



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

MEDIA ADVISORY

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SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS TO SIGN GREEN FLEET EXECUTIVE ORDER TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND REPLACE GAS VEHICLES

The County's Green Fleet initiative will reduce the local government's impact on our shared environment and build a more efficient, cost-effective fleet that saves taxpayer dollars.

- WHO:** Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, John Zeanah, Youth co-founder of Stop Poverty with Policy, The Sierra Club, and Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP)
- WHAT:** Green Fleet Executive Order Signing Ceremony for Shelby County Government
- WHEN:** 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2022
- WHERE:** Civic Center Plaza (in front of Vasco A. Smith, Jr. Administration Building), 160 North Main Street, Memphis, TN, 38103

Shelby County, TN – Mayor Lee Harris will sign at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 17, 2022, an executive order to replace Shelby County Government vehicles that rely on fossil fuels with hybrid and zero-emission electric vehicles. The Executive Order builds on Mayor Harris' administration's investment in electric and hybrid vehicles to reduce emissions and combat climate change. The County recently added its first fully electric vehicle to its fleet and, just last week, the County

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Commission authorized the \$350,000 purchase of a fully electric medium-duty dump truck to support the County's litter collection program.

Mayor Harris' Executive Order adopts a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fleet vehicles by 45 percent by 2035. 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. Additionally, the Green Fleet Executive Order calls for expanded vehicle fuel efficiency information for County Commissioners when authorizing purchases, expedites the replacement of inefficient fleet vehicles, limits the length of time county vehicles can idle, and supports opportunities for expanded fleet modernization.

The largest producer of community-wide greenhouse gas in Shelby County is on-road emissions. 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. Shelby County's Green Fleet initiative seeks to reduce impact on our shared environment and build an efficient, cost-effective fleet that saves taxpayer dollars.

Shelby County's fully electric and hybrid vehicles will be on display at the signing ceremony including a fully electric Ford F-150 Lightning, fully electric Chevrolet Bolt, and Hybrid Ford Focus. The event will be powered by the Ford F-150 Lightning.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: "Climate change, increasingly severe weather, and other damage to our shared environment are costing our community dearly. 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 Executive Order represents bold action to reduce our shared impact on the environment. The largest emitter of harmful climate change causing emissions is on-road transportation. I'm proud to sign an Executive Order that, will empower Shelby County leaders to make good decisions, combat climate change, and save taxpayer dollars."

Shelby County Assessor of Property Melvin Burgess: "This is progress. We all have a responsibility to lead by example and do what we can to curb climate change. The Assessor's Office is thrilled to support Mayor Harris' Sustainable Green Fleet and look forward to working with his administration to lower emissions, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure."



John Zeanah, director, Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development: “It’s not easy to change course and turn a big ship around, but we are doing it. Mayor Harris’ Green Fleet Executive Order puts into place policy that will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and make Shelby County Government an area leader in combating climate change.”

Joe Ozegovich, executive committee member, Sierra Club’s Chickasaw Group: “We would like to thank Mayor Harris for taking the leadership role in using the County’s fleet replacement strategy to reduce harmful emissions, combat climate change, and advocate for more large organizations to do the same. We applaud the County’s effort to lead the way towards transitioning to an electric fleet of vehicles with a clean energy source.”

Sophia Overstreet, Houston High School senior, youth activist for transit and climate justice: “The policy choices we make regarding climate change now will inform the trajectory of the environment for decades to come. As young people, my peers and I will have to deal with the fallout if policymakers continue making bad decisions. Steps like this help ensure the eventual implementation of widespread green infrastructure and set important precedents for clean energy and clean transportation.”

Angela Johnson, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP): "Memphis Community Against Pollution is excited and proud of Mayor Harris' Green Fleet Executive Order. Mayor Harris' Executive Order brings with it much promise of future initiatives other local governing bodies and organizations can achieve to address air pollution issues impacting our communities as well as the effects of climate change."

(End of Release)