

# air pollution control district


SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Date: December 19, 2019  
Agenda Placement: Regular  
Estimated Time: 15 minutes  
Continued Item: No

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## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Molly Pearson, Planning Division Manager (805-961-8838)

SUBJECT: Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the District to establish and implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program.

### BACKGROUND:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's (District) Clean Air Fund was established by your Board on March 21<sup>st</sup> of 2019 with Resolution 19-03. In the resolution, \$100,000 of Notice of Violation revenues was allocated to Clean Air Fund projects undertaken by the District and/or third parties that provide air quality and human health benefits to the Santa Barbara County Community. Based upon community interest, the District has designed a pilot program to use these funds to provide financial incentives for commercial landscape businesses and other public and private organizations to encourage adoption and utilization of zero-emission landscape equipment.

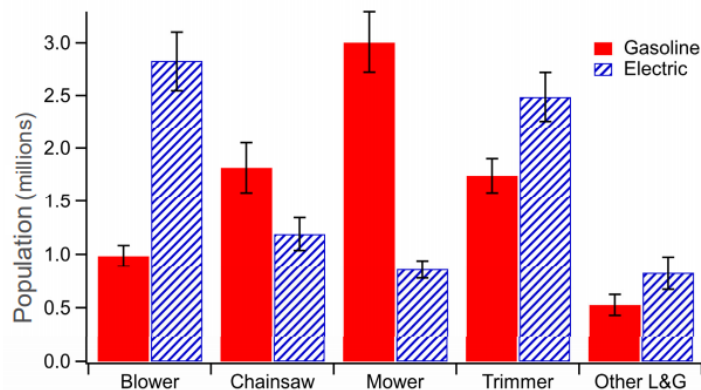
The District has received public complaints about air pollutant emissions from landscape equipment in neighborhoods throughout Santa Barbara County. Gasoline- and diesel-powered landscape equipment emits nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants. Today, operating the best-selling gas-powered commercial lawn mower for one hour emits as much smog-forming pollution as driving a top-selling 2017 passenger car about 300 miles – approximately the distance from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. For the best-selling gas-powered commercial leaf blower, one hour of operation emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a passenger car about 1100 miles, or approximately the distance from Los Angeles to Denver. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimates that in the early

Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

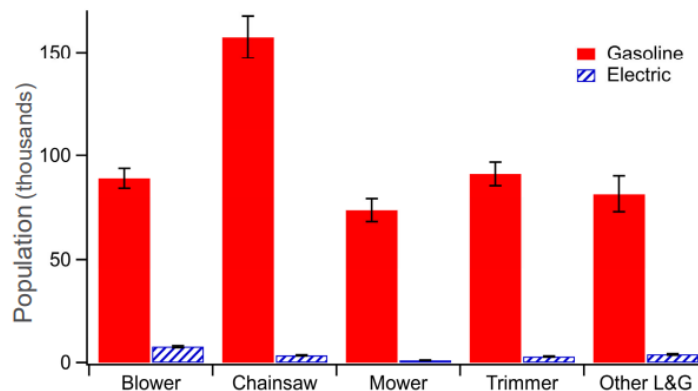
2020s, smog-forming emissions from small engines (a large portion of which are used in landscape equipment) will exceed those emissions from passenger cars statewide.<sup>1</sup>

A recent survey conducted by CARB found that households in California are adopting and utilizing electric landscape equipment across the spectrum of equipment types (Figure 1). Electric blowers and trimmers are now more widely used in California households than their gasoline counterparts. However, licensed landscape businesses in California have been much slower to adopt electric technology (Figure 2). The District has talked with multiple landscape businesses that have expressed concerns about the performance and battery longevity of electric landscape equipment.

**Figure 1: Residential Use of Gasoline and Electric Landscape Equipment in California<sup>2</sup>**



**Figure 2: Licensed Landscape Businesses Use of Gasoline and Electric Landscape Equipment in California<sup>3</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> California Air Resources Board. *Small Engine Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from: [https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/offroad/sore/sm\\_en\\_fs.pdf?\\_ga=2.83092246.1447910405.1573154190-1134417184.1562866995](https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/offroad/sore/sm_en_fs.pdf?_ga=2.83092246.1447910405.1573154190-1134417184.1562866995)

<sup>2</sup> Based on survey results conducted by CARB and the California State University Fullerton Social Science Research Center. n=1,152.

<sup>3</sup> Based on survey results conducted by CARB and the California State University Fullerton Social Science Research Center. n=1,350.

