# Agenda

**Environment Board**  
Thursday, March 12, 2020  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center Room 2404 6:30 PM

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<td><strong>1.</strong></td>
<td><strong>CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTES)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong></td>
<td><strong>APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (1-9-2020)</strong></td>
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<td>A. <a href="#">DRAFT EEB 1-9-2020 MEETING MINUTES</a></td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong></td>
<td><strong>APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (2-20-2020)</strong></td>
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<td>A. <a href="#">DRAFT EEB 2-20-2020 MEETING MINUTES</a></td>
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<td><strong>5.</strong></td>
<td><strong>ANNOUNCEMENTS</strong></td>
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<td>A. Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebrations</td>
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<td>B. 6th Grade Climate Action Showcase</td>
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<td><strong>6.</strong></td>
<td><strong>STAFF UPDATES</strong></td>
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<td>A. Sustain Evanston Progress (B. Giroux)</td>
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<td>B. Follow-up from February 24th City Council Meeting (K. Jensen)</td>
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7. MEMBER UPDATES

A. Zero Waste Working Group (B. Kaplan, M. Redfield)
B. Parking/Transportation Committee (B. Kaplan)
C. Solar and Preservation Working Group (C. Peyer)
D. CARP Implementation Task Force (J. Garl)
E. Phasing Out Fossil-Fuel-Powered Blowers (T. Klitzkie & W. Pollock)

8. ADJOURNMENT

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 9th, 2020
Order & Agenda Items are subject to change. Information about the Environment Board is available at: www.cityofevanston.org/government/boards-commissions. Questions can be directed to Kumar Jensen at 847-448-8199. The City of Evanston is committed to making all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Any citizen needing mobility or communications access assistance should contact the Facilities Management Office at 847-448-4311 (Voice) or 847-448-8064 (TTY)
MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, January 9, 2020
6:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2404

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Wendy Pollock, Jerri Garl, Tom Klitzkie, Michelle Redfield, Caroline Peyer, Ben Kaplan, Christopher Kucharczyk

Members Absent: Sarah Liddell, Michelle Redfield

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Brittanie Giroux

Guests: Allen Alexander, Max Alexander, Eva Herscowitz, Rick Nelson, Tim Eberhart, T. Noble, D Headd, Owen Stidman, Jim Kotz

Presiding Member: Wendy Pollock

1. Declaration of Quorum
   W. Pollock called meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment
   No Comments

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December
   T. Klitzkie motioned to accept minutes as amended, B. Kaplan seconded, all approved.

4. Announcements
   K. Jensen announced the Partners for Places grant is looking at evaluating the barriers to affordable housing being highly energy efficient and how to transition existing affordable housing to highly energy efficient affordable housing.

5. 2019 Goal: Implement Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)

   Staff Reports/Updates
   A. Amended Meeting Schedule
      T. klitzkie motioned to change the February 13, 2020 EEB meeting to February 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm. C. Kucharczyk seconded, all approved.
B. Balloon Release Policy
K. Jensen reports that after some research into this topic that there seems to be a universal standard balloon release policy language in most communities that have this type of ordinance. The next step is for the law department to review the policy so it can be converted to a resolution. Then the resolution can be sent to the human services committee for introduction.

C. Additional Zero Waste Policies Staff are Developing
K. Jensen has two additional policies for the Zero Waste Task Force:

1. Requiring recycling at all properties

K. Jensen is struggling with terminology and what we want to call recycling at all properties. City staff has come up with “universal access to waste diversion services, composting and recycling”. Textile collection which hasn’t been addressed in over a year and a half may be added as a future service. The City is looking at a phase in the requirement so not all properties would be treated the same.

2. Updating and revising the plastic bag ban.

K. Jensen expressed the City’s desire to eliminate the use of thicker bags by larger retailers, impose a user fee which may or may not be split between the retailer and the City and eliminate the use of plastic bags.

