



Outdoor Air Quality Policy

June 2017

Purpose:

- Limit emissions from mobile sources on campus operated by community members, employees, and vendors by enforcing the anti-idling protocol to reduce the hazards that particulate matter and criteria pollutants from fossil fuel exhaust pose.
- Advance goals of the College's Climate Action and Sustainability Plan and further align institutional practices with the College's Mission and Core Values
- Encourage and model behavior change to students, faculty, and staff
- Improve health and wellness on campus through enhanced outdoor air quality and make clean air synonymous with the College's brand and practices
- Comply with Maine [legislation](#) on anti-idling (all six New England states have anti-idling legislation)

This policy applies to all College students, faculty, staff, visitors, and vendors while on campus.

Anti-Idling Policy

Idling tailpipes spew out the same pollutants as moving cars. These pollutants have been linked to serious human illnesses including asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer. Furthermore, carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas emitted from idling vehicles, is a significant contributor to climate change. In addition to health hazards and pollution, idling also wastes fuel and money, causes excessive engine wear, and generates noise.

- All vehicles on campus must not idle for more than 30 seconds unless otherwise specified in the exemptions section of this Policy (see "exemptions" below).
- Vehicles will not be left running while unattended (unless required to safely perform the vehicle's function, see exemption section below for more details)
- College employees using gasoline or diesel powered College vehicles, golf carts, and light trucks should turn them off if idling for more than 30 seconds
- Athletics Department vehicles transporting students shall not idle for longer than three minutes
- When fueling any vehicle or equipment, the operator will not top-off the vehicle past the point of the fuel nozzle overflow safety system
- Once a vehicle's engine has been started, driving should commence within one minute.
- The College prefers that vendors or contractors with on-road diesel vehicles have diesel particulate filters (DPFs)
- All new golf carts purchased by the College will be electric if feasible

- The College will purchase electric battery powered tools for landscape management in situations when these tools can serve the functionality of the College

Exemptions from Policy

Vehicles may idle beyond the prescribed 30 seconds **only** if:

- Vehicle is forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties
- Facilities, Contractor (construction), or Campus Safety vehicles may idle if defrosting, heating, or cooling is needed to ensure the health or safety of vehicle occupants when ambient temperature is 32°F or below, or above 80°F for extended periods; in these circumstances, a ten minute maximum idle time limit is granted
- Repairs or maintenance require turning on the vehicle
- It is necessary to operate auxiliary equipment located in or on the vehicle (i.e. hoist, lift, safety lighting and internal equipment)
- It is necessary to bring the vehicle to the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature in order for the vehicle to perform its function

Tobacco Free Campus Policy

To provide a healthy working and learning environment for the entire College community, SJC became a Tobacco Free campus (this policy applies to all land owned by the College) in 2013, adopting a Tobacco Free Campus Policy found [here](#).

Refrigerant Updates

Refrigerants (such as ammonia, sulfur dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, and Butane) are potent greenhouse gases and contribute significantly to ozone depletion. Saint Joseph's College commits to the safe disposal and recovery of refrigerants by recapturing and recycling refrigerants from equipment, and will replace equipment at the end of its lifecycle with lower emissions refrigerants, such as R410A. The Facilities Department maintains and implements this directive.

Enforcement of the Policy

- All members of Saint Joseph's College, including students, faculty, staff, as well as visitors, vendors, and business partners share the responsibility for honoring and adhering to this Policy. All community members are encouraged to report violations of this policy to Campus Safety

Education, Awareness, and Implementation of the Policy:

Education and awareness play a critical role in the successful implementation of this Policy throughout campus. The goal is to make this Policy an integral part of campus culture and behavior. In order to do so:

- Members of the Management Team will speak with their staff, subcontractors, and vendors to educate them on the Policy, answer questions, and build buy-in

- Faculty Senate will present the Policy to all faculty members to educate faculty on the Policy, answer questions, and build buy-in
- Students will find this policy in the student handbook and receive education during new student orientation
- This Policy will be displayed in both the employee and student handbooks, monitors throughout campus, as well as the College's sustainability website, and be prominently featured in new hire orientation, new student orientation, and the first year experiences
- The College will prominently display anti-idling signs in key areas on campus to alert drivers to the policy, include this policy in all contracts and Requests For Proposals (RFPs), and communicate this language to visitors and athletic vehicles traveling to campus¹

If you have questions about this policy, please contact Ian MacEachen, Director of Campus Safety, imaceachen@sjcme.edu, 207-893-6686. (Campus Safety)

¹ In order to identify the most effective signage and locations of the signage, the College has charged the Sustainability Task Force with creating signage and proposing locations for display