

Attachment B: Leaf Blower Questionnaire Summary

Background

In Q1 2023, City Council direct staff to explore policies and/or programs to address gas-powered leaf blowers. Actions to address leaf blowers were not included in the 2020 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, therefore staff engaged the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee to guide and inform next steps.

This document highlights regional and state-level policies surrounding gas-powered leaf blower use and summarizes the results from Redmond's April-June 2023 leaf blower questionnaire.

During the October 2023 Parks and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Whole meeting, Council will hear from staff in Parks and Public Works on efforts they have underway to integrate and evaluate electric leaf blowers.

Questionnaire Outreach

In April of 2023, staff at the City of Redmond published a questionnaire to solicit public feedback on policies and programs associated with the use of electric leaf blowers. The questionnaire was open for two months – from April 18 through June 23 – and was promoted online via the City's social media channels, City News, and the April Environmental Sustainability Newsletter. In addition, two postcards soliciting questionnaire input were sent to 165 landscaping businesses with active business licenses in the City of Redmond.

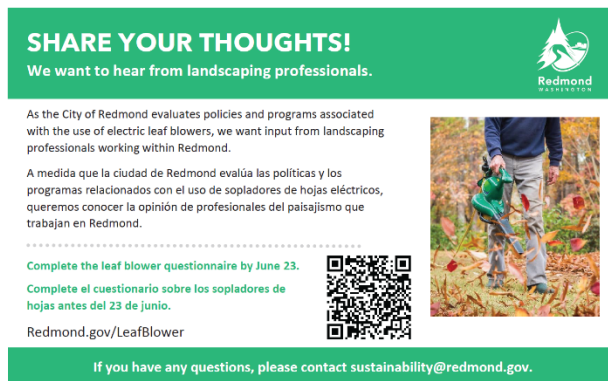


Figure 1: Postcard sent to all registered landscaping companies in Redmond.

Questionnaire Findings

The questionnaire received 242 responses, of which 195 respondents self-identified as community members and 17 respondents self-identified as landscaping professionals. The full report is attached as Exhibit 1. Highlights include:

- Majority of respondents cite loud noise (77%) and smell (71%) as top two drivers for a policy.

- 69% of respondents noted they are very likely or somewhat likely to support an electric leaf blower policy.
- 24% of respondents are not likely or somewhat unlikely to support an electric leaf blower policy.
- Barriers to broader adoption of electric leaf blowers include short battery life (45%), high purchase cost (37%), and lower equipment performance or durability (36%).
- Themes within the write in feedback section of the questionnaire include:
 - Concerns that professional electric leaf blower technology is not currently sufficient for commercial use and concerns about small businesses ability to adapt should a policy be adopted.
 - Strong desire for quieter alternatives, like electric leaf blowers or rakes.
 - Question as to whether this should be a priority for Redmond.

Other Leaf Blower Policies

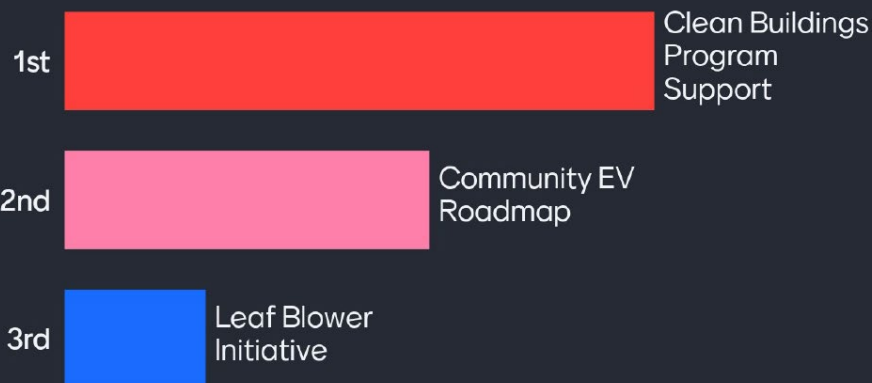
For reference, below is a summary of key leaf blower policies or proposed legislation.

