

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 12, 2023
TO Honorable Chair Blackmon and Members of the Environment & Sustainability Committee
SUBJECT **Gas-Powered Landscape Equipment Policy Follow-Up**

The Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability (OEQS) briefed the Environmental Commission (EVC) on November 9, 2022, and the Environment & Sustainability Committee (ENVS) on December 5th, 2022, respectively, providing recommendations concerning the plan for landscape equipment transition (LET) implementation. OEQS will provide monthly status updates on program implementation. The following provides a summary of steps taken over the previous month toward advancing this City Council goal

Technical Support Contract:

OEQS has contracted with Modern Geosciences for technical support services including but not limited to: assistance in researching other community implementation, including related codes and ordinances; creating a community survey instrument; and developing the detailed internal and external transition plan. Staff are meeting with the technical consultant on a bi-weekly basis to coordinate efforts towards this project.

Stakeholder Engagement Efforts:

Staff are continuing internal and external stakeholder meetings. City staff have reached out to Seattle, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. to attain copies of their related outreach tools and ordinances.

- Internal: OEQS has begun bi-monthly meetings with City departments that use landscape equipment to attain feedback on meeting City transition goals and identify equipment inventory being maintained by each department. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2023.
- External: OEQS has engaged several members of the public, including homeowners, landscape companies, landscape associations, and the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). At upcoming DISD events, staff will be observing landscape vendors as they demonstrate new electric equipment. The next scheduled meeting of the external stakeholders group is scheduled for January 19, 2023.
- The technical consultant has developed a community survey to be deployed within the next couple of weeks to attain community feedback on the program. This survey will be provided to the public in several different ways, including through the OEQS media campaign, other departments (e.g., Planning & Urban Design's neighborhood association newsletter), the EVC, and other entities.

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Physical Equipment Inventory

Staff have developed and distributed a template for use by departments when identifying equipment inventory. These inventories are due back to OEQS by mid-January to be compiled into a comprehensive inventory of the City's current inventory. Once compiled, each department will then work towards the 2023 incremental goal for transition.

Program Media Campaign

OEQS is developing a LET media campaign as a part of a larger comprehensive multi-issue, multi-platform, and multi-lingual outreach and engagement plan to reach affected business and residents. With a desire to implement this campaign as soon as practicable, staff plans to brief the CMO by mid-January in order to attain necessary program approvals, prior to related media contracting.

Regulatory Engagement:

Given the region's current severe non-attainment status related to ozone, City staff have held related conversations with staff from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to discuss including the LET Plan as a part of the TCEQ's Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Carlos Evans, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability at carlos.evans@dallas.gov; 469-617-1925.



Carlos Evans
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