

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 3, 2024
TO Honorable Chair and Committee Members of the Parks, Trails, & the Environment Committee
SUBJECT **Landscape Equipment Transition Plan**

Background

On May 6, 2024, the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS) briefed the Parks, Trails, and the Environment (PTE) Committee on the Landscape Equipment Transition (LET) Plan. During the meeting, councilmembers asked questions and made comments related to the LET Plan. Below please find answers and responses to those questions and comments.

Answers and Responses to Questions and Comments

Question/Comment #1: During the briefing, staff commented that OEQS is using approximately \$750,000 from a multi-year fund to implement and maintain the program. Councilmember Moreno, Vice Chair of the PTE Committee, voiced concerns about the longevity of the program after those funds are depleted.

Answer/Response #1: During the briefing, staff stated that OEQS will seek to identify additional funds to implement the program. OEQS will continue to engage state and federal partners to identify additional resources. No additional resources have been identified to date.

Question/Comment #2: Vice Chair Moreno asked whether residents of multi-family housing were eligible to participate in the residential rebate program, which would provide rebates to residents who are purchasing electric or battery powered landscape equipment.

Answer/Response #2: Phase 1 of the rebate program was developed to assist residents who maintain their lawns (e.g. single-family homes, duplexes, etc.).

Question/Comment #3: The Committee voiced concerns about whether the plan ensured the proper disposal of LET batteries.

Answer/Response #3: The LET Plan includes an outreach program, including educating residents on how to properly dispose of rechargeable batteries. Residents can recycle rechargeable batteries, for example, at a number of locations and events, including the Dallas County Household Chemical Collection Center, and Sanitation Services BOPA events.

Question/Comment #4: Regarding City property maintenance, Chair Stewart recommended implementing a strategy to ensure an effective transition to electric and battery powered equipment.

Answer/Response #4: OEQS staff will work with the city departments to ensure an effective transition to electric and battery powered equipment. Note that the current grounds

maintenance contract between Park and Recreation (PKR) and Good Earth Incorporated (Good Earth), approved by Council on December 14, 2022, requires that Good Earth implement a Pilot Program to use non-gas powered equipment at sixteen locations, listed within the contract.

Question/Comment #5: Chair Stewart recommended that staff limit the rebate to only two to three types of equipment, thereby spreading the investment over more residential households.

Answer/Response #5: OEQS updated the plan to limit the types of equipment covered by the rebate program. The updated rebate program now covers push mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and batteries.

Question/Comment #6: The Committee members asked whether there will be online forms.

Answer/Response #6: Staff anticipates the application and any forms being online.

Question/Comment #7: Committee members asked which retailers will support the LET Plan.

Answer/Response #7: Retailers will be identified using the City's procurement process.

Conclusion

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carlos Evans, Director of OEQS, at 214-670-1642 or carlos.evans@dallas.gov.

Sincerely,



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