D. Climate Equity
Continued

Member Reports/Updates
A. EEB 2020 Goals
Continued

B. Subcommittees/Task Forces
a. CARP Implementation Task Force
   J. Garl and W. Pollock sent a letter on behalf of the board to the Mayor and City leadership professing the highlight for CARP to be part of the City Council goals for 2020.

b. Zero Waste Working Group
   Continued

C. Environmental Justice Resolution
K. Jensen reports EJE is looking at the definitions of environmental justice. J. Garl has indicated that the EJE has received feedback and made changes which would reference other existing definitions of environmental justice. EJE is also looking at definitions for public engagement.
6. **Adjournment**  
C. Kucharczyk moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Leblanc-Fisher seconded. W. Pollock adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 20, 2019
MEETING MINUTES
Evanston Environment Board
Thursday, February 20, 2020
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room #2404

Members Present: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher, Wendy Pollock, Jerri Garl, Tom Klitzkie, Michelle Redfield, Caroline Peyer, Sarah Liddell

Members Absent: Christopher Kucharczyk, Michelle Redfield, Ben Kaplan

Staff Present: Kumar Jensen, Leslie Perez, Brittanie Giroux

Guests: No Guests

Presiding Member: Cherie Leblanc-Fisher

1. Declaration of Quorum
   C. Leblanc-Fisher called meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. and a quorum was established.

2. Public Comment
   No Comments

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January
   The Board has requested a more generalized version of the January 9, 2020 meeting minutes and has agreed to suspend the approval of those minutes until the March 2020 meeting.

4. Announcements
   No announcements.

5. 2019 Goal: Implement Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)

   Staff Reports/Updates
   A. Zero Emissions Strategy for Municipal Operations
      K. Jensen reports the City has issued RFPs and received responses from several consultants. The City interviewed two firms and staff has selected one for contract negotiations with the hopes of presenting this to City Council on March 9th.

   B. Partners for Places Grant
K. Jensen announced the kickoff event which is a film screening and panel conversation on the movie Cooked. The screening will be held at Fleetwood-Jourdain on February 27th.

C. Energy Purchases and Contracts
K. Jensen reports the City has 3 electricity related contracts that expire in 2020. He is working on negotiating short term extensions for two the contracts. This will buy the City more time to develop a more robust strategy.

Member Reports/Updates
A. Subcommittees/Task Forces
   a. CARP Implementation Task Force
      J. Garl updated the Board on the previous CARP Task Force. The next meeting is March 10th.

B. Introduction of Blower Ban Recommendation
   W. Pollock reports on the progress of the blower ban ordinance. The board discussed the draft memo supporting the necessity of a gas blower ban ordinance. The gas blower ban would support CARP goals.

6. Adjournment
   T. Klitzkie moved to adjourn the meeting, J. Garl seconded. C. Leblanc-Fisher adjourned at 8:45 pm.

   Next Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2019
To: Members of the Environment Board  
From: Kumar Jensen, Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer  
Subject: Landscape Contractor Registration Process  
Date: March 12, 2020  

Recommended Action:  
Accept and Place on File the Landscape Contractor Registration Process  

Funding Source:  
N/A  

Council Action:  
For Action: Accept and Place on File  

Summary:  
Staff have developed two sets of materials that will be included in the landscape contractor registration application. The two materials are:  

1. Summary of Evanston City Code Sections Relevant to Landscape License Applicants  
2. Draft Sustainable Landscape Management Survey  

These two documents will accompany the revised registration application. The existing application can be found on the City's Contractor Registration page. The attached materials are only meant to convey content not style or format, staff will redesign the materials to fit into a packet that will be easier to read then the existing attached text-only files.  

Staff seek feedback on the information included and any suggestions Environment Board members have on style or organization of the application packet.  

Attachments:  
Draft Sustainable Landscape Management Survey  
Summary of Evanston City Code Sections Relevant to Landscape License Applicants
Sustainable Practices and Design

If your company has the ability to offer more sustainable services, do any of those services match the services listed below?

Please provide specific examples to support any “Yes” answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Design</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>Sustainable Alternatives</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rain Gardens</td>
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<td>Compost Yard waste</td>
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<td>Green Roofs</td>
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<td>Non-Chemical Fertilizer</td>
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<td>Permeable Pavement</td>
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<td>Seeding</td>
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<td>Drywells</td>
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<td>Alternative Powered Equipment</td>
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<td>Native Plants</td>
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<td>Pollinator Friendly</td>
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<td>Smart Irrigation</td>
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<td>Sustainable Consultation</td>
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<td>Bioswales</td>
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<td>Organic/Low Toxic Pest Management</td>
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1. If you currently don’t offer any of the above, would your organization have the resources to consider implementing more sustainable practices?

   Yes _  No _

   If answered “Yes” circle the ones you would consider above.

   2. City of Evanston is requiring an attached document of all pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and fertilizers used by this organization on projects in the jurisdiction of Evanston.

