RESOLUTION No.

Direct all City bureaus to transition from gas-powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers (Resolution)

WHEREAS, we are in a climate crisis, with greenhouse gas emissions increasing global warming, droughts, severe storms and cyclones, catastrophic wildfires, rising ocean temperatures, habitat loss, and species extinction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is dedicated to reducing its carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is a national leader in green energy, green infrastructure, and environmentally-conscious initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 Portland was the first city in the United States to adopt a climate action plan, and in 2017 the City of Portland and Multnomah County pledged to transition to 100% clean energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, gasoline accounted for 25% of carbon emissions in Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to further reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, including by transitioning its fleet of vehicles to electric and hybrid models; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers emit harmful chemicals including carcinogens, other cancer-causing compounds, smog-forming agents, greenhouse gasses, and are known to damage soil health and wildlife ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers often produce high levels of noise, and prolonged exposure can contribute to permanent hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to ensuring safe working conditions for its staff, and a healthy, livable community for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that there is alternative landscaping equipment to gas-powered leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, City bureaus including Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland Bureau of Transportation have begun transitioning to electric and battery-operated equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the harmful environmental and public health effects of gas-powered leaf blowers, and is proud to join cities nationwide in regulating their use; and
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, City bureaus will transition away from using gas-powered leaf blowers and increase their use of electric and battery-operated models in an effort to better protect public health and the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus will continue to comply with City code 18.10.035, which includes operating restrictions, allowable noise levels, and use in large open spaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus that can fully transition to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers will do so by January 1, 2021 and will request any necessary new resources in their FY 20-21 requested budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus that use handheld gas-powered leaf blowers will transition that equipment to electric and/or battery-operated models by January 1, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with the City’s Sustainable Procurement Policy, City procurements with effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2021 that involve leaf blowers shall consider use of electric and/or battery-operated models to be a Baseline Best Practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus that use backpack-model blowers, shall, as soon as the performance of electric and/or battery-powered models meet their operational needs, transition to battery-operated equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus and City contractors do not, and shall not, blow leaves and other debris onto neighboring properties, and the City encourages Portland residents to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Portland City Council supports efforts to regulate gas-powered leaf blowers in urban environments and shall convene a working group to consider an equitable city-wide transition to electric and battery-operated leaf blowers.

Adopted by the Council:

Commissioner Nick Fish
Prepared by: Asena Lawrence
Date Prepared: Nov. 25, 2019

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By
Deputy
IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Direct all City bureaus to transition from gas-powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers (Resolution)

Contact name: Asena Lawrence
Contact phone: (503) 823.3598
Presenter name: Asena Lawrence, Senior Policy Director

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Financial and budgetary impacts:
None.

Community impacts and community involvement:
Community stakeholders and government partners were engaged in the development of this resolution. This resolution directs a working group to consider an equitable city-wide transition from gas-powered to electric and battery-operated leaf blower models in the future. That working group will include small business leaders, minority contracting organizations, community stakeholders, and City staff.

100% Renewable Goal:
This resolution contributes to the City of Portland’s goal of meeting 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 by decreasing City bureaus’ use of gas-powered landscaping equipment.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?
☐ YES: Please complete the information below.
☒ NO: Skip this section

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<th>Commitment Item</th>
<th>Functional Area</th>
<th>Funded Program</th>
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AUGUST 2017 version