Kirkland	Seattle	California	Washington
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council adopted a resolution that authorizes the creation of the Electric Leaf Blower Initiative. • The initiative leverages a three-phased approach, with a target to sunset the use of gas-powered leaf blowers by 2026. • Budget and staff capacity have been allocated to the Leaf Blower initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution in place to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within city operations by 2025, and the public by 2027. • Mayor Harrell directed that all new leaf blower purchases by city departments must be electric by 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California regulators voted in 2021 to ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers starting in 2024 and portable generators by 2028. • There will be an annual review to determine whether they are on target and whether the regulation needs to be altered or delayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 5543 was proposed in the 2021-22 session, which would give rebates to homeowners and professional landscapers who replace gas-powered landscaping equipment with electric equipment. • The bill did not move out of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Discussion

Staff provided background and results of the leaf blower questionnaire at the June 2023 ESAC meeting. Staff asked for ESAC feedback as to where the leaf blower initiative might fit in comparison to the other programmatic priorities as well as how they would recommend Redmond position the city on this effort. Results from the questionnaire are captured below.

What initiatives should Redmond Environmental Sustainability prioritize?



How should we position Redmond in terms of Electric Leaf Blower initiatives?

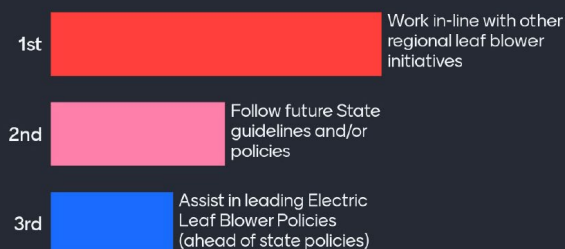


Exhibit 1

Leaf Blower Questionnaire

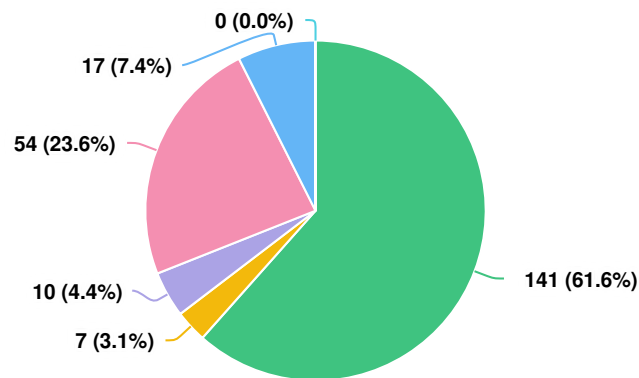
SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

05 July 2019 - 09 July 2023

PROJECT NAME:

Environmental Sustainability

Q1 In what capacity are you typically involved in operating leaf blowers?



