

MOTION ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, PARKS, AND RIVER

The City of Los Angeles has long been an environmental leader, setting ambitious goals for the reduction of pollution and greenhouse gases (GHGs), and implementing departmental improvements that help achieve these reductions. The City Council continues to step up its efforts, approving and considering legislation calling for emergency greenhouse gas reductions. The City must continue to lead on large and small climate mitigation actions if we are to keep the planet well below a dangerous 1.5 °C of warming.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has more than 450 parks, 13 golf courses and hundreds of athletic fields on more than 16,000 acres of parkland, most of which are currently maintained by dirty-emission gasoline-powered equipment. Maintaining these spaces also means the City's groundskeepers are routinely exposed to harmful air and noise emissions from this equipment while doing their jobs. Providing outdoor green space that is free of toxic fossil fuel emissions and air pollution is a basic service that the City should be providing. Zero emission groundskeeping technology, including leaf blowers, lawn mowers and edgers, has advanced to a point where the City should evaluate the feasibility of a complete transition to zero emissions technologies.

In February 2015, South Pasadena began piloting a 100% gas and emissions free municipal park. In partnership with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) -- who makes emission-free equipment available to public agencies at reduced cost -- South Pasadena participated in the Cordless Electric Lawn equipment loaner program for three months. Additional benefits beyond the GHG and air pollution reductions included 50% reduction in noise pollution and cost savings of \$900 per month in oil and gas. After the successful pilot, South Pasadena has maintained all its city parks with zero emission equipment since January 1st, 2016.

In undertaking a transition to a clean energy system, it is important for the City to consider launching pilot projects in frontline communities identified as having the worst air pollution, so that those who have suffered most receive first benefits.

Maintaining the City's green space with low noise, zero-emission equipment is feasible. The technology is available now, there are incentive programs available to help finance the transition, and converting from out-of-date gas equipment that is hazardous to the publics' and operators' health will benefit everyone and provide budgetary benefits.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Recreation and Parks to report within 30 days on a strategy and timeline by which it can pilot and evaluate the use of zero emissions maintenance equipment at parks or golf courses in neighborhoods where improved air quality could be most beneficial.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, Fifth District


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, Thirteenth District

SECONDED BY:

FEB 14 2018



ORIGINAL