



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

AGENDA AND NOTICE:
CLIMATE ACTION & RESILIENCE
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY | 6:00 PM
21 February 2023

*McCloskey Conference Room (#135), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street
The public may also access the meeting at the following link:*

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/81244275274?pwd=bWdKUEo5LzJHUXVJODYzTWsyXJ1QT09>

Chair: Dave Rollo

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND ON GAS POWERED LAWN EQUIPMENT PHASE-OUT GOAL
- III. COMMENTS FROM STAFF (IF ANY)
- IV. QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- V. STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION
- VI. SCHEDULING
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

[Link](#) to the Committee's November 29, 2022 meeting packet, containing examples of regulations from other communities.



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council**

NOTICE

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

**Council Climate Action and Resilience Committee
Starting at 6:00 pm**

This meeting will be held in the McCloskey Conference Room (Suite #135, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St) and may also be accessed electronically via Zoom (see information below).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/81244275274?pwd=bWdKUeO5LzJHUXVjODYzTWsyaXJ1QT09>

Meeting ID: 812 4427 5274

Passcode: 186730

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,81244275274# US

+13126266799,,81244275274# US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/81244275274?pwd=bWdKUeO5LzJHUXVjODYzTWsyaXJ1QT09>

As a quorum of the Council or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

Strategy TL 1-I:

Reduce citywide off-road and lawn equipment annual emissions to below 35,000 metric tons. (equipment includes gas and diesel powered construction equipment, recreational equipment, and lawn equipment)

Emissions from off-road equipment like construction and lawn equipment comprise a significant portion of fossil fuel consumption in Bloomington. Reduction of fossil fuel off-road equipment use is associated with improved emissions as well as improved air quality, particularly for the users of the equipment. <https://www.edmunds.com/car-reviews/features/emissions-test-car-vs-truck-vs-leaf-blower.html>

How We'll Measure Progress:

City electric off-road equipment adoption rate, policy adoption status

Co-Benefits of Strategy:

Improved Air Quality



Reduced GHG Emissions



Actions	Implementation Phase
TL1-I-1 Introduce a policy to replace City off-road and lawn equipment with electric and low-carbon fuel alternative options at the time of replacement with traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) as optional requiring proof of need. Establish emissions standards, testing and biofuel preference for any combustion vehicles remaining in the equipment fleet. Encourage County, School District, and Indiana University to develop and implement their own policies.	1
TL1-I-2 Develop an incentive program to convert fuel-burning lawn equipment such as gas-powered lawn mowers and blowers to electric. Coordinate with Duke Energy for support and identification of additional rebate programs to promote electric yard equipment.	2
TL1-I-3 Establish a gas powered lawn equipment phase-out ordinance transitioning to lawn equipment powered by electricity or alternative clean fuels and decreased noise pollution levels.	2
TL1-I-4 Develop an incentive program to convert fuel-burning lawn equipment such as gas-powered lawn mowers and blowers to electric. Coordinate with Duke Energy for support and identification of additional rebate programs to promote electric yard equipment.	2



Public Works - Gas-Powered Inventory

Equipment	Quantity
Backpack Blower	4
Handheld Blower	6
Chain Saws	14
Demo Saw	2
Pole Saw	3
Saw	2
Walk-Behind Saw	1
Weedeater/String Trimmer	12
Hedge Trimmer	2
Generator	4
Power Washer	5
Push Mower	2
Striper	2
Surface Grinder	1
Paint Sprayer	1
Air Compressor	1
Plate Compactor	1

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation

Hand and Power Equipment Electrification Overview

Reflects equipment purchased as of Feb. 2023. Does not include further planned 2023 purchases.

	Weed Eaters/Trimmers		Handheld Blowers		Backpack Blowers		Hedge Trimmer		Chainsaws		Mowers: Push		Mowers: Riding/Zero Turn*		UTVs*	
	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas	Battery	Gas
General Operations	1	6	1	8	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	11	1	4
Urban Greenspace	2	2	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cemeteries	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	1
Urban Forestry	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	0			
Natural Resources	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Switchyard Park	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Twin Lakes Rec Center	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	1
Cascades Golf Course	0	5	0	2	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	9	0	2
Winslow Sports Park	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	5	31	5	14	5	7	1	6	1	13	1	6	3	31	3	9
	13.89%	86.11%	26.32%	73.68%	41.67%	58.33%	14.29%	85.71%	7.14%	92.86%	14.29%	85.71%	8.82%	91.18%	25.00%	75.00%
Hand equipment totals																
Battery:	17		19.32%													
Gas:	71		80.68%													

* - Includes the purchase of three battery zero-turn mowers arriving in Spring 2023

**UTVs -- includes equipment like Gators, staff golf carts, and B-Line patrol vehicle. Excludes golf cart fleet for Cascades Golf Course (75 vehicles, all electric).

Stakeholder Survey - Gas-Powered Equipment (Responses)

Email Address:

1. bscarter6@gmail.com
2. jeremy@greenscapers.com
3. brianj@designhort.com
4. Thrasherlandscape@gmail.com
5. tim.street@bloomington.in.gov
6. lester.anders@natureslinkinc.com

Does your business use electric equipment when available?

1. no
2. No
3. some, but none of the ones listed above
4. yes
5. Yes
6. no

If your business does not use electric equipment, what are the primary reasons for using gas-powered (or two-stroke oil/gas mixture) equipment instead?

1. Price point, efficiency, consistency, and overall more reliable
2. ease of maintenance and initial cost
3. electric equipment has not come fare enough yet, it doesn't work as well and doesn't run for near as long
4. The quality of all the equipment is not all the way there. To keep up with the usage during the day, is going to take time for it to catch up.
5. For certain heavy-duty uses gas equipment is still necessary.

6. doesn't hold charge long enough can't recharge mobility

What would it require for you to switch some or all of your equipment to electric?

1. improvements in all weather conditions
2. Reduced cost, better technology (run times)
3. better technology
4. This stuff is relatively new on the commercial side to hold up to the amount of time it would be used. The additional cost to implement all of it, with charging station, how to charge it on the job, and service providers.
5. Funding would take care of replacing most equipment. For a few items, we would need the technology to advance a bit more as it relates to power and battery life.
6. better technology and mobile charging

Which pieces of equipment would be the most challenging to switch to electric?

1. heavy equipment
2. Fertilizer Application machines (none exist) and lawn mowers (price) (
3. lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, chainsaws, leaf vacuums
4. Mower, Blower,
5. Chainsaws, heavier-duty lawnmowers/bush hogs. We have had good success with blowers and trimmers.
6. large mowers/equipment

What is a realistic timeline, considering your normal replacement schedule, for converting some or all of your gas-powered equipment to electric?

1. no time line until significant improvements are made
2. 5-10 years
3. not until the technology improves - years

4. Look at Cell phone 10 years ago compared today, on how we use and all the features. It will take 10 years to catch up. I say 10 years

5. 2-4 years. Most equipment could be replaced with appropriate funding very quickly, and I imagine technology will advance on some of the heavier-duty items in the coming years.

6. 3-5 years

Is there anything else on this topic you'd like to share with the councilmembers?

1. please bring back common sense and focus our efforts and tax dollars on more productive issues.

2. Electric powered equipment is a great idea, as of now the initial investment is prohibitive unless those costs are passed onto the consumer. Most clients would see somewhere in the 30-50% range on price increases.

3. it is unrealistic at this point to expect business to be able to do the same work in the same amount of time by using sub par electric equipment, the cost to the customers would skyrocket

4. No

5. I'm happy to answer more questions if needed.

6. doing this will be much easier for larger companies but smaller companies and mom and pops will be put out of business