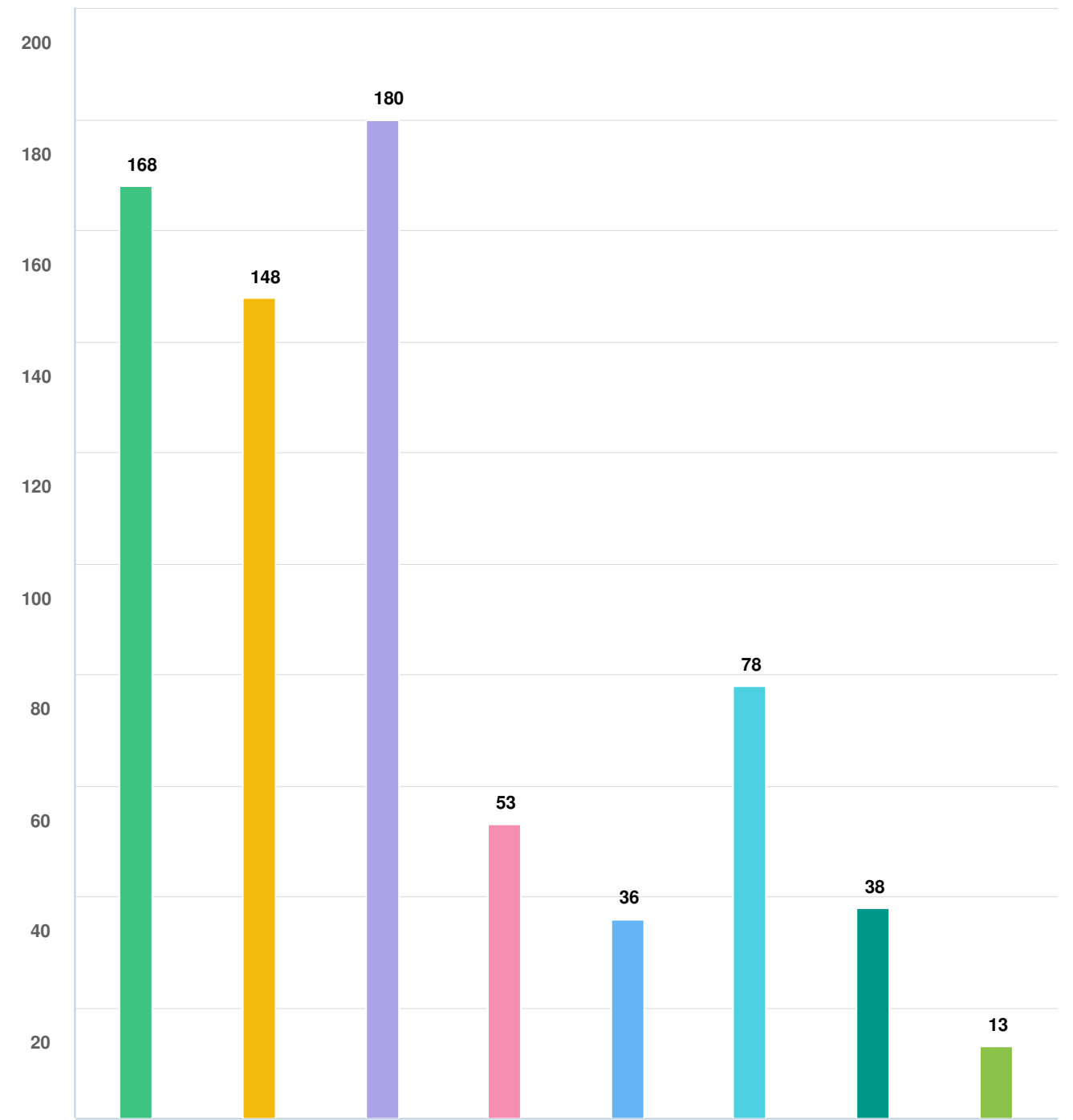
Question options

- Homeowner or residential user
- Landscaping operator (commercial)
- Landscaping business owner
- Neighbor or community member
- Other (please specify)
- Vendor or manufacturer

Optional question (229 response(s), 13 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 What benefits do you see in switching from gasoline to electric leaf blowers? (check all that apply)

