

RESOLUTION No. 37463

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

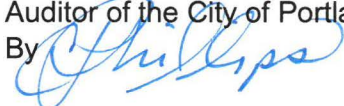
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus that use backpack-model blowers, shall, as soon as the performance of electric and/or battery-powered models meet their operational needs, transition to battery-operated equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City bureaus and City contractors do not, and shall not, blow leaves and other debris onto neighboring properties, or onto sidewalks/into the street except on leaf-collection days in leaf-collection areas, 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.

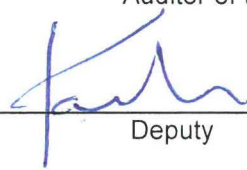
Adopted by the Council: DEC 05 2019

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

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By 
Deputy

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| <p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Fish</p> | <p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>NOV 25 2019</u></p> |
| <p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance & Administration – Wheeler</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Hardesty</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By:  Deputy</p> |
| <p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: Comm Fish Bureau Head: Nick Fish</p> <p>Prepared by: Asena Lawrence Date Prepared: 11/25/2019</p> <p>Impact Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Portland Policy Document If "Yes" requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances</p> <p>City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p> <p>Council Meeting Date: December 4, 2019</p> | |
| <p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> | |

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| AGENDA |
| <p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Start time: 2:00pm</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 30 minutes (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p> |
| <p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p> |

| FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA | COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|
| | | YEAS | NAYS |
| 1. Fritz | 1. Fritz | ✓ | |
| 2. Fish | 2. Fish | ✓ | |
| 3. Hardesty | 3. Hardesty | _____ | |
| 4. Eudaly | 4. Eudaly | ✓ | |
| Wheeler | Wheeler | ✓ | |