   3. City of Evanston would like to know the types of fuel used in your company’s equipment.

   Please Check the types of fuel used in equipment.

   3b. If any of the equipment is listed as Electric, hybrid, or biofuel, please attach additional information including the make/model of the equipment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment Type</th>
<th>Gasoline</th>
<th>Propane</th>
<th>Diesel</th>
<th>Electric</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Biofuel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mowers</td>
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<td>Blowers</td>
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<td>Vehicles</td>
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<td>String Trimmer</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Summary of Evanston City Code Sections Relevant to Landscaper License Applicants

Disclaimer: These are summaries of the City Code for the convenience of the applicants. The language contained here within may not comprehensively or thoroughly convey the ordinances within the City Code. Applicants for a landscaper license are expected to familiarize themselves with the City Code and any chapters or ordinances mentioned hereafter.

City Code: 9-5-20 (D.4) NOISES PROHIBITED

- Leaf Blowers: A person may use any backpack mounted or handheld gasoline powered leaf blower type of machine only during the following days of each year: March 30 to May 15; and September 30 to the first Thursday of December.

- A person may use any backpack mounted or handheld gasoline powered leaf blower type of machine on those days only during the following times:
  
  Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
  
  Weekends or holidays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Any person who uses a leaf blower or any person who permits the private or commercial use of a leaf blower on their property during restricted days or times, shall be fined one hundred dollars ($100.00).

City Code: 7-2-5-11 CONTRACTORS TRANSPORTING EARTH OVER PAVED STREETS

- It shall be unlawful for any contractor or builder to transport earth or any excavated material over any paved streets of the City without a guarantee that the contractor or builder will clean the streets from earth or debris which may fall from the conveyors or be carried on the tires of such conveyors of such contractor or builder onto the streets. If any contractor or builder shall fail to clean such streets, the City may do so and subsequently charge the contractor or builder for such cleanup.

- Any contractor or other person who violates any of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to a minimum fine of seven hundred fifty dollars ($750.00).

City Code: 7-2-12-7. - REMOVAL OF SOD, EARTH

- It shall be unlawful for any person to dig, cut or remove any sod, gravel, sand or earth from any public right-of-way within the City without a permit from the Director of Public Works or his/her designee, or from any premises not his/her own, without the consent
of the owner. Any such permit shall be separate and distinct from any permit required by Title 7, Chapter 8 of this Code, as amended.

City Code: 7-4-3. - RESTORATION OF SURFACE AFTER EXCAVATION.

- Whenever any part of any street, alley, sidewalk or other public place in the City shall be torn, dug, or taken up for any purpose, the person so tearing, digging, or taking up any earth, paving, graveling or macadamizing shall, if required by the Director of Public Works to do so, immediately upon completion of such purpose, return the earth and ram and pack down the same as fast as possible returned to a firm and solid bearing and in a manner, if possible, that will entirely prevent any settling of such earth, and shall also relay all paving, graveling and macadamizing in a skillful and permanent manner, and in every case to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works of the City and under his/her direction.

City Code: 7-12-14-2. - LIMITS ON LAWN IRRIGATION AND OTHER WATER USES.

- During May 15 through September 15 of each year, lawn irrigation with water supplied from the City waterworks system is permitted for odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered dates and for even-numbered addresses on even-numbered dates. During May 15 through September 15, no lawn irrigation is permitted between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on any day of the week at any address in the City. Gardens are exempt from these limits. Lawn irrigation during September 16 through May 14 of each year is not subject to these limits.
- An exception to the lawn irrigation limits applies for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days after new sod is laid or new lawn seed is sown.
- Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this Section shall be fined as provided in Section 7-12-17 of this Chapter.
- In the event of an emergency water shortage the City Manager or his/her agent or designee shall have the power to temporarily ban all nonessential water use for as long as the emergency water shortage shall exist.

City Code: 7-8-8-7. - TREE REPLACEMENT.

- General requirements. Any protected tree damaged or removed in the course of a regulated activity must be replaced by the applicant pursuant to this Section and as depicted in a tree replacement plan pursuant to Subsection 7-8-8-7.i of this Section, regardless of whether the protected tree is located on the same lot
on which the regulated activity takes place; except, that the City Manager or his/her designee may, pursuant to Subsection G of this Section, consider a request to submit a fee in lieu of the replacement of trees, and except for the exemptions in Subsection B of this Section. No replacement tree may have a caliper less than two and one-half (2½) inches.