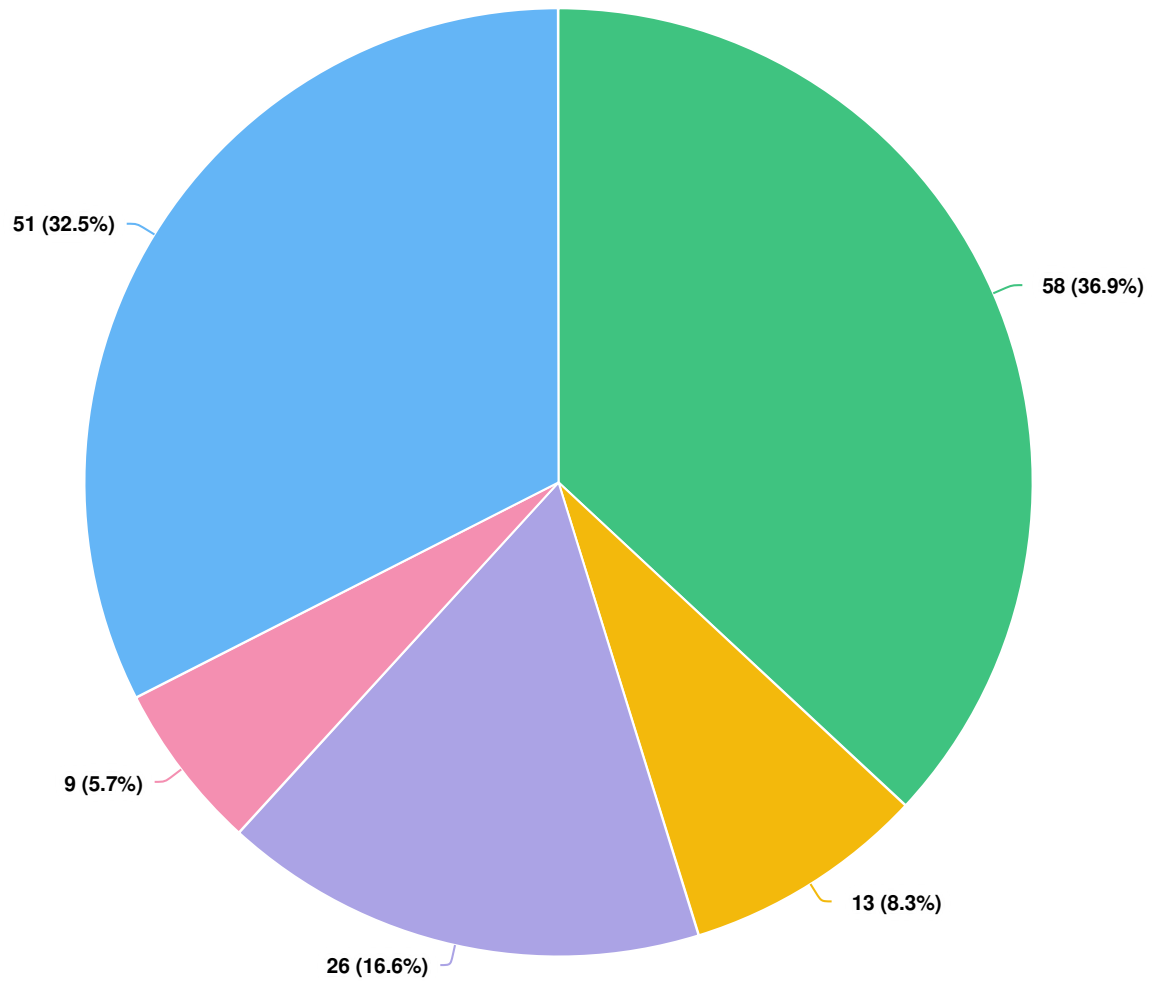


Question options

- Improved air quality and public health
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions
- Lower noise levels and disturbance
- Better overall convenience
- Improved equipment performance or durability
- Lower fuel cost (e.g., electricity vs. gasoline)
- None
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (235 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q3 If you don't currently use an electric leaf blower, how likely are you to switch to it within the next two years?



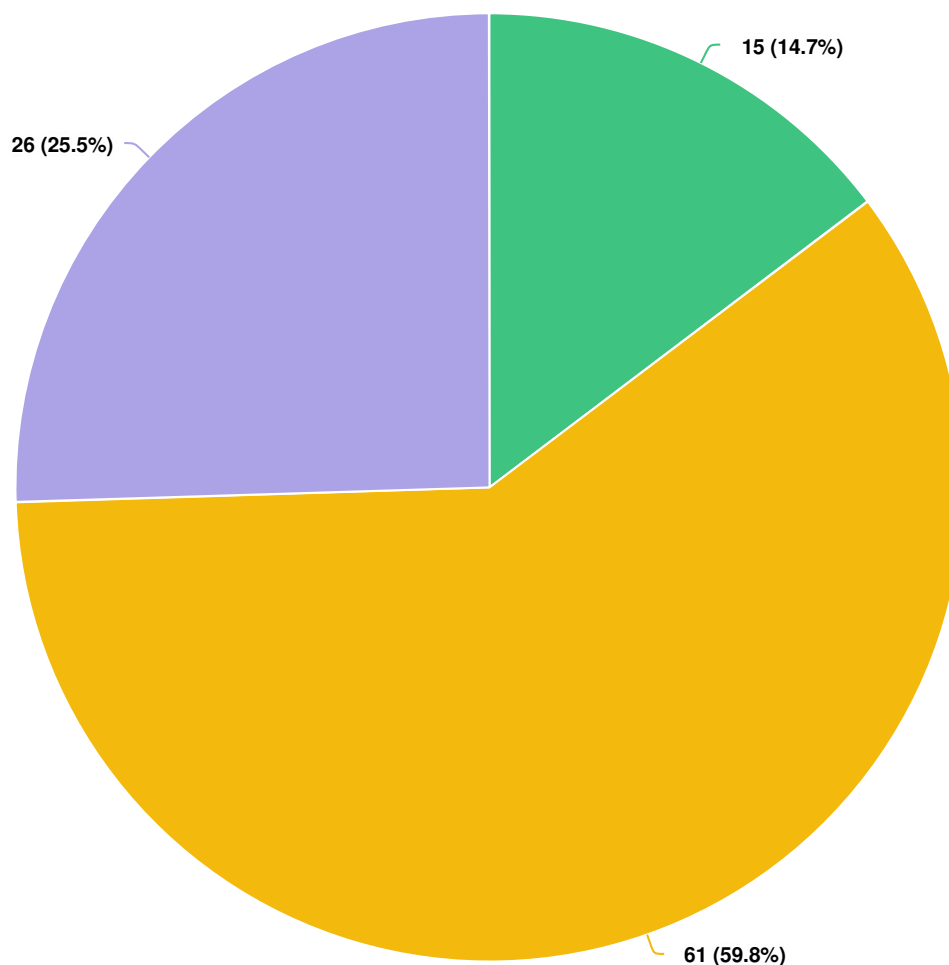
Question options

Very likely Somewhat likely Neither likely nor unlikely Somewhat unlikely Not likely at all

