

# San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District's Lawn and Garden Electrification Program

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**WORK PLAN**

**SEPTEMBER, UPDATED NOVEMBER 2024**



Air Pollution Control District  
San Luis Obispo County

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## 1. Overview

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The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) designed the Lawn and Garden Electrification (L&GE) program to help businesses, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and schools to adopt zero-emission lawn and garden equipment. This will be the APCD's first round of the L&GE program and it is administered by the APCD and funded with \$217,125 from Carl Moyer State Reserve 2026 funds. Of these total funds, \$27,141 are to be used for administration funds and \$189,984 are to be used for project funds. This program follows Chapter 9: Lawn and Garden Equipment Replacement of the California Air Resources Board (CARB's) Carl Moyer Program Guidelines.

The L&GE program will offer vouchers to eligible organizations that are willing to trade-in gasoline or diesel-powered equipment for their electric counterparts. Small engines pollute at a higher rate than other equipment and vehicles, contributing to smog formation and air quality-related health impacts. Adoption of zero-emission L&GE program will reduce emissions and help community members, businesses, and employees experience the benefits of cleaner technology. The L&GE program will help quicken the conversion to zero-emission equipment on a county-wide level ahead of state regulatory requirements.

For the first 90 days of the program (Approximately January 13, 2025 through April 13, 2025), \$100,000 of the program funds will be reserved for applications to replace fuel-based equipment with electric equipment where the total project\* cost is at or under \$5,000. Starting April 14, 2025, applications will be accepted for all remaining program funds for electric L&GE projects, not to exceed a \$30,000 equipment maximum incentive. Following the above timelines, projects are funded on a first-come first-served basis as determined by when applications are deemed complete by APCD staff.

\* A project in the first 90 days is defined as an application by an eligible applicant. This application could include one or multiple pieces of gas/diesel equipment to be replaced, as long as the voucher amount would not exceed \$5,000.

## 2. Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible organizations must:

1. Be located in or operate a business within San Luis Obispo County
2. Commit to use the equipment for a majority of the time (greater than 50%) within San Luis Obispo County for a minimum of 36 months.
3. Have owned and operated their existing equipment in California for two years prior to submitting an application.

The following organization types are eligible for electric L&GE project vouchers:

- Commercial landscaping businesses
- Non-profit organizations
- The following entities will be eligible if they provide in-house landscape maintenance for their grounds and are located within San Luis Obispo County:
  - Public agencies
  - Public/private schools or school districts
  - Commercial businesses (non-landscaping)

Commercial businesses will be required to provide their business license or state contractor license as part of the application. If commercial landscaping businesses or non-profit organizations are located outside of San Luis Obispo County, then they must provide proof that they provide services within San Luis Obispo County. Non-profit organizations must provide their Employment Identification Number (EIN), and their non-profit status must be verified by the APCD. All organizations must reside within California.

The applicant must certify the following in their project application:

1. The applicant agrees to comply with the L&GE program terms.
2. The applicant owns and operates the existing fuel-based equipment at least 50% of the time within San Luis Obispo County. The existing fuel-based equipment is in operable condition and owned by the organization.
3. The applicant must have owned and operated the existing equipment in California for two years prior to submitting an application.
4. The applicant will own and operate the new electric equipment within San Luis Obispo County the majority of the time (greater than 50%) for a minimum of 36 months from the purchase date. The organization resides in California.
5. Within 60 days of receiving the new electric equipment, the applicant will surrender their existing equipment to a participating dismantler for destruction. Appropriate documentation must be provided.
6. The applicant has disclosed all additional co-funding sources and discounts that are or will be applied to their purchase.
7. The applicant has not purchased the replacement equipment that they are seeking funding for prior to applying to this program.
8. The information provided in the application is true and correct and meets the minimum requirements of the L&GE program.
9. The applicant understands that an incomplete or illegible application may be immediately rejected, and they will be notified.
10. The applicant understands that incentive programs have limited funds and shall terminate upon depletion of program funding.

