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PRESS RELEASE

\$50 rebate approved to help Winter Park residents purchase electric leaf blowers

WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (January 19, 2024) In January 2022, the City Commission approved an amendment to the city's existing noise ordinance to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers effective July 2024. This decision reflects the city's dedication to prioritizing environmentally conscious practices as well as its commitment to sustainability, reducing noise and air pollution, and protecting the water quality of its lakes.

Gas-powered leaf blowers are known for their noise and significant environmental impact, emitting harmful pollutants into the atmosphere. These pollutants contribute to air quality degradation and pose health risks to both residents and the environment. In addition, because yard debris is a high pollution source for our lakes, [Ordinance #3230-22](#) also requires that debris blown into the public rights of way (streets) must be removed within 30 minutes. This reduces the amount of nutrients polluting the waterways on a continual basis.

As part of the approval in 2022, the City Commission offered a 30-month window to allow for city residents to notify their landscape companies of this ban and to replace their gas-powered blower(s) with electric alternatives. In July 2024, the 30-month window expires and gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited within Winter Park city limits.

To assist in the transition from gas-powered to electric, the City Commission approved a \$50 rebate for all households in Winter Park that would be applied as a credit to the resident's utility bill. Between now and Wednesday, January 1, 2025, residents can apply for the electric leaf blower rebate at cityofwinterpark.org/rebates. One unit per household.

The city has also plugged into the electrification of many of its former gas-powered units.

- Parks & Recreation Department:
 - 98% of leaf blowers including back packs & 100% of trimmers replaced
 - 2 zero-turn lawn mowers
 - 3 utility carts
- City's vehicular fleet now includes:
 - 16 electric vehicles (3 more on order)
 - 16 hybrid vehicles

For more information on the leaf blower ban and resources for transitioning to eco-friendly alternatives, please access cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability or email the Natural Resources & Sustainability Department at sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org. # # #

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