Nine other air districts in the State have successfully curbed emissions by launching programs incentivizing adoption of electric landscape equipment. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and South Coast Air Quality Management District all run programs which target commercial landscape equipment. District staff studied the implementation of these programs in order to design this pilot program for Santa Barbara County.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The LEEF Pilot Program will offer vouchers to landscape businesses as well as public agencies and public or private schools that perform their own landscape maintenance services, to help them transition to the use of zero-emission electric landscape equipment. Adoption of zero-emission landscape equipment will help reduce emissions from gasoline- and diesel-powered landscape equipment and will also help community members, businesses, and employees experience the benefits of cleaner technology that may ultimately lead to change consumer purchases throughout the county.

Eligible businesses and agencies can receive a voucher of up to \$10,000 for purchase of electric ride-on mowers, walk-behind mowers, leaf blowers, leaf vacuums, edgers, trimmers, chainsaws, and pole saws. The voucher will cover up to 60% of the equipment purchase price and up to 100% of the purchase price for an additional battery and charger for each piece of equipment purchased.

During the implementation of the LEEF Pilot Program, challenges and lessons learned will be documented and used to help improve, and possibly expand, the program in the future. Upon Board approval, we plan to launch the LEEF Pilot Program on March 3, 2020.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The District has identified \$100,000 from the Clean Air Fund to implement this program. The Clean Air Fund is included in the District's budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Board Resolution – Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program
- B. Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program Work Plan

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT  
ELECTRIFICATION  
FUND (LEEF) PILOT PROGRAM

APCD RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) is an agency with the mission to protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, gasoline- and diesel-powered landscape equipment emit nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants; and

**WHEREAS**, gasoline- and diesel-powered landscape equipment pose a threat to public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the District receives public complaints about air pollutant emissions from landscape equipment in neighborhoods throughout Santa Barbara County; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's Clean Air Fund was established by your Board on March 21<sup>st</sup> of 2019 with Resolution 19-03. In the resolution, \$100,000 of Notice of Violation revenues was allocated to Clean Air Fund projects undertaken by the District and/or third parties that provide air quality and human health benefits to the Santa Barbara County Community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program will provide financial incentive to purchase electric-powered landscape equipment to help the industry transition to cleaner technologies and to improve the public health in neighborhoods throughout Santa Barbara County; and

APCD RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT  
ELECTRIFICATION FUND (LEEF) PILOT PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to delegate authority to the Air Pollution Control Officer to implement the LEEF Pilot Program within the parameters of the Clean Air Fund established by the Board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, as follows:

1. The Board hereby approves the use of \$100,000 of the Clean Air Fund balance to fund the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program, and delegates authority to the Air Pollution Control Officer to implement the LEEF Pilot Program within the parameters established by the Board. Those parameters are set forth in Attachment B, "Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Pilot Program Work Plan."

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APCD RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT  
ELECTRIFICATION FUND (LEEF) PILOT PROGRAM

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Air Pollution Control District Board of the  
Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019, by the following  
vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

ATTEST:

AERON ARLIN GENET  
Clerk of the Board

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

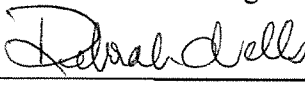
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI  
County Counsel

By   
Deputy


APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAY AROMATORIO, ARM, AIC  
Risk Manager

By   
Risk Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BETSY M. SHAFFER, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

By   
Deputy

# Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF)

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## PILOT PROGRAM WORK PLAN

DECEMBER, 2019



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## **I. Overview**

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The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District has designed the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) program to help commercial landscape businesses and other public and private agencies to adopt zero-emission landscape equipment. The program will offer vouchers to landscape businesses as well as public agencies and schools that perform their own landscape maintenance services. Adoption of zero-emission landscape equipment will help reduce emissions from gasoline- and diesel-powered landscape equipment, and will also help community members, businesses, and employees experience the benefits of cleaner technology that may ultimately lead to changes in consumer purchases on a county-wide level.

This year's program is being run as a pilot program. Any encountered challenges and lessons learned will be documented and used to improve the program in the future. LEEF is administered by the District and \$100,000 from the District's Clean Air Fund was budgeted for use in Fiscal Year 2019-20.

## **II. Applicant Eligibility**

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The LEEF incentive funds are distributed as vouchers on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible participants that submit a complete application to the District, with District discretion to re-allocate funds if necessary. Early applications will not be accepted. Initially, 50% of LEEF funds will be allocated for commercial landscape businesses, and 50% will be allocated for other eligible entities, as described below. If the program is not receiving sufficient demand from commercial landscape businesses to reach the 50% allocation within three months of the date the program starts accepting applications, the District has the discretion to reallocate the funds to other eligible entities. Vouchers will expire 60 days from the time they are issued, but can be extended at the discretion of the District.

The LEEF Voucher is available to the following entities that are located in or do business within Santa Barbara County and will commit to use the equipment for a minimum of 3 years, and a majority (greater than 50%) of the time within Santa Barbara County:

- Commercial landscaping businesses
- The following entities are eligible if they provide in-house landscape maintenance for their grounds:
  - Public agencies
  - Public/private schools or school districts

Commercial businesses will be required to provide their business license as part of the application. Each entity is eligible for a voucher, which will be capped at a maximum of \$10,000.

