Public Comment from G Street Action Committee Members on Lawn Maintenance Electrification

Submitted by Ron Miska and Steve DeLue 8/11/2022

We propose as part of the citywide effort to reach carbon neutrality in Petaluma by 2030 that the city **ban the sale and use** of gas–powered landscaping equipment. This undertaking would require the electrification of leaf blowers, edgers, weed whackers, and all small off-road engines (referred to as SORES), such as lawn mowers. Our call for action is based on the well-documented high levels of polluted materials gas-powered lawn tools emit, creating serious health problems for citizens. The proposed changes, as both determined and monitored by city officials, should be made over several years, Moreover, we believe that success in eliminating SORES would add momentum to, and deeper affinity for, the already very popular Cool Cities Program. Finally, we note that many other cities in California have moved in the direction charted here by, at a minimum, banning gas-powered leaf blowers. Novato and San Anselmo are the most recent instances of California cities to take this approach.

https://hdsupplysolutions.com/s/leaf_blower_noise_regulation

Acting as representatives of the G Street Action Committee, we urge the City of Petaluma to include within the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and General Plan Updates such goals and policies that would phase out the use and sale within city limits of gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment (including but not limited to leaf blowers, lawn mowers, weed whackers and hedge trimmers) within several years, to be replaced by electrically powered devices. Upon adoption of these plans, we urge the city to implement a program that includes ordinances and incentives to achieve these goals.

Over the coming months, the G Street Action Committee intends to work with city staff, the Climate Action Commission, the General Plan Update Committee, the City Council and local environmental groups toward this end.

Sincerely,

Steve DeLue

Ron Miska