Replacement formula. Protected trees must be replaced by group A trees pursuant to the replacement rate specified in this Subsection. The tree replacement rate is determined by the species of tree removed. For each inch of dbh removed, replacement trees must be provided at the rate shown in the following table.

8-3-7-1. - DEFINITION.
For the purpose of this Section 8-3-7, "litter" shall include, but is not limited to: putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food; other putrescible waste, including dead animals, yard clippings and leaves; nonputrescible solid waste (except body waste), including rubbish, ashes, street cleanings, abandoned automobiles, solid market and industrial wastes, paper, wrappings, cigarettes, cardboard, tin cans, glass, bedding, crockery and similar materials; and all other waste materials which, if thrown or deposited as herein prohibited, create a danger to public health, safety and welfare.

8-3-7-3. - PROHIBITED ACTS.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to throw or deposit litter in or upon any street, alley, sidewalk or other public place within the City except in public receptacles or authorized private receptacles.

(Ord. 6-0-92)
- No person shall sweep into or deposit in any gutter, street, alley or other public place in the City the accumulation of litter from any building or lot or from any public or private sidewalk and driveway. Persons owning or occupying property shall keep the sidewalk and parkway in front of their premises free from litter.

(Ord. 92-0-97)
- No person, while a driver or passenger in a vehicle, shall throw or deposit litter upon any street, alley or other public place within the City, nor upon private property.
• No person shall drive or cause to be driven any truck or other vehicle within the City upon any public street or way unless such vehicle is so constructed, loaded or covered as to prevent any load, contents or litter from being blown or deposited upon any street, alley or other public place. Nor, shall any person drive or move any vehicle or truck within the City, the wheels or tires of which carry onto or deposit in any street, alley or other public place, mud, dirt, sticky substances, litter or foreign matter of any kind.

• No person shall throw or deposit litter on any private property within the City, whether owned by such person or not, except that the owner or person in control of private property may maintain private receptacles for collection in such a manner that litter may be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street, alley, sidewalk or other public place or upon any private property.

6-17-3. - LANDSCAPE PLAN.

• All landscape plans shall be prepared, and plant material installed and maintained, in accordance with the Manual of Design Guidelines. Upon application by the owner of the property to the Design and Project Review Committee through the Zoning Administrator, the Design and Project Review Committee may waive or modify any landscape requirements upon making a written finding that the strict application of such standard is not practicable in light of the dimensions of the site and the approved plan of development.

6-17-4-1. - RESPONSIBILITY.

• The owner of the premises shall be responsible for watering, maintenance, repair, and replacement of all landscaping, fences and other visual barriers, including refuse disposal area screens, that have fallen into disrepair (in the case of fences) or died (in the case of plant material).

6-17-4-2. - PLANT MATERIAL MAINTENANCE.

• All plant materials shall be maintained in a healthy, vigorous growing condition, and neat and orderly appearance. They shall be replaced as necessary, and shall be kept free of refuse and debris.

6-17-5. - PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS.
• A property owner, notified by the Zoning Administrator that his landscaping violates the provisions of this Chapter 17, "Landscaping and Screening," shall be granted a reasonable period of time within which to restore or replace said plant material, fence, wall and/or other barrier. If such violation is not corrected by the next current growing season, the property owner shall be subject to a fine as set forth in Section 6-3-10-5, "Penalties and Remedies for Violations."

6-17-7. - SITE PERIMETER LANDSCAPING FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NONRESIDENTIAL USES.

• Residential and nonresidential uses shall be subject to the site perimeter landscaping requirements set forth in the Manual of Design Guidelines and all other general requirements of the Manual's landscape guidelines.

6-17-9. - APPEAL.

• An appeal of any decision of the Design and Project Review Committee in connection with its implementation of the landscape requirements of this Chapter 17, "Landscaping and Screening," may be made pursuant to Section 4-14-9 of this Code.

7-15-7. - ALLEY PAVING IMPROVEMENTS.

• Permeable Alley. The owners of at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the property abutting any unimproved alley or portion thereof, may opt to petition the City for the construction of permeable pavement for the alley thereon ("Green Alley"). The Green Alley petition shall be filed with the City Manager or his/her designee. When the Board of Local Improvements receives the Green Alley petition to pave an alley within the City, the Board of Local Improvements will follow the special assessment procedure established in the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/9-3-1/et seq. for the petition to pave the alley.

