



# Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Exchange Program

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. What is the purpose of the program?

The eL&G Program aims to reduce air pollution by replacing polluting commercial lawn and garden equipment with zero-emission electric alternatives. The program supports community-driven emission reduction plans and aligns with the Air District's [Strategic Plan](#) to reimagine incentive programs.

### 2. What is electric lawn and garden equipment?

Electric lawn and garden equipment refers to new, cordless, zero-emission electric tools that serve the same function as the combustion-powered equipment being replaced. Eligible categories include chainsaws, trimmers, edgers, brush cutters, leaf blowers, vacuums, walk-behind mowers, and ride-on or stand/sit mowers.

### 3. Am I eligible to participate?

To participate in the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Exchange Replacement Program (eL&G) you must be a commercial operator of lawn and garden equipment, have your primary administrative office or headquarters ("principal place of business") located within the [Air District's jurisdiction](#) and must have owned and operated your existing equipment within the Air District's jurisdiction and some of the time in at least one of the areas in Table 1 below for at least two years prior to applying.

Visit the [Eligibility Page](#) to learn more.

**Table 1: Eligible Geographic Program Areas**

County	Community	Eligible Zip Codes
San Francisco & San Mateo	Bayview Hunters Point & Surrounding Communities	94107, 94110, 94124, 94134, 94103, 94114, 94131, 94112, 94005, 94014
Alameda	East Oakland & Surrounding Communities	94601, 94603, 94605, 94621, 94103, 94114, 94131, 94112, 94005, 94014



<b>Alameda</b>	<b>West Oakland &amp; Surrounding Communities</b>	94607, 94608, 94609, 94612, 94710, 94702, 94703, 94618, 94611, 94705, 94610
<b>Contra Costa</b>	<b>Richmond and San Pablo &amp; Surrounding Communities</b>	94801, 94803, 94804, 94805, 94806, 94850, 94706, 94530, 94564, 94708

**4. What is the process?**

1. Review Program Requirements to confirm your eligibility and gather the necessary supporting documentation.
2. Visit an authorized Vendor to request a Voucher and submit an application and select new equipment.
3. Vendor reviews application for eligibility and completeness and submits to the Air District within 5 days.
4. Air District reviews and approves or rejects within 25 days, notifies the Program Participant of approval, and provides Voucher to proceed with equipment replacement.
5. Program Participant returns to the Vendor to exchange qualifying equipment and receives a point-of-sale discount on new electric lawn and garden equipment.
6. Vendor tests old equipment for operability and sends old equipment to be scrapped.
7. Vendor submits for reimbursement within 60 days of when the Voucher was redeemed and new equipment was sold.
8. District issues payment on complete payment packets within 30 days of receipt directly to Vendor.

**5. Is the program first-come, first-served?**

Applications are currently being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are expended. We encourage applying for funding as soon as possible in order to reserve funding.

Complete applications are processed in the order they are received except in cases where a project may be placed on a waitlist. if funding is oversubscribed for a participating vendor.

Each Vendor has a set maximum funding limit. Projects may be put on a waitlist if the Vendor exceeds its funding limit. Waitlisted projects may be considered for funding if additional funds become available.

**6. How is the program funded?**

Funding for the exchange program is provided by Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program Funds and Mobile Source Incentive Funds. The Air District may also utilize



additional funding sources at its discretion.

## **7. What types of electric lawn and garden equipment are available for purchase through the program?**

Eligible cordless electric lawn and garden equipment available for purchase in-store includes chainsaws, trimmers, edgers, brush cutters, leaf blowers, vacuums, ride-on or stand/sit mowers and walk behind lawn mowers.

*Please note that equipment availability may vary by approved Vendor location.*

## **8. How much can I get towards new equipment?**

Voucher amounts depend on the type of equipment purchased. Eligible applicants may receive:

- **\$700** for chainsaws, trimmers, edgers, or brush cutters
- **\$1,400** for leaf blowers or vacuums
- **\$1,500** for walk-behind lawn mowers
- **\$15,000** for ride-on or stand/sit mowers

Additional eligible program costs include:

- Batteries, chargers, charging cables, adapters, and other charging equipment

## **9. Can I bring my equipment to any Vendor location?**

No, you must bring your equipment to an Air District-approved Vendor. Only these Vendors are authorized to process applications, verify equipment eligibility, and handle the destruction of old equipment. A list of approved Vendors is available on the program website [here](#).

## **10. Do I need to pay taxes on my Voucher?**

Yes, the Voucher amount is considered taxable income and will be reported to the Franchise Tax Board. Participants must submit a completed IRS W-9 form during the application process.

## **11. Can I apply more than once?**

Yes, you may submit multiple applications. Each participant can receive a maximum of \$200,000 in total funding.

## **12. Can I destroy my own equipment?**

No, the approved Vendor you work with will be responsible for destroying the existing equipment that will be traded in accordance with the program requirements.



### **13. Who should I contact if I have questions about my application and how can I check the status once submitted?**

You can contact our authorized Vendors directly or contact us at [lawnandgarden@baaqmd.gov](mailto:lawnandgarden@baaqmd.gov) or call 415-749-4994.

### **14. How do Vouchers work?**

Once an application is approved and you have received a Notice to Proceed, a Voucher will be awarded that will provide a point-of-sale discount on the equipment purchase. The Air District will reimburse the Vendor for this discount directly.

### **15. How do I scrap my equipment?**

Once approved and awarded a Voucher, you must turn in the old equipment to the Vendor when purchasing the new one. The Vendor will handle scrapping.

### **16. How do I add a Vendor to the list?**

The program is not currently accepting new vendors. If you are interested in becoming a vendor in the future, please sign up for email notifications [here](#). You will be notified when the next Request for Qualifications (RFQ) application period opens.

