

**SENATE . . . . . No. 451**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Cynthia Stone Creem*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a grant and loan program for low-noise, low-emissions landscape maintenance equipment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>Norfolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>4/12/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 451**

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By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 451) of Cynthia Stone Creem for legislation to establish a grant and loan program for low-noise, low-emissions landscape maintenance equipment. Environment and Natural Resources.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to establish a grant and loan program for low-noise, low-emissions landscape maintenance equipment.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:

2 Section 29. (a) There shall be within the executive office of energy and environmental  
3 affairs a grant and loan program to provide incentive funds to small businesses and  
4 municipalities to transition landscape maintenance equipment to low-noise, low-emissions  
5 equipment.

6 (b) To be eligible for a grant, small businesses and municipalities shall surrender gas-  
7 powered landscape maintenance equipment for a one-for-one replacement with low-noise, low-  
8 emissions equipment.

9 (c) Grant and loan funds awarded pursuant to subsection (a) may be used for:

10 (1) purchasing electric landscape maintenance equipment;

11 (2) training landscaping staff on the use and care of electric landscape maintenance  
12 equipment;

13 (3) operational costs that may be accrued through the transition from gas-powered  
14 landscape maintenance equipment to electric landscape maintenance equipment; and

15 (4) any other cost associated with the transition from gas-powered landscape maintenance  
16 equipment to electric landscape maintenance equipment, as determined by the secretary.

17 (e) Loans awarded pursuant to subsection (a) shall carry 0 per cent interest.

18 (f)(1) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
19 separate fund to be known as the Low-Noise, Low-Emissions Landscape Maintenance  
20 Equipment Trust Fund, in this section called the fund. The comptroller shall transfer to the fund  
21 an amount no greater than \$2,000,000 from the Federal COVID-19 Response Fund established in  
22 section 2JJJJ of chapter 29 for grants and loans to provide incentive funds to small businesses  
23 and municipalities to transition landscape maintenance equipment to low-noise, low-emissions  
24 equipment and any other federal reimbursements, grants, premiums, gifts, interest or other  
25 contributions from any source received that are specifically designated to be credited to the fund.  
26 The secretary shall be the trustee of the fund and may expend amounts from the fund without  
27 further appropriation.

28 (2) Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and money  
29 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be  
30 available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

31           (3) The secretary shall report annually, on or before August 1, to the house and senate  
32 committees on ways and means and the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on  
33 environment, natural resources and natural resources regarding expenditure activity within the  
34 trust fund.