPF is to drive the vehicle. Driving a vehicle cuts warm-up time in half. This reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Ten seconds of idling can consume more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.

Every 10 minutes of idling costs the County at least 2/10 (0.2) of a gallon of fuel and up to 7/10 (0.7) of a gallon for an 8 cylinder engine. Every gallon of fuel consumed produces 19 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Excessive idling is hard on an engine. Because the engine is not working at its optimum operating temperature, fuel does not undergo complete combustion. This leaves fuel residue that contaminates engine oil, scores engine cylinder walls and fouls spark plugs and injectors.

Policy: It shall be the responsibility of every Douglas County employee operating a county vehicle to minimize vehicle idling to no more than 30 seconds prior to operating the vehicle. During winter months remove ice and snow from the vehicle by using ice scrapers and snow brushes. Vehicles should not be left idling when the driver exits the vehicle except:

- to power hydraulic equipment,
- to power safety lights that would likely drain a vehicle's battery if left on for
- extended time without the engine running, and

- for vehicles that must be prepped at the beginning of the day.