### **3. Equipment Eligibility and Voucher Amounts**

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The L&GE program follows the equipment eligibility requirements of the Carl Moyer Chapter 9 Guidelines<sup>1</sup>. Maximum eligible funding amounts by each type of electric equipment is found below. For those purchasing equipment from a local vendor (any business with the physical address in San Luis Obispo County, receipts must show a San Luis Obispo County address), the max incentive is available. For those that purchase from online retailers or outside of San Luis Obispo County, the max incentive amount will be reduced 5%.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/carl-moyer-program-road-source-categories/carl-moyer-program-lawn-and-garden>

Equipment Type	Max Funding Amount (Local Purchase)	Max Funding Amount (Non-Local Purchase)	Applicant Cost Share Requirement	Initial Funding Period (1/13/25 – 4/13/25)	Starting 4/14/25 Funding
Chainsaws, Trimmers, Edgers, Brush Cutters	Up to \$700	Up to \$665	Applicant required to pay 15% of project cost (Waived for public agencies and small businesses)	Applications accepted for projects with a total cost ≤\$5,000 (Up to \$100,000 reserved)	Applications accepted for projects with a total cost ≤\$30,000 (All remaining funds available)
Leaf Blowers, Leaf Vacuums	Up to \$1,400	Up to \$1,330			
Walk-Behind Lawn Mowers	Up to \$1,500	Up to \$1,425			
Ride-on or Stand/Sit Lawn Mowers	Up to \$15,000	Up to \$14,250			

Note: Batteries and chargers that are required to operate each piece of equipment count toward the funding amounts listed in the table above. The funding amount for each piece of equipment cannot exceed the cost of the new equipment plus any batteries and chargers. **Additional batteries and chargers, beyond the original that is purchased and required to operate the equipment, are not eligible for funding.**

Replacement equipment must be new, cordless, battery-powered, and must be replacing an existing scrapable like-for-like piece of fuel-based equipment. New equipment can be purchased from any retailer or manufacturer of electric L&GE including online retailers and manufacturers, however those that purchase from local San Luis Obispo retailers will receive the maximum allowed funding. Each voucher amount is based on the purchase price of the eligible electric equipment and does not include additional costs such as fees, accessories, and delivery charges. Actual reimbursement amounts may be reduced based on the final cost of eligible equipment identified in the purchase receipt. If discounts are provided by the retailer or manufacturer that are not factored into the price of proposed equipment on the application, the reimbursement will be based on the final cost paid by the program participant. There is no maximum amount of equipment that can be applied for per organization, as long as the project's eligible reimbursement amount is less than the applicable maximum project funding limit and program limits.

Applications for the L&GE Program will be accepted until all project funds are fully distributed. Vouchers will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible applicants. When all funds are fully distributed, the APCD will compile the contact information of organizations who are interested in future potential funding opportunities.

For the first 90 days of the program (Approximately January 13, 2025 through April 13, 2025), \$100,000 of the program funds will be reserved for applicants that apply to replace their fuel-based equipment with electric equipment where the total project\* cost is at or under \$5,000. Starting April 14, 2025, all remaining program funds will be available for electric L&GE project applications, not to exceed a \$30,000 maximum incentive. Following the above timelines, projects are funded on a first-come first-served basis as determined by when applications are deemed complete by APCD staff.

\* A project is defined as an application by an eligible applicant, this application could include one or multiple pieces of gas/diesel equipment to be replaced with like-for-like electric equipment.

#### a. Cost Share

**The Carl Moyer Program Guidelines require that applicants pay out of pocket at least 15% of the cost of eligible equipment.** This means the maximum voucher amount cannot exceed 85% of the new equipment costs that are eligible for funding under the L&GE Program. The cost share requirement is waived for public agencies as well as small businesses. A small business shall be defined based on the SLO County APCD's Rule 105, with an updated monetary value to account for inflation. A small business shall be defined as:

*A business which is independently owned and operated and meets the following criteria, or if affiliated with another concern, the combined activities of all concerns shall meet these criteria:*

- *The number of employees is 20 or less; and,*
- *The total gross annual receipts are \$5,000,000 or less.*

#### b. Co-funding

Carl Moyer State Reserve funds are able to be stacked with funds from CARB's Clean Off-Road Equipment (CORE) Program as long as the new equipment has not yet been purchased. Participants of the CORE Program who have already purchased their new equipment are not eligible for L&GE funds. The CORE Program is only available for small landscaping businesses. If an eligible business wants to participate in both the CORE Program and the L&GE program, they must work with a CORE approved dealer to ensure that the equipment is not yet purchased before applying to the L&GE program.

The applicant must provide information about all co-funding sources and funding amounts with the application. The total L&GE project voucher cannot exceed the cost of the new equipment when combined with other funding sources and must meet cost-share requirements. The APCD works with the CORE-approved dealer to ensure that the CORE discounts are accurately reflected.

