

## CITY OF FORT WORTH

### MOW DOWN AIR POLLUTION MOWER EXCHANGE EVENT

#### **Project Title: "Mow Down Air Pollution" Mower Exchange Event**

**Background:** In July 1997, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. The EPA has phased out and replaced the previous one-hour standard with an eight-hour standard to protect public health against longer exposure to this air pollutant. A community will meet the eight-hour standard when the three-year average of the annual fourth highest daily maximum eight-hour ozone concentration measured at each monitoring site is less than 85 parts per billion (ppb). The Dallas-Fort Worth area is currently in a non-attainment status with the federal standards for the eight-hour ozone concentrations. Due to its non-attainment status, the Dallas-Fort Worth area is required to implement programs that will reduce the amount of harmful pollutants in the atmosphere.<sup>1</sup>

**Project Description:** The City of Fort Worth, in response to the EPA's requirements in the NAAQS rule, has become regionally and nationally recognized for its efforts to reduce air pollution in the region. As a part of that effort, one of the City's programs is a program to remove gasoline-powered lawn mowers from service and replace them with more fuel-efficient and lower pollution-emitting electric mowers.

The "Mow Down Air Pollution" event will remove approximately 167 gasoline-powered mowers from service and reduce harmful air pollution emissions in that region. The City of Fort Worth and the North Texas Clean Air Coalition (NTCAC) will host a one-day event in Tarrant County where 167 citizens can receive a trade-in value for their operational gas-powered walk-behind mowers for a clean-running electric mower. The mower retailer will pay 20% of the cost of each \$449 mower (\$90). The City will pay 40% of the purchase price of each mower with SEP funds (\$150), which will allow citizens to purchase the mower at a discounted price of \$209. The final cost to the citizens is comparable to that of a gasoline-powered mower.

The City will recycle all recyclable materials from the gasoline-powered mowers and will not resell the mowers for use in the affected region.

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<sup>1</sup>Information from "Texas Cities' Compliance with Eight-Hour Ozone Standard" located on the TCEQ website at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/8hr\\_attainment](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/8hr_attainment)

**Event Plan:**

- 1) Host event on a Saturday at a retailer parking lot (rain or shine in tents provided by City of Fort Worth);
- 2) 2-4 hour event or until 167 mowers are traded (first-come-first serve basis);
- 3) Residential mowers only; no commercial or business mowers accepted. Only one electric mower per customer/family; no riding lawn mowers accepted;
- 4) Gas-powered lawn mowers will be tested by city staff to ensure they are in working condition;
- 5) The gas-powered mowers will be collected onsite, emptied of all liquids and picked up on the event day by the City of Fort Worth Solid Waste Division for disposal and/or recycling of parts, gas and oil;
- 6) Customers drive through two (2) stations each covered by a 10x10 tent (provided by the City);

**Station 1** – Customer presents gas-powered lawn mower, city staff test mower, citizen fills out Voucher & Release of Ownership/Liability paperwork and is given goody bag filled with air quality information & retailer/manufacture promotional items;

**Station 2** – Customer drops off gas-powered lawn mower to city staff and receives voucher to take into store for purchase (voucher will have expiration date of one month); staff empties mower of all liquids.

**Environmental Benefit:** The event will remove 167 gasoline-powered mowers from service and result in an estimated reduction of seven (7) tons of volatile organic carbon (VOC) emissions and removal of fifteen (15) tons of monoxide emissions per year.<sup>2</sup> The event will draw substantial media attention and will assist in educating thousands of citizens on ways they can reduce ozone-forming emissions, and how their daily activities affect air quality.

- Reduce levels of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC)s in the non-attainment region;
- Promote the use of more fuel-efficient and lower emission lawn equipment;
- Educate the public about the causes and sources of air pollutants;
- Educate the public about what can be done to help reduce the levels of contaminants in the region.

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<sup>2</sup> EPA Lawn mower Buyback Program Case Study: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/recipes/mowers.html>

**Project Budget:** \$25,000

**Minimum Contribution Amount:** \$5,000

**Counties directly involved:** Tarrant.

**Counties potentially impacted:** Tarrant, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, and Rockwall.