### III. Equipment Eligibility and Voucher Amounts

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In order to receive reimbursement, equipment purchased for use with the voucher must be an all-electric model of one of the equipment types listed below. Equipment must be new, and can be purchased from any retailer or manufacturer of electric landscape equipment, including online retailers and manufacturers. Each voucher amount is based on the purchase price of the eligible electric equipment and does not include additional costs such as taxes, fees, accessories and delivery charges. Actual reimbursement amounts may be reduced based on the final cost of eligible equipment identified in the purchase receipt.

The maximum voucher amounts for each type of equipment are specified below. As mentioned earlier, the voucher amounts are capped at a total of \$10,000 per business/agency.

Equipment Type	Voucher Amount	
Equipment Type	Ride-on Mowers, Walk-behind Mowers, Leaf Blowers, Leaf Vacuums, Edgers, Trimmers, Chainsaws & Pole Saws	60% of purchase price
	Additional Batteries & Chargers*	100% of purchase price. Limited to one additional battery/charger per piece of equipment purchased

\*Batteries and chargers must be for equipment purchased through the program

#### Voucher Reimbursement

The District will accept applications and issue vouchers until all funds are obligated. Once all funds are obligated, the District will start a waiting list of applications in the order they are received. Once all funds have been liquidated, the District will stop accepting applications but will add the contact information of interested parties to the waiting list for future potential funding opportunities.

After purchasing the new equipment, each applicant will submit their voucher to the District for reimbursement before the voucher expiration date (i.e. 60 days after voucher issuance). The submittal packet must include all necessary information before payment will be dispersed including:

1. Signed voucher;
2. Receipts of purchased equipment;
3. Substitute W9 Form, exact form to be provided by the District; and
4. California Form 590, Withholding Exemption Certificate.

The District will repay the applicant via check within 45 days after all of the required submittal materials have been provided.

## IV. Outreach and Education

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The District will provide program information on the District's website, [ourair.org](http://ourair.org), and will advertise the LEEF program to entities that are eligible for the voucher. The District has identified 60 commercial landscape businesses (31 in South County and 29 in North County), nine public agencies, and 23 school districts and universities that are good candidates for outreach.

Initial outreach ideas include:

- Postcards and emails to identified commercial landscape businesses, public agencies, school districts, and universities in the county
- News releases (with Spanish translation) with full distribution
  - Social media (Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor)
  - Send to Board members
  - Send to CAC members
  - Via MailChimp
  - Follow-up outreach to KEYT, Noozhawk, Santa Maria Times, and Spanish radio
  - Postcards to organizations that promote green or sustainable landscaping (e.g., Santa Barbara County Green Gardener Program, Santa Barbara County Green Landscape Consortium, Santa Barbara County Green Business Program)

The program will include educational components to ensure that participants are aware of how to properly dispose of old gasoline- or diesel-powered equipment and how to operate leaf blowers to minimize air quality impacts. Educational material will be distributed alongside information about the program via postcards, emails, and news releases through the outreach strategies described above.

## V. Timeline

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Activity	Date
Board of Directors approval	December 19, 2019
Public outreach	Late December 2019 and ongoing
Begin accepting applications	March 3, 2020

## VI. Recordkeeping

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The District will keep track of the following information for each voucher:

- Tracking number for each voucher (application # and voucher #);
- Location of commercial entity or agency;
- Commercial business license;
- Total voucher amount;
- Voucher expiration date;
- New equipment purchased with each voucher including equipment type, manufacturer, model, retailer, and price estimate;
- Copies of receipts for all purchased equipment;
- Date of voucher submittal;
- Tax forms (Substitute W9 form; CA 590 form); and
- Date voucher funds dispersed by District.

## VII. Workflow

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The following workflow will be used to expend funds in a timely manner and to track information:

1. Application received from Applicant. Application will include:
  - a. Name and address of applicant.
  - b. Business license for commercial landscaping businesses.
  - c. What type of equipment they will purchase including make, model, retailer, and price estimate.
2. Application is numbered and saved into LEEF program applications folder with the naming convention (e.g. 2019-XX Applicants last name)
3. Application will be given an initial review within two weeks of submittal.
  - a. If approved, applicant will receive a voucher form with tracking # and maximum eligible funding amounts for each piece of equipment.
  - b. If application is incomplete, applicant will be notified to make corrections and resubmit, keeping place in line.
4. Applicant will purchase approved equipment.
5. Applicant will submit to District for payment within 60 days of voucher issuance. Submission packet will include the signed voucher form, receipts of purchased equipment, and required tax forms.
6. District will go through process to set up each applicant as a County vendor and issue payment to applicant within 45 days.