Optional question (157 response(s), 85 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q4 | If you decide to switch to an electric leaf blower, are you more likely to switch to the plug-in corded or battery-operated models?



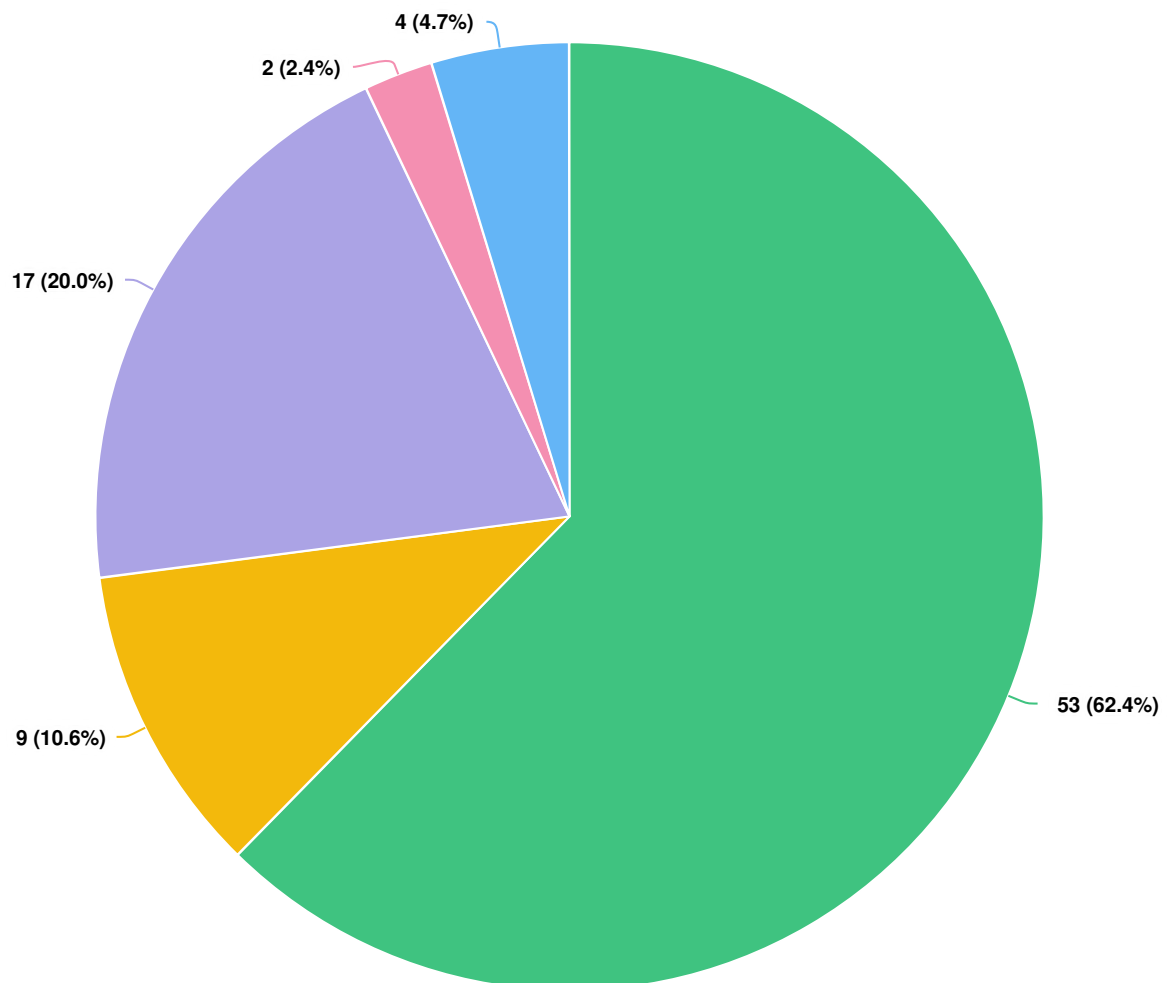
Question options

● Plug-in corded models ● Battery operated models ● I'm undecided

Optional question (102 response(s), 140 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 | If you currently use an electric leaf blower, how likely are you to continue or increase using it within the next two years?



