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24 **WHEREAS**, Travis County ranks 27th in the nation for the amount of carbon
25 dioxide produced by lawn and garden equipment; and

26 **WHEREAS**, gas lawnmowers and leaf blowers are significant greenhouse
27 gas emitters, releasing over 20 million tons of CO₂ in 2020; and

28 **WHEREAS**, gas-powered products contribute to noise pollution by
29 producing sound at a level deemed unsafe by the World Health Organization; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Environment America's recent report shows refueling
31 lawnmowers results in 17 million gallons of spilled gasoline per year, producing
32 groundwater pollution and harm toward wildlife; and

33 **WHEREAS**, electric-powered products have less maintenance and fuel costs
34 over time; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Equity Plan has adopted goals around electrification
36 and decreasing carbon emissions; and

37 **WHEREAS**, City Council recently passed Resolution No. 20240215-25,
38 calling for an investment in the City's environmental goals; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Austin Energy already provides a rebate to residents purchasing
40 new electric equipment; and

41 **WHEREAS**, the current cost difference between electric and gas-powered
42 lawn care equipment after the Austin Energy rebate varies from \$165-\$370; and

43 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to not only incentivize the purchase of new
44 electric lawn care equipment, but to dispose of existing gas machinery safely; and

45 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, a
46 federal bill creating federal funding opportunities for environmental programs,

47 including electric lawn care; and

48 **WHEREAS**, cities including Toledo, Louisville, and Salt Lake City have
49 implemented programs that allow residents to dispose of their gas lawn mower in
50 exchange for a rebate for an electric lawn mower; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

51 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

52 The City Manager is directed to explore a program, including utilizing pop-
53 up events and in-store programs, that allows Austin area residents or small
54 businesses operating in Austin to turn in and properly dispose of gas-powered
55 landscape maintenance equipment in exchange for a rebate for an electric or
56 manual alternative, in an amount that at least covers the price difference between a
57 typical gas versus electric option.

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

59 The City Manager is directed to explore expanding and promoting the
60 current electric lawn care rebate, to better incentivize consumers and professional
61 landscape maintenance businesses to transition away from gas-powered products.

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 The City Manager is directed to make recommendations for action and
64 implement strategies for community outreach in promotion of the pilot program, in
65 partnership with relevant community stakeholders and groups.

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

67 The City Manager is directed to report back to the City Council with
68 recommendations for a lead department, funding options, and implementation plan
69 to be adopted in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council amends its state and federal legislative agendas to include supporting legislation related to maximizing local availability of federal resources for the transition away from gas-powered equipment.

ADOPTED: _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk