



Motion to IEC

July 7, 2026

Options to provide an inexpensive, non-polluting power supply for mobile food vendors

Summary

A few mobile food vendors in Toronto use clean, silent, inexpensive grid electricity to power their operations. However, most mobile food vendors in Toronto rely on noisy, polluting, gas or diesel generators to provide the power they need. In areas crowded with mobile food vendors, the cumulative effect of these fossil fuel generators can cause noticeable air pollution, and enough noise to disturb those living or working nearby. The cost of the generator and the fuel can also be a material financial burden for the food vendors.

The city of New York has launched a pilot project in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park that allows mobile food cart vendors to inexpensively rent clean, rechargeable batteries instead, according to the [Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice](#). When one battery is exhausted, it can be instantly swapped for a charged battery. Toronto should consider a similar pilot program or other means of increasing the availability of non-polluting power supplies for mobile food vendors.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Infrastructure and Environment Committee request the Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry, in consultation with Toronto Hydro, the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the General Manager, Transportation Services, to evaluate the New York City pilot project and include those findings with recommendations on options and resources required to increase the availability of non-polluting power supplies for mobile food cart vendors in the report-back on reducing emissions generated by street vendors from 2026. EC27.2 expected in the fourth quarter of 2027.

Councillor Dianne Saxe

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