• If the Green Alley paving improvement is confirmed by the Cook County Circuit Court in accordance with State statute, the City will pay fifty percent (50%) of the project cost with the property owners paying the remaining fifty percent (50%) annually over a ten (10) year period.

8-5-1. - DEFINITION.

"Turf grass," as used in this Chapter, shall refer to grasses:
• Whose growth or development has been promoted by the landowner, renter, lessee or other property manager

• That are narrow-leaved grass species that form a uniform, long-lived ground cover that can tolerate traffic and low mowing heights (usually two (2) inches or below).

8-5-2. - HEIGHT RESTRICTION.

• It is hereby declared to be illegal for the owners of real estate in the City to refuse or neglect to cut weeds when such weeds shall have reached a height in excess of eight inches (8”).

8-5-3. - FAILURE OF OWNER TO CUT.

• Every owner of real estate within the City shall remove weeds or cut the turf grass on his/her property and on the abutting parkway at all such times as may be necessary so that such weeds shall not persist and turf grass shall not exceed eight (8”) inches in height. If after notice of violation and opportunity to cure such owner neglects or refuses to remove such weeds or to cut such turf grass, the City may mow or remove the weeds and/or cut the turf grass or authorize some person to do the same on behalf of the City.

6-4-9. - NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS.

• A neighborhood garden is a principal use that provides space for people to grow plants for non-commercial purposes, such as beautification, education, recreation, or harvest, that is managed by a specific person or group responsible for maintenance and operations. The following general requirements shall apply to neighborhood gardens:

• The person or group responsible for managing the garden shall be identified on each required annual application/registration form.

• On-site processing and/or storage of plants or plant products are prohibited.

• Outdoor storage of any kind is prohibited.

• A fence and one (1) accessory structure for the storage of gardening tools and supplies, no larger than one hundred twenty (120) square feet in area, shall be allowed on-site, provided the owner or operator first obtains a certificate of zoning compliance or building permit for it/them.
• Composting of plant material that is grown on site shall be permitted, except in the required front yard. All other composting is prohibited.
• No incidental sales of plants or produce shall take place on site.
• Neighborhood gardens shall be maintained so as not to encourage the harboring of vermin. Accumulations of weeds and/or rubbish is prohibited.

City Code: 8-5-4. - LIEN AGAINST PROPERTY WHEN CITY CUTS WEEDS.

• If weeds or turf grass referred to herein in this Chapter are mowed or cut by the City or by someone directed to mow/cut them on behalf of the City, then the City may impose a lien on the property in violation of Section 8-5-3. A notice of lien of the cost and expense thereof incurred by the City or any person directed to take action on the City's behalf shall be recorded in the following manner: the City or the person performing the service by authority of the City, in its or his/her own name, may file notice of lien in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County. The notice of lien shall consist of a sworn statement setting out:
  • (A)A description of the real estate sufficient for identification thereof;
  • (B)The amount of money representing the cost and expense incurred or payable for the service; and
  • (C)The date when the cost and expense was incurred by the City.
• Such notice shall be filed within sixty (60) days after the cost and expense is incurred.
• Upon payment of the cost and expense after the notice of lien has been filed as provided herein, the lien shall be released by the City or person in whose name the lien has been filed and the release shall be filed of record in the same manner as filing notice of the lien.

City Code: 8-4-5. - COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

• Other materials such as: Weeds, houseplant scraps, cold ashes from fireplace/grill, unlined paper products, BPI certified compostable bags, BPI certified compostable products, PLA Natureworks items and Compostable kitchenware (ASTM D-6400 Certified)

City Code: 3-1-1. - ISSUANCE OF LICENSES.

• Unless otherwise provided in this Code or other applicable laws, all licenses shall be approved by the City Manager or his/her designee issued by the City Collector. In all cases where it is not otherwise expressly provided, the City Collector shall have the power to hear and grant applications for said licenses upon the terms specified in any of the provisions of this Code or other ordinances of the City.
City Code: 3-27-3. - APPLICATION.

- An application for a general business license shall be made in writing under oath to the City on a form prescribed by the City Collector. Each application shall contain the following information and such other information as may be required to determine whether the license should be granted.

- The name, residential address and phone number of the applicant, who shall be the principal owner in the case of a non-corporate entity or the president in the case of a corporate entity. (B)

- The name of the company/business and the address(es) of the permanent place(s) of business within the City covered by the application, or, if there are no permanent places within the City, the address of the permanent place or location most closely involved with the business or activity covered by the application.

