

MOTION PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTIO

The World Health Organization estimates that 7 million premature deaths occur each year from air pollution, making it one of the largest environmental health risks in the world. The City of Los Angeles must explore innovative solutions to reduce air pollution and reduce the urban heat island effect.

Cities such as Berlin, Oslo, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, and London have pursued creative solutions to reduce pollution and improve air quality, while also beautifying neighborhoods. The City of London recently installed a "CityTree" near Piccadilly Circus. The "CityTree," which doubles as a bench, absorbs as much pollution as 275 trees in 1 percent of the space. Through a vertical installation of moss, the greenery filters out particulate matter, absorbs CO2 and removes soot, dirt, and other pollutants. The use of moss, which hosts bacteria, works to absorb particulate matter in the range of 0.1 microns to 10 microns. The bench also features "smart technology" and provides measurements of the surrounding environment such as pollution data, air temperature, water quality, and soil humidity. In addition, the bench features solar panels and water collection areas, making it self-sustaining.

As the City commits itself to environmental sustainability initiatives, we must continue to explore innovative solutions to mitigate the urban heat island effect and improve air quality in frontline communities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Sanitation, report to the Council in 30 days on the feasibility of installing "CityTrees," which serve to effectively absorb harmful particulate matter thereby improving air quality.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Sanitation, report on potential funding sources to support "CityTrees" including grant funds from the South Coast Air Quality Management District and/or the California Air Resources Board.

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