



Grant Opportunity

The Regional Air Quality Council Public Entity Lawn and Garden, Zero-Emission Equipment Grant Application

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is requesting applications to fund the purchase of zero emission, commercial-grade, lawn, and garden equipment to improve air quality within the Colorado ozone nonattainment area.

Eligible entities can receive up to \$50,000 to fund the replacement of gasoline powered lawn and garden / parks equipment, with electric powered equipment and/or infrastructure.

The first round of online applications will be open starting February 6, and we will accept applications until June 1st or until funds are depleted. There will be a second round of funding if sufficient funds are still available after June, 2023, date TBD. Please visit www.MowDownPollution.org to complete the online application.

Background: in 2022, the Colorado legislature passed legislation, which directed funding to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to help local/state public entities replace/retire gas equipment and increase or develop their fleet of electric lawn and garden equipment. The Regional Air Quality Council is facilitating that grant process.

Program Goal:

This program is an opportunity for local public entities to experiment, pilot, and develop your fleet of new electric lawn and garden equipment. The program is also an opportunity to upgrade your electric power infrastructure that would support electric lawn and garden equipment.

Expected Results of Activity: To achieve air quality improvements within the Denver Metro/North Front Range ozone nonattainment area by electrifying public sector lawn and garden equipment and retiring polluting, gas-powered equipment.

Funding: Approximately \$1,200,000 is available for funding the replacement of gasoline-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment with electric powered equipment. Applicants must apply for and be awarded funding before purchasing eligible equipment. Funding applications will be reviewed by our selection committee with awards up to \$50,000 for each round.

Grant funding will cover:

- Up to 80% off the purchase price of electric powered field maintenance/lawn care equipment, batteries, and support equipment, with up to 100% if your organization is approved for accommodation.



Eligible Projects: The equipment must be related to field/lawn care maintenance, including mowers, trimmers, blowers, edgers, chainsaws, batteries, battery management systems, and other lawn care equipment. If you are not sure if your proposal will be accepted, please email the RAQC at MowDownPollution@RAQC.org. We're happy to discuss applications prior to submission.

Eligible items will generally fit into the categories below.

- New Commercial Grade Electric Lawn Mowers: Riding and Walk-behind.
- New Commercial Grade Electric Hand Held Equipment: (Chainsaws, Blowers, Trimmers, Edgers, etc).
- Electric utility vehicle.
- Battery management systems, extra batteries, charging infrastructure, (in field solar panels, etc).
- Corded or manually powered versions of devices mentioned above.

Requirements:

- Willingness to provide or find some matching dollars with a target goal of 20%. Entities with a reasonable need can be excluded from this requirement.
- Recycling of gas-powered equipment to have an immediate air quality impact.
- Provide feedback about the equipment that you purchase.

Eligible Entities: Public agencies within the Denver Metro/North Front Range 9-county ozone nonattainment area including:

- Local governments: cities, towns, and counties
- Public schools and universities
- State agencies
- Special Districts
- Private contractors who are contracted to provide services for the above mentioned public entities

*Verification required in the form of a letter of support from the contracting public entity

Timing: The first round of online applications will be open starting February 6, and we will accept applications until June 1st or until funds are depleted. There will be a second round of funding if sufficient funds are still available after June, 2023, date TBD.



Award Process: Applicants must apply for and be awarded funding before purchasing eligible equipment. Applicants will be notified by phone and email of their award. After being notified, awardees will receive a Purchase Order from the RAQC by email. The Purchase Order serves the following functions:

- Acts as a notice to proceed with purchasing the grant-funded equipment
- Denotes the maximum grant award for each requested piece of equipment
- Denotes the total grant award amount

Awardees may not purchase equipment before receiving the Purchase Order from the RAQC. Grant funding will be forfeited by the awardee if any equipment is purchased prior to the awardee receiving a RAQC Purchase Order.

Reimbursement Process: Applicant must have purchased equipment and paid in full before the awardee can seek reimbursement. Once this has occurred: the awardee will submit a reimbursement form, final invoices, and proof of payment to the Regional Air Quality Council.

The final grant award amount will be based on the approved final invoices provided to the RAQC. Once this documentation is submitted to the RAQC and approved, it will be submitted on the next monthly reimbursement to the RAQC funding source. Reimbursement to awardees will be sent as a check to the awardee address listed on the Purchase Order within 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) of the RAQC's receipt of its contract reimbursement. The timing of reimbursements is subject to the RAQC receiving funds from the State.

Reporting: All awarded applicants are required to complete a survey. The RAQC will send the awarded applicants the survey after enough time to use the equipment has been established at a date determined in 2024.

Additional Information:

Applicants may submit questions to Jacob LaBure at MowDownPollution@raqc.org or 303.629.5450 x290.

Applicants are encouraged to use the Microsoft Word formatted version for preparation purposes only.

Applications must be completed online at www.MowDownPollution.org However, this document can serve as a guide



Application Checklist

Section I. Contact Information

Please provide the following information for the primary contact on your application.