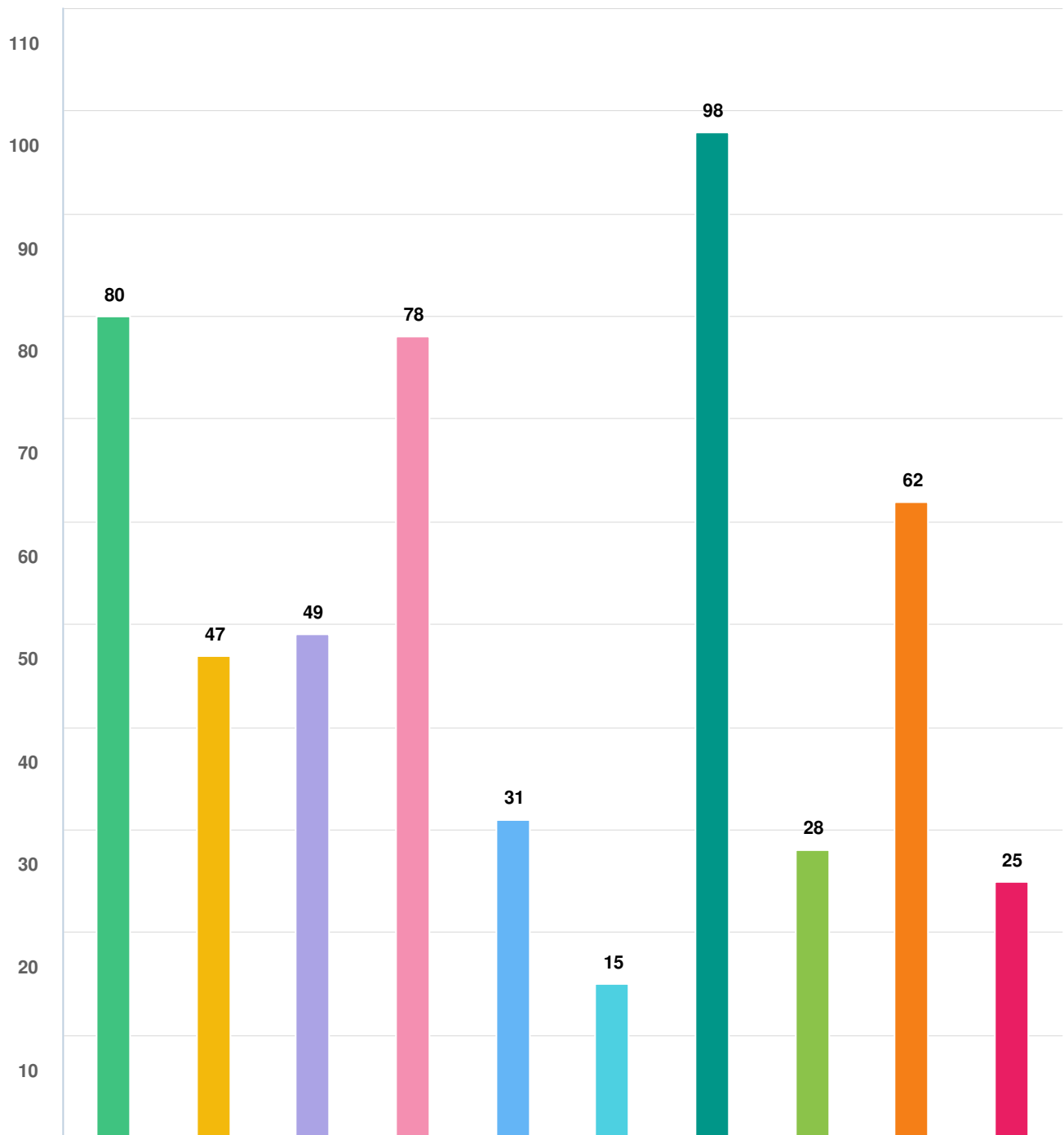
Question options

Very likely Somewhat likely Neither likely nor unlikely Somewhat unlikely Not likely at all

Optional question (85 response(s), 157 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 What barriers do you see that might prevent switching from gasoline to electric leaf blowers (check all that apply)



