

# Memorandum


**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Johnny Khamis  
District 10

**SUBJECT:** CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE  
UPDATE

**DATE:** October 29, 2018

Approved

 (Signature)

Date

10/29/18

## RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to have the Environmental Services Department (ESD):

- 1) Research a buy-back program for gasoline powered lawn equipment as well as funding opportunities via grants from the State's Cap-and-Trade program or other programs.
- 2) Return to the Rules Committee with preliminary findings for consideration of placing the item on the Transportation & Environment Committee work plan.

## BACKGROUND

The Climate Smart San José initiative has been successful in driving the City to meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals of the Paris Accords. Further, San José Clean Energy (SJCE) aims to provide 95-percent carbon-free power, with further goals as outlined in the Climate Smart plan to provide 60-percent renewable power to SJCE customers by 2030, 87 percent by 2040, and 100 percent by 2050. As a complement to the existing programs and to help us achieve our ambitious GHG-reduction goals, I recommend implementing a City-administered buy-back program for individuals and small business owners to exchange their gasoline-powered, carbon-emitting lawn equipment for clean, electric-powered equipment.

Electric lawn equipment generates zero exhaust emissions, compared with gas engines, which release carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and unburned hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. Electric equipment is also quieter than gas-powered equipment and create less noise pollution, and it's also safer. In 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency reported that more than 17 million gallons of gas are spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment.<sup>1</sup> Having electric lawn equipment removes these hazards, which adds to its many environmental benefits.

The list of key activities completed and underway to implement Climate Smart San José as outlined in the staff memo and supplemental memo are commendable. Adding this initiative can have further positive and significant effects on our City's air quality and create further clean power demands that can be fulfilled by SJCE, with minimal impact on the City's finances if we are successful in finding external grant funding for implementation of the buy-back program.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.peoplepoweredmachines.com/faq-environment.htm#environment>

**DATE: 10/30/18**

**ITEM: 7.1 - Climate Smart San José Update**

The State's 2018-2019 Cap & Trade budget spending plan includes \$1.4 billion in discretionary investments in climate adaptation, research, wildfire prevention, and several other programs. Other elements in the Cap & Trade funding plan target \$468 million for low-carbon transportation, including \$175 million for clean vehicle rebates. The City must take advantage of these funds, or others, on our path to become California's most sustainable, Climate Smart city.