



MOTION on NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on January 14, 2019

Renewal Strategy for Landscape Equipment - Towards an Emission-Free Reality

MOVER: Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. The excessive use of fossil fuel threatens our planet and puts the City of Vancouver and its shoreline at great risk;
2. The maintenance of our green spaces relies heavily on the use of gas-powered equipment;
3. Gas-powered equipment, and in particular two-stroke engines*, produce carcinogenic exhaust and greenhouse gases, exposure to which is a health concern for Park Board workers and the population in general;
4. Two-stroke engines* account for the vast majority of fine particulate pollution** in landscape maintenance activities;
5. Gas-powered engines cause noise levels that often surpass the maximum allowed in certain residential areas;
6. The handling and transportation of gas and oil required by conventional equipment is hazardous to Park Board workers and the environment;
7. The greater purchasing price for battery-powered equipment can be recouped with savings in the gas, oil, and general maintenance required by conventional gas-powered equipment;
8. Battery-powered equipment is easier to use, creates less vibration, less noise, no emission of any kind, and is often lighter than its conventional counterpart;
9. Technology for battery-powered equipment is continuing to improve rapidly and is expected to soon match the output of conventional equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to develop a transition plan to replace gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment with emission-free equivalents or quasi-equivalents where possible;
- B. THAT the transition plan include financial considerations, including purchase, usage, maintenance and end-of-life replacement costs, as well as ways to quantify/qualify non-financial benefits such as: carbon emission reduction; disposal of refuse oil and other parts; satisfaction/productivity of staff; and satisfaction of citizens; and
- C. THAT staff report back to the Board with their findings and recommendations.



Notes:

- * *A 'two-stroke engine' is a specific type of gas-powered engine used for, among other uses, hand-held leaf blowers, line and hedge trimmers. Regular lawn mowers are usually powered by a regular engine, or 'four-stroke engine'.*

- ** *Fine particulate pollution' is known to cause lung disease, heart disease, cancer, and premature death — especially for workers, children and the elderly.*