- A description of the business for which the license is requested.
The Evanston Environment Board recommends the following plan for phasing out handheld lawn equipment powered by fossil fuel.

A. Purpose: To end use of fossil-fuel-powered equipment in Evanston through
   ● an ordinance that establishes a transparent and orderly process for ending use of handheld and
     backpack lawn equipment powered by gasoline and propane
   ● support for residents and commercial operators in complying with the ban.

B. Background
B.1 The Climate Action & Resilience Plan adopted by City Council in December 2018 pledges to
   ● Achieve 100% renewable electricity supply for all Evanston accounts by 2030 (CARP, p.14)
   ● Phase out gasoline- and propane-powered leaf blowers, lawnmowers, and construction equipment;
     provide timeline for replacing with electric, battery (CARP, p.19)
   ● Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers community wide (CARP, p.20) to support both climate
     mitigation and adaptation.

B.2 Small off-road engines* are a significant source of emissions, including greenhouse gases. According to the California Air Resources Board, “For the best-selling commercial leaf blower, one hour of operation emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry about 1,100 miles.” In enacting a 2019 ban on such engines, the City of Encinitas, California, explained: “The benefits of prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowers include avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions; decreased noise levels; and reduction in suspended dust, allergens, and other harmful particulates.”

B.3 Evanston’s current ordinances are limited in reach, addressing only dates and times when gasoline-powered leaf blowers may be used.

B.4 A more comprehensive ban is needed to phase out use of these engines.

* “Small off-road engines (SORE) are spark-ignition engines rated at or below 19 kilowatts.” — California Air Resources Board

C. Recommendations for changes to Evanston’s municipal code
The following recommendations are based in part on experiences of three California cities: Encinitas, Berkeley, and Sonoma.

C.1 Ban use of gasoline- and propane-powered blowers
It shall be unlawful for any person, including any City employee, to operate any portable machine powered with a gasoline- or propane-powered engine to blow leaves, dirt, or other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns, or other surfaces within the City limits.

C.2 Phase in the ban over a five-year period
   a. All municipal operations and commercial operators by April 2024.
b. All other persons (including residents, organizations, associations, groups) by April 2025.
c. Consider immediate ban on use of all blowers for spraying pesticides.

C.3 Allow electric and battery-powered blowers, but with limitations
   a. Require that blowers be recharged by electrical outlets via the grid (or potentially by solar panels mounted on vehicles), not by portable generators or power inverter outlets on gasoline-powered vehicle.
   b. Limit dates and times as in current ordinance 5.9.5.20.4, modified to specify electric and battery only. Example: A person may use any backpack mounted or handheld gasoline-powered leaf blower type of machine only during the following times: Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Weekends or holidays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
   c. Prohibit blowing debris beyond property line. Encinita specifies that “operation of a leaf blower shall not deposit dirt, dust, grass clippings, trimmings, green waste, solid waste, or debris into a neighboring property or into a street, gutter, or storm drain.”

C.4 Require that notice of this prohibition shall be posted in all stores selling leaf blowers within the City limits.

C.5 Retain current provision that makes both operators and property owners responsible and subject to fine.

C.6 Establish escalating fines beginning with a warning.

C.7 Phase in a ban on all other gasoline- and propane-powered handheld and backpack equipment by 2030.

D. Recommendations for outreach, education, and assistance with a just transition

D.1 Align City of Evanston practice—Transition landscape maintenance equipment used by City employees and contractors to all-electric. Budget additional funds to allow more rapid replacement of current inventory. Reduce mowing frequency. Create “green zones” and natural areas in city parks to demonstrate alternatives such as low-mow grasses and no-mow areas.

D.2 Educate the public—Notify residents of their responsibilities through City communication channels. Post signs in stores where blowers are sold. Place signs in “green zones” and natural areas and partner with community groups to increase awareness and understanding of alternatives to intensively managed lawns.

D.3 Educate commercial operators—Notify companies of relevant laws and regulations as they register/renew business licenses. Provide FAQs, fliers, and other material through multiple channels. Offer workshops about transitioning to electric landscape maintenance equipment. Issue warning for first violation. Provide training in proper use of blowers.

D.4 Support companies in complying—Consider supporting group purchase agreements. Provide information about proper disposal of blowers that can no longer be used.

D.5 Make all materials and programming bilingual (English and Spanish).