Contact Name: _____

Contact Title: _____

Organization Name: _____

Organization Type:

- () Local government () School or university () State agency () Parks and recreation special district
() Private company currently contracted with a public agency () Other _____

To be eligible for funding, private companies providing lawn and garden services must be contracted with an eligible public agency. You must be able to provide verification in the form of a letter of support from the contracting public entity.

For private entities only:

Name of private contracting company): _____

Local Organization Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

County: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Organization Website: _____

Section II: Accounts Payable Contact

This section is for organizations that have an accounts payable official who should receive the reimbursement check within your organization. If this official is someone other than the applicant this section should be completed.

Contact Name: _____

Contact Title: _____

Organization Name: _____

Local Organization Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____



ELLECTRICITY POLLUTION CONTROL

Terms and Conditions

Organizations, hereinafter referred to as the “applicant” must adhere to all the following criteria to be eligible for program funding. Any failure to comply with the criteria listed below may result in a request to return grant funding to the RAQC.

1. Equipment must operate in the Denver Metro/North Front Range ozone nonattainment. The Denver Metro/North Front Range ozone nonattainment area includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld County; hereinafter referred to as “the program area”.
2. The RAQC will not fund projects retroactively (i.e. equipment may not be purchased prior to application submittal to the RAQC and the issuance of a Purchase Order from the RAQC).
3. Applicant agrees they will match dollars for equipment as reflected in their application.
4. Applicant agrees they will decommission/recycle non-electric equipment as stated in their application.
5. Applicant agrees to operate the equipment for a minimum of 2 years in the program area. If equipment is destroyed or otherwise disposed of, the applicant must notify the RAQC.
6. Applicants must work with the RAQC to share data on the funded equipment's usage. At the request of the RAQC, the applicant agrees to complete an end of season questionnaire to provide feedback on the equipment such as operators' experiences, equipment performance, etc. Additional information and data may be requested as needed.
7. The applicant must allow the RAQC to make all applications and bid documents public. Confidential/Proprietary information will be removed and applicant notified before application and bid documents are made public. Confidential/Proprietary information must be readily identified and clearly marked.
8. In order to be reimbursed, all claimed eligible costs and final invoicing must be provided in a legible format on a form provided by the RAQC. Backup original invoicing will be required. If documents are illegible, confusing or incorrect in any manner, the project will not be funded. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that documents are clear.
9. Applicant must agree to equipment inspection upon RAQC request.

As the project applicant, I hereby certify and agree to all the aforementioned Mandatory Criteria.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Title/Organization: _____



Section III. Project Justification and Planning Criteria

1. Please provide a general overview of your current lawn and garden asset portfolio. Please include type of equipment, the reasonable estimates of quantity per type, and the fuel type. (For example, 10 gas riding lawn mowers, 1 propane riding lawn mower, 4 gas trimmers, and 1 electric chainsaw.)

2. Please complete the table below for the electric equipment you are seeking funding for:
 If additional batteries or chargers are purchased separately from the equipment, please include them as a separate line item.

	Type of Equipment	Quantity	Brand	Model Number	Unit Price	Total Cost for all Units	Total Grant Funding Requested
Item 1							
Item 2							
Item 3							
Item 4							
Item 5							
Item 6							
Item 7							
Item 8							
Item 9							
Item 10							
Item 11							
Item 12							



3. What is the total amount of grant funding requested for all equipment? (Grant funding is limited to a minimum of \$1,000 and maximum of \$50,000 per entity)

4. How many years do you anticipate using the equipment?

The selection below will be evaluated by our selection committee and awarded point based on the completeness of the answer and by the community benefit we expect to receive

5. *Please indicate the amount your organization is able to match grant dollars, if any. More points are awarded to entities with a higher matches because this will increase the amount of emission reductions we are able to achieve (20 Points)*

6. Demonstration of entities' commitment to electrification. What else are you doing to transition to electrification? *More points should be awarded to entities who show an enhanced commitment to electrification and the utilization of zero-emissions equipment(20 Points)*

7. Are there circumstances (economic conditions, declared emergencies, other) that should be considered? *Points will be awarded to entities who have circumstances that should be considered. If not N/A is an acceptable answer (20 points)*

8. Plan to decommission and recycle gas lawn equipment (30 Points) Please upload a quote for each equipment type requested www.MowDownPollution.org *points should be awarded to entities who are willing to recycle larger quantities of gas powered equipment to receive greater emissions reductions*

9. Utilizing our emission calculator: please tell us how much emission reductions you should see as a result of you recycling your gas lawn equipment. (10 Points) Calculator can be found at www.MowDownPollution.org/help



Please upload a quote for each equipment type requested online on your application

Please clearly mark all documents and include a brief description of the documents attached in the comments section below (re: which items correspond to which quote). After selecting a file, please click the "Upload" button.

Section IV. Finalizing Application

- The applicant organization is within a nonattainment area.
- I understand that I must not purchase equipment before the grant is approved and I will be notified by the receipt of an award letter, and purchase order.
- I will comply with the Program Terms and Conditions.
- I understand that grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, based on available funding.

As the project applicant, I hereby certify and agree to the reporting requirements.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Title/Organization: _____