## 4. Disposal Requirements

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The L&GE program requires the disposal of an existing like-for-like piece of fuel-based equipment for each piece of electric equipment purchased through the program. The new replacement equipment must serve the same function and perform the same work as the existing equipment. For example, a blower must be replaced with a blower. Existing equipment must be in operable condition. CARB has specified that the applicant can attest to the operability of their equipment and the air districts are ultimately responsible for determining the apparent operability of the existing equipment. The participant is to self-certify that the existing fuel-based equipment is in operable condition on the application. During application review, the APCD will verify that each new piece of electric equipment to be purchased corresponds with a piece of existing fuel-based equipment that will be scrapped. The APCD will be unable to provide reimbursement for electric equipment without proper scrapping of existing.

The APCD will provide a list of local participating dismantlers that will accept the existing equipment for disposal. Within 60 days of receiving the new lawn and garden equipment and prior to submitting close-out documentation, the participant must scrap their existing equipment at a participating dismantler and have the dismantler provide a receipt and sign a provided Certificate of Destruction. The participant is responsible for paying any scrapping fees out of pocket with the dismantler. The Certificate of Destruction must include the

amount and type of each piece of equipment that is destroyed. The participant must submit the receipt from the dismantler (if available) and the Certificate of Destruction with their final documentation for reimbursement.

## 5. Voucher Reimbursement

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After purchasing the new equipment and disposing of existing equipment, each participant will submit their close out documents to the APCD for reimbursement before the voucher expiration date (within 60 days from voucher issuance). In some cases, the APCD may be able to provide an extension on the voucher submittal with good cause (i.e delays in receiving new equipment after purchase). However, this extension does not waive the requirement that the applicant must scrap their old gas/diesel equipment and submit payout documentation to the APCD within 60 days of receiving the new equipment.

### **The participant must submit the following information before payment will be disbursed:**

1. Signed voucher;
2. Receipts of purchased equipment;
3. IRS W-9 Form, <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>
4. Certificate of Destruction, exact form to be provided by the APCD with voucher; and
5. Receipts from dismantler (if available).

The APCD will reimburse the participant via check within 45 days of submittal of the required materials.

## 6. Outreach and Education

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The APCD will provide L&GE program information on the APCD's website, [SLOCleanAir.org](http://SLOCleanAir.org), and advertise the L&GE program to eligible L&GE applicants. Additionally, the APCD has maintained a contact list with organizations that have expressed interest in the program.

Outreach may include:

- Postcards and emails to identified commercial landscaping businesses, public agencies, school districts, and universities in the county;
- Collaboration with L&GE manufacturers, local retailers, and CORE approved dealers with promoting awareness of the program through demo days and other outreach activities;
- News releases (with Spanish translation) with full distribution to:
  - Social media (Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor); and
  - APCD Board members.

The L&GE program will include educational components to ensure that participants are aware of how to properly dispose of fuel-based L&GE and how to operate leaf blowers to minimize air quality impacts. Educational material will be distributed alongside information about the L&GE program via postcards, emails, and news releases through the outreach strategies described above.

## 7. Timeline

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Activity	Date
CARB Carl Moyer State Reserve Grant Agreement Executed	April 28, 2024
Public Outreach	September 2024 and ongoing
Program Launch: Applications accepted for projects \$5,000 and under	January 13, 2025
Applications accepted for all projects, not exceeding \$30,000	April 14, 2025
Liquidation Date	June 30, 2028

## 8. Recordkeeping

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The APCD will keep track of the following information for each L&GE replacement project:

- Tracking number for each voucher (application # and voucher #);
- Name of applicant organization;
- Primary applicant contact;
- Mailing address and physical address;
- Phone number;
- Date of application;
- Commercial business license or state contractor license (if applicable);
- Employment Identification Number (if applicable);
- Proof of service in San Luis Obispo County for commercial landscapers and nonprofits with-out of-county licenses;
- Self-certifications;
- Total voucher amount;
- Co-funding sources and amounts;
- Voucher expiration date;
- New equipment purchased with each voucher including equipment type, manufacturer, model, retailer, and price estimate;
- Copies of receipts for all purchased equipment;
- Equipment to be recycled including equipment type, if known also the manufacturer, model year, and engine family number;
- Date of voucher submittal;
- Tax forms (IRS W-9 Form);
- Certificate of Destruction;
- Receipt from dismantler; and
- Date voucher funds dispersed by APCD.



## 9. Workflow

