



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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THE SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PASSES GREEN FLEET ORDINANCE WHICH CREATES A BOLD POLICY TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Commissioners' vote codifies Mayor Lee Harris' Green Fleet policies, which commits to drastically reducing emissions from county vehicles and combating climate change by investing more in electric and hybrid vehicles.

Shelby County, TN– On Monday, March 20, 2023, the Shelby County Board of Commissioners voted 11-0 to pass the Green Fleet Ordinance on its third and final reading. The Green Fleet Ordinance received bipartisan support and achieved the nine votes needed to change Shelby County Government's purchasing policy. The Green Fleet Ordinance sets out a timeline to end all purchases of fully gas-reliant passenger vehicles by 2033. This vote codifies an executive order by Mayor Lee Harris and positions the county to make more moves to combat climate change.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, with no action on climate change, Shelby County will face at least 6 times more days above 105 degrees by 2050, increasingly severe weather, and more damage to our shared environment. The largest producer of community-wide greenhouse gas in Shelby County is on-road emissions. The Green Fleet Ordinance sets an aggressive timeline for the prohibition of fossil fuel powered vehicles and allows Shelby County Government to do its

part in making an impact in reducing those harmful climate change causing emissions. By 2027, a minimum of five percent of the fleet will be green vehicles. A year later, a minimum of 50 percent of all new fleet vehicles purchases will be electric or hybrid, and finally, by 2033 the county will end all purchases of exclusively gas-reliant vehicles unless it's financially reckless to do so. The Green Fleet Ordinance sets up Shelby County Government to leverage federal funds available through the Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act, the most impactful policy against climate change in our lifetime.

Over the last several years, Mayor Harris' administration has taken historic steps to modernize the County's fleet by purchasing hybrid and electric vehicles, lowering emissions, and constructing electric vehicle infrastructure. In 2022, Mayor Harris signed his Green Fleet Executive Order that committed to electric vehicle and hybrid vehicle investments to dramatically reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions put out by county vehicles in the coming years. Shelby County's Green Fleet initiative codifies that executive order and seeks to the reduce impact on our shared environment and build an efficient, cost-effective fleet that saves taxpayer dollars.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: "We are already seeing the impacts of climate change and we will soon feel the heat even more, unless we do something about it. Right now, we have millions of dollars devoted to critical flood mitigation projects designed to help reduce the impact of climate change on homes and neighborhoods. We aren't going to stop preparing for the worst. Our Green Fleet Ordinance represents bold action to fight climate change. The largest emitter of harmful climate change causing emissions community-wide is on-road transportation. Thank you to Shelby County Commissioners committed to the work of combating climate change, leading on sustainable initiatives, and saving taxpayer dollars."

Shelby County Budget Chairman Commissioner Michael Whaley: "Shelby County Government has become the region's leader in innovative, green, and sustainable initiatives. We're doing this to save taxpayer dollars and create a clean energy future for our next generation. Shelby County's Green Fleet Ordinance will continue to advance these priorities for years to come. I am proud to have sponsored the Green Fleet Ordinance with bipartisan support. By transitioning to more clean energy sources and investing in green vehicles, we are making a big difference in our shared environment."

John Zeanah, Director, Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development: "Green vehicles are not only releasing fewer greenhouse gas emissions into our environment, but they will also save thousands of dollars during their life cycles. By reducing the cost of gas and maintenance, and taking advantage of tax credits for green vehicles, the Green Fleet Ordinance uses common sense policy to save taxpayer dollars."

Bella Brewer, Shelby County Youth Council Representative, District 6: "We as youth are seeing and living the consequences of sustainability not being pushed for by government leaders. We want to see our government act rather than just let our world deteriorate. As a District 6 Shelby

County Youth Council Representative, I attended the Sustainable Shelby update session this month and learned more about exciting efforts to move Shelby County into a healthier future, including the Green Fleet Ordinance. This is one of many efforts the Youth Council is excited to be holding up as the direction we want to see our future go! We will be meeting with the Mayor and County Commission next month to hear and share ideas for continuing to move our communities towards a stronger future for Shelby County!"

Latrecia Adams, Chair of the Shelby County Lead Prevention and Sustainability Commission: "It takes brave and bold leadership to invest in generations to come. With our planet hanging in the balance, I'm proud to see collaborative leadership in Shelby County take our environmental future seriously by passing the Green Fleet Ordinance. Thank you to Mayor Lee Harris for his continued commitment on sustainability issues and to the Board of Commissioners for seeing the vision."

Dr. Carl Richards, Chair of the Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter Chickasaw Group: "Shelby County is about to experience significant economic development due to substantial private and public investments in electric vehicle manufacturing and sales. By purchasing and operating electric vehicles in this market the County will become a partner in this new economic activity and promote those industries. We applaud the County's effort to lead the way towards transitioning to an electric fleet of vehicles."

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