### **17. How many days do I have to bring in my old equipment?**

Old baseline equipment must be surrendered at the time of purchasing the new electric lawn and garden equipment and no later than 60 days after receiving the Notice to Proceed and Voucher.

### **18. Can residents apply?**

No, currently, the program is only open to commercial lawn and garden operators.

### **19. How do I prove I provide commercial landscaping services?**

To verify your professional landscaping status, you must provide documentation demonstrating two consecutive years of valid business operation at an address within the Air District's jurisdiction.

- Acceptable documentation includes:
  - Business licenses
  - C-27 contractor licenses
- A current business license or C-27 contractor license is required and must be valid from application submittal through final approval.
- For prior years, filing confirmations may be accepted as proof of valid operation.



- o If a contractor license does not display a business address, applicants must also submit a California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) license lookup results showing the associated address.

Government agencies and public schools that are unable to provide these or alternative documents are exempt from this requirement but must certify in their application that the documentation is unavailable.

**20. What if I don't have 2-years of business licenses or C-27 contractors licenses issued in California?**

You must have 2 years of consecutive business licenses issued in California from the date you apply to be eligible to participate in the program (see question 19 above for documentation requirements). Note government agencies and public schools are exempt from this requirement if this documentation is not available.

**21. Can non-operational equipment be exchanged?**

No, eligible existing commercial grade lawn and garden equipment ("baseline equipment") must be fully operational—able to start, move, and have all parts intact. Non-operable equipment is not eligible and will be rejected.

**22. What if I have not owned and operated my existing equipment for at least 2 years?**

The program requires an applicant to certify they have owned and operated the existing equipment they will turn in for a minimum of 2 years from the date of application. If the equipment can't meet this requirement, then it is not eligible for the program.

**23. Can I receive funding if I do not provide commercial landscaping service in an eligible zip code?**

At this time, we are only accepting applications from eligible applicants who have owned and operated their existing equipment within both the Air District's jurisdiction (see this [map](#) on the Air District's website) and some of the time in at least one of the areas listed in the table below.

**Eligible Geographic Program Areas**

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**24. How will I provide the required backup documentation for my application?**

If an application is initially approved, the Air District will send a Notice of Conditional Approval email to the Participant and a secure Docusign link to upload required documents, including a W-9, business license or C-27 license, and a valid California-issued photo driver's license or identification card.

**25. What part of my project does funding cover?**

Program Vouchers cover up to 85% of eligible equipment costs (after discounts) on an individual unit basis. Participants are responsible for the remaining 15%. Voucher amounts will be the lower of either 85% of the discounted cost or the maximum amount listed in the Eligible Equipment and Maximum Voucher Amounts table below.

**Eligible Equipment and Maximum Voucher Amounts**

<b>Commercial Grade Equipment</b>	<b>Max Voucher Amount</b>
Chainsaws/Trimmers/Edgers/Brush Cutters	\$700
Leaf blowers/Vacuums	\$1,400
Walk Behind Lawn Mowers	\$1,500
Ride-on or Stand/Sit Mowers	\$15,000

**Example 1:** A Program Participant purchases a leaf blower, two batteries, and a charging cable for a total cost of \$1,000. The Voucher will cover \$850 and the Program Participant pays \$150.

**Example 2:** A Program Participant purchases one walk behind lawn mower for a total of \$2,000. In this example, the Voucher will be capped at \$1,500 and the Program Participant will pay the remaining \$500 balance out of pocket.

Note that government agencies and public schools are exempt from the 15% cost share requirement but cannot receive Voucher funds that exceed 100% of the eligible project costs.

**26. What are eligible costs?**

Eligible costs include:



- Equipment costs for eligible equipment types
- Batteries, chargers, cables, adapters, and other charging equipment
- Sales tax
- Freight from the manufacturer to the approved Vendor location
- Warranty costs

**27. How many pieces of equipment can I replace? Is there a maximum amount of funding I can get?**

Program Participants can replace multiple pieces of equipment with up to a combined Voucher limit of \$200,000.

**28. How long am I required to keep the new equipment I receive through this program?**

You must own and operate the new equipment for a minimum of 36 months from the date of receipt and at least some of the time in at least one of the areas listed in the table below.

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**29. Can I spread the cost of chargers, batteries, and other portable charging equipment across multiple units in my purchase?**

Yes. If you are purchasing multiple compatible units, you may spread the cost of portable charging equipment among those units; however, the total Voucher funding cannot exceed the allowable maximum Voucher funding. The allowable maximum Voucher funding is determined by the Program Participant's organization type and the eligible equipment category, as listed in the program's Eligible Equipment and Maximum Voucher Amounts table. No additional Voucher funds are available beyond the maximum allowable amounts.



For example, if you are a private business and would like to purchase two trimmers at \$600 each and three backup batteries at \$200 each the maximum allowable Voucher amount is \$1,400 as long as the 15% minimum cost share requirement is met. In this instance the total eligible costs for the purchase are \$1,800, you would be able to receive a Voucher of up to \$1,400 and would be responsible for paying the remainder eligible costs of \$400.

If the 15% minimum cost-share is not met, the Voucher amount will be reduced so that you pay at least 15% of the total eligible costs.

For example, if you are a private business purchasing two trimmers for \$700 each, the maximum allowable Voucher amount for this equipment is \$1,400. To meet the 15% cost share requirement, you would only be able to receive \$1,190 in Voucher funds.

**30. If I have a question that isn't answered by the program materials and FAQ, can I contact someone?**

Yes, please contact us by email at [lawnandgarden@baaqmd.gov](mailto:lawnandgarden@baaqmd.gov) or by phone at 415.749.4994.