



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File #: 2025-0017

Substitute

4/3/2025

File Status:

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 6

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution to Create an Electric Landscape Maintenance Device Rebate Program, to Encourage Switching from Gas-Powered Landscape Maintenance Devices, and for Other Lawful Purposes.

Information Contact: Commissioner Edward C. "Ted" Terry

Phone Number: 404-371-4909

PURPOSE:

A resolution to create an electric landscape maintenance device rebate program. This rebate program seeks to incentivize residents and businesses to switch from gas-powered landscape maintenance devices to electric landscape maintenance devices. This resolution establishes details of the program and guidelines to participate.

NEED/IMPACT:

Gas powered landscaping equipment produces harmful emissions, noxious fumes, and incredibly loud noise that impacts the health, safety, and general welfare of residents and our environment. This rebate program will allow electric landscaping equipment to be more affordable and attainable for businesses and residents looking to make the switch. This rebate program is a step towards DeKalb County meeting it's 100% clean energy goals and supports green job growth in the landscaping industry. This rebate program includes but is not limited to, leaf blowers, weed whackers, lawn mowers, and chain saws. District 2 Commissioner Michelle Long Spears is a co-sponsor of this item.

The resolution is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Unknown at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer or designee to execute all necessary documents.

**A RESOLUTION
A RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN ELECTRIC LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
DEVICE REBATE PROGRAM, TO ENCOURAGE SWITCHING FROM GAS-
POWERED LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DEVICES, AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL
PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County is authorized to adopt ordinances or regulations for the purpose of protecting and preserving the public health, safety and welfare of the County's residents;

WHEREAS, Chapter 16, Article 7 of the DeKalb County Code seeks to prevent plainly audible sound from disturbing residents in their homes;

WHEREAS, incentivizing businesses and residents to switch to electric landscape maintenance devices such as leaf blowers, weed whackers, lawn mowers, and chain saws, will help eliminate unnecessary and annoying noise in residential areas; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority finds that this resolution will promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the County by encouraging both businesses and residents to reduce harmful emissions released into the air, as well as airborne dust and noxious fumes caused by the use of gas-powered landscape maintenance devices.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The goal of the Electric Landscape Maintenance Device Rebate Program is to incentivize residents and businesses to switch from gas-powered landscape maintenance devices to electric landscape maintenance devices in order to reduce excessive noise and harmful exhaust in the air caused by the use of gas-powered landscape maintenance devices;
2. The Electric Landscape Maintenance Device Rebate Program shall be administered by the Department of Planning & Sustainability, and will be available to both DeKalb County residents and business entities or individuals that offer lawn maintenance and/or landscaping services for profit;
3. The Landscape Maintenance Devices Rebate program rebates are as follows:
 - a. Businesses will receive a rebate of up to \$500 for purchasing electric landscape maintenance devices, not to exceed \$100 per device or 50% of the cost of each device, purchased for commercial use related to lawn maintenance or landscaping services. The rebate amount for any one device shall not exceed 50% of the actual cost of the device as indicated on the bill of sale, minus any promotion or discount provided.
 - b. Rebates will be capped at one (1) per business entity for the purchase of up to five (5) devices each year the program is administered.
 - c. Residents will receive a \$75 prepaid gift card for proof of purchase of an electric

landscape maintenance device. Gift cards will be capped at one (1) per household.

4. The Electric Landscape Maintenance Device Program requirements are as follows:

- a. Landscape maintenance devices mean equipment used to clean, blow, mow, clear or plant grass, leaves, weeds or plants on real property if such device generates sound including, but not limited to, leaf blowers, weed whackers, lawn mowers, and chain saws.
- b. Business entities must submit an application, receipt(s) and proof that they are in compliance with Section 15-28 of the DeKalb County Code of Ordinances.
- c. Residents must submit an application with proof of purchase.
- d. The Department of Planning & Sustainability will be responsible for reviewing applications to determine eligibility as well as issuing rebates and gift cards to qualifying applicants so long as funds are available.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

MICHELLE LONG SPEARS

Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA NORWOOD-SANDERS, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ZACHARY WILLIAMS
Chief Operating Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

MATTHEW C. WELCH
Interim County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia