

2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
70	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: DPD leaf blower regulation recommendations

Councilmembers: Conlin; Licata; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Brian Hawksford; Meg Moorehead

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The Council requests that the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) provide recommendations describing options for regulations and incentives to reduce or eliminate leaf blower noise and emissions in Seattle. The recommendations should:

- 1) Evaluate the older models of leaf blowers still in use in Seattle and the new models available for sale in Seattle to identify the noise and emissions associated with those models.
- 2) Identify elements of the City code, state law and federal law that apply to noise and emissions from leaf blowers, and how models used and available for sale in Seattle compare to those standards.
- 3) Identify the regulatory and incentive approaches used by other jurisdictions to reduce or eliminate noise and emissions from leaf blowers generally -- and gas-powered leaf blowers specifically -- and the advantages and disadvantages of those approaches.
- 4) Identify stakeholders (including other City departments and other agencies) who use leaf blowers in their work or who might be involved in the implementation and enforcement of any new regulations or incentives. Stakeholders may include property owners, yard maintenance and property management businesses, stadiums, major institutions and Seattle Public Schools.
- 5) Recommend regulations and incentives for reducing noise and emissions from leaf blowers in Seattle, including a schedule for developing and implementing the regulations and incentives, a stakeholder outreach strategy, enforcement procedures, staffing needs for program implementation, and other costs.

- 6) Coordinate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Center, the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, and other City departments to share leaf blower recommendations, so that City departments that manage properties can consider incorporating relevant recommendations into their own practices and equipment purchases.

DPD states that without additional resources, it will need to reevaluate its 2014 work plan to eliminate, delay, or reduce the scope of other tasks so that this work can be accomplished.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Planning, Land Use and Sustainability

Date Due to Council: September 30, 2014