

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 5, 2022

TO Honorable Chair Blackmon and Members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

SUBJECT **Follow-Up on Landscape Equipment Transition Efforts**

This memorandum provides an update to the Dallas City Council to follow up on recommendations concerning Gas-powered Landscape Equipment Policy made to the Dallas Environment and Sustainability City Council Committee (ENVS) on August 15, 2022 ([link here](#)), and on November 7, 2022 ([link here](#)).

In response to a request by Chair Blackmon, staff is providing this follow-up memorandum to outline the approach to recommendations made by the ENVS Committee while considering the Environmental Commission recommendations that can be found [here](#).

This approach is built upon the prior work regarding gas-powered landscape equipment policy and towards bringing forward a detailed transition plan for consideration as part of the June 5, 2023 ENVS Committee agenda, towards full transition to battery/electric powered landscape equipment occurring by the year 2027. In developing this updated approach and timeline, staff met with relevant departments, manufacturers, landscape professionals, a landscape association, and community members on this issue. The next steps to be performed within the next 6 months are:

- **Landscape Equipment Transition Support Contract:** Staff has contracted with Modern Geosciences, which has been selected by OEQS as the most qualified firm to provide air quality and air monitoring services through the general non-engineering environmental services master agreement, completed the most recent City greenhouse gas inventory, is familiar with multiple City Departments, is familiar with multiple modeling programs, and has demonstrated a continued ability to work across multiple areas needed to embark on a successful data analysis and community outreach campaign. Support services provided by Modern Geosciences and any necessary subcontractors will include, but are not limited to: working with community stakeholders, developing and implementing an appropriate survey to attain community concerns and support; developing a full City-equipment inventory; developing an estimate of the number of affected commercial and residential landscapers in Dallas, researching related codes and ordinances from other cities, and developing a program of appropriate incentives, with estimated budget implications.
- **Outreach & Engagement:** OEQS will work with the COM Department to create graphics and solicit social and traditional media programming contracts to support public messaging about the “Why” for implementing this transition. It is anticipated that the public awareness campaign will initiate in February after the holiday season, but before spring lawn season.

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- **City Equipment Transition:** Work with relevant departments to procure professional grade battery-electric equipment and charging equipment so that approximately 20 percent of City equipment is transitioned by the end of calendar year 2023. A mid-year budget appropriation may be requested to support program implementation. Data is still being collected regarding a cost estimate for this transition.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Convene a working group of the Texas Landscape & Nursery Association, The Texas Construction Association, the Black Contractors Association, Hispanic Contractors Association, and others to attain input as the transition plan is developed.
- **City Department Engagement:** OEQS will continue working with departments affected by such a transition to identify equipment and related budgetary impacts associated with this transition.
- **ENVS Committee / Park Board / Environmental Commission / Environmental Health Committee / WEE Committee Coordination:** OEQS will continue to engage the ENVS Committee on this matter, including planned monthly briefings to the committee until the committee votes on a plan or the committee provides an alternative briefing strategy. OEQS will continue to ensure that the Park Board, the Environmental Commission, the Environmental Health Committee, and the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee are apprised of findings towards the draft landscape equipment transition plan. Staff anticipates providing the draft plan to these entities for review and approval prior to bringing this plan to ENVS for a vote.

OEQS looks forward to continued work with ENVS Committee and the Environmental Commission during implementation. Should you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Carlos Evans at (214) 670-1642.



Carlos Evans  
Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

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