

RESOLUTION R-5708

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND THE ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER INITIATIVE FOR THREE YEARS, EXPAND AND RENAME THE PROGRAM AS THE ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT INITIATIVE AND EXPLORE LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS IN THE CITY OF KIRKLAND BY DECEMBER 31, 2028.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Kirkland City Council has prioritized environmental sustainability
2 through its Sustainable Environment goal to “[p]rotect our natural environment through
3 sustainable goals and practices to meet the needs of community members for a healthy
4 environment and clean energy without compromising the needs of future generations”; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Council has previously adopted a number of plans and initiatives to
6 further the City’s environmental sustainability goals and respond to community member
7 concerns, including through Resolution R-5457 approving Kirkland’s Sustainability Master
8 Plan and Resolution R-5585, launching the City’s Electric Leaf Blower Initiative in April 2023;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Electric Leaf Blower Initiative began as a three-year phased
11 approach to sunset the use of gas-powered hand-held and backpack leaf blowers in Kirkland
12 by December 31, 2025, and it was guided by five goals: (1) sunset gas-powered hand-held
13 and backpack leaf blowers by the end of 2025, (2) reduce negative health impacts caused by
14 gas emissions, (3) ensure a responsive and equitable transition to electric alternatives, (4)
15 anticipate and align with potential state-level legislation, and (5) improve enforcement of
16 existing City noise regulations; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the City continues to monitor regional and state-level developments with
18 similar goals, including municipal and county phased bans and goals aimed at reducing
19 emissions, and potentially noise pollution, in their communities by sunsetting gas-powered
20 equipment, and seeks to remain aligned with potential future legislation; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature has considered legislation in the past
22 to incentivize purchase of electric equipment through financial incentives and although the
23 bills presented did not pass out of the legislature, Kirkland’s legislative delegation has
24 expressed that future action is likely; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in 2024, City hosted a roundtable with state and local legislators to share
26 information about potential bills and resolutions being developed regarding electric leaf
27 blowers; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Electric Leaf Blower Initiative positions Kirkland to be proactive and
29 effective in anticipation of potential future State decisions to sunset gas-powered equipment,
30 in addition to reducing emissions in Kirkland and protecting health of users; and

31 **WHEREAS**, since 2023, the City has made steady progress through equipment
32 demonstrations, community engagement, gas powered equipment trade-in events, leaf rake
33 giveaways and pledge, and expanded use and evaluation of electric tools by City staff,
34 including leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, line trimmers, and chainsaws; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the City’s Parks and Community Services and Public Works
36 Departments have already purchased and use a combined total of 18 electric leaf blowers
37 and actively consider electric options when the nearly 70 gas-powered leaf blowers in the
38 fleet reach the end of their useful life; and

39 **WHEREAS**, City staff have identified key operational limitations with current electric
40 leaf blower technology, including reduced power and efficiency, ergonomic concerns, battery
41 limitations, and the need for reliable equipment during storm response and high-demand
42 maintenance periods; and

44 **WHEREAS**, while staff remain open to new technology and continue to explore and
45 test electric equipment, it is evident that gas-powered tools still currently remain essential for
46 large-scale operations, expected high service levels, and operational readiness, such as
47 storm cleanup and seasonal leaf removal to prevent clogged drains and street debris; and

48 **WHEREAS**, the City has made progress in electrifying other maintenance equipment
49 and fleet vehicles beyond leaf blowers, and there could be significant benefits to broadening
50 the scope of the initiative to reflect this work and future opportunities; and

51 **WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the need for additional time to allow for
52 technological advancements, continued stakeholder engagement to identify opportunities
53 and key challenges, and alignment with potential state action.

54 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as
55 follows:

56 Section 1. The City Council hereby extends and expands the elements of the Electric
57 Leaf Blower Initiative as adopted in Resolution R-5585 through December 31, 2028, and
58 hereby renames the work as the Electric Equipment Initiative to reflect the City's broader
59 efforts to transition from gas-powered to electric equipment such as hedge trimmers, line
60 trimmers, chainsaws, and fleet vehicles.

61 Section 2. The City Manager is authorized and directed to continue implementing the
62 Initiative through the following strategies:

- 63 a. Conduct periodic demonstrations and events showcasing new electric
64 equipment.
- 65 b. Evaluate new, commercial-grade electric equipment for landscaping and
66 maintenance.
- 67 c. Select a pilot park that will be maintained with manual/electric power tools
68 only.
- 69 d. Explore grant and partnership opportunities related to the goals of the
70 Initiative.
- 71 e. Monitor and report on maintenance staff time, efficiency, and cost
72 comparisons between gas and electric equipment.
- 73 f. Evaluate infrastructure needs for charging and mobile power solutions to
74 support electric equipment, including the use of electric trucks to recharge tools
75 while working outside.
- 76 g. Support regional collaboration and legislative advocacy for broader
77 electrification goals.
- 78 h. Engage with stakeholders, including landscaping businesses, residents, and
79 community groups, to ensure any transition to electric equipment is equitable and
80 responsive.
- 81 i. Propose an ordinance for Council consideration sunsetting hand-held and
82 backpack gas-powered equipment city-wide while continuing City, business and
83 resident transitions by December 31, 2028.

84 Section 3. The City Manager shall provide periodic updates to the City Council on the status
85 of the Electric Equipment Initiative, including:

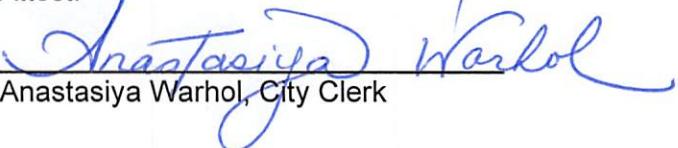
- 86 a. Progress toward equipment transition, including any challenges faced in
87 transitioning.
- 88 b. Updates on any federal, state or regional efforts related to banning gas-
89 powered leaf blowers.
- 90 c. Summary of stakeholder engagement and feedback related to transitioning to
91 electric equipment.
- 92 d. Evaluation of equipment performance and service impacts.
- 93 e. Recommendations for future actions, opportunities, or adjustments.

95 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 9th day of
96 December, 2025.

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98 Signed in authentication thereof this 9th day of December, 2025.
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100 _____
101 Kelli Curtis, Mayor
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103 Attest:
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106 Anastasiya Warhol, City Clerk
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