

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 6, 2022

TO Honorable Members of the Environment & Sustainability Committee

SUBJECT **Recommendation on a Gas-Powered Landscape Equipment Policy**

As requested, this memorandum outlines the recommendation of the Environmental Commission (Commission) regarding a policy on the use of gas-powered landscape equipment, including leaf blowers and other gas-powered machinery. In June 2022, the Environmental Commission's Environmental Health Committee found that implementing a policy would help to address air quality concerns and mitigate health impacts to both operators of gas-powered landscape equipment and the general public and recommended a phased implementation of any such policy. Commissioners met with manufacturers, landscape professionals, a landscape association and community members on this issue.

## **Recommendation**

On August 10, 2022, the Commission voted unanimously in favor of the following recommendation:

- That the tiered implementation method recommended by the Environmental Health Committee include an annual compliance timeline by landscape company size as follows:
  - One year for large landscaping companies
  - Two years for medium-sized landscaping companies; and
  - Three years for small businesses and residents.
- That the tiered implementation (compliance) timeline only be implemented after the City itself fully converts its own gas-powered landscape equipment to battery-powered equipment;
- That the City establish an incentive fund for residents and small businesses and that it partner with a manufacturer and/or distributor to identify a match for any considered rebate; and
- Finally, that upon approval of a policy recommendation by the Environment & Sustainability Council Committee, the city conduct a minimum of 10 weeks of community engagement in English and Spanish, with an emphasis on Spanish outreach, before the item goes before the full city council for a vote.

## **Additional Considerations**

The Commission also discussed conducting a survey of landscape professionals operating in Dallas to determine the average number of employees, revenue and equipment quantity and types needed by the various company sizes. This information would assist in determining how to create the tiered business-size categories for

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implementation, the potential financial impact to each company by size and the estimated cost to the City of establishing an incentive fund.

The Commission's recommendation for community engagement prior to policy adoption is separate from and in addition to the ongoing outreach and education after policy adoption that will be necessary throughout the phased implementation to achieve compliance. Engagement prior to policy adoption should be tailored to formats most likely to reach landscaping professionals who are unlikely to be engaged by the city's standard outreach methods.

Procurement for citywide landscape services is currently underway. A Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal recently closed, and two contracts totaling \$32.3M are scheduled for council consideration in the coming months. The solicitation includes options for use of battery-powered equipment at just 15 of 539 sites. Following a policy adoption, the City should consider whether future procurement for citywide landscape services be exclusively for the use of battery-powered equipment.

Given the shortage of lithium batteries across all industries, including battery-powered landscape equipment, the City may consider prioritizing the replacement of its own gas-powered equipment by most impactful in terms of emissions reductions.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the recommendations or need further information at [kathryn.bazan@dallas.gov](mailto:kathryn.bazan@dallas.gov).



Kathryn Bazan  
Chairwoman  
City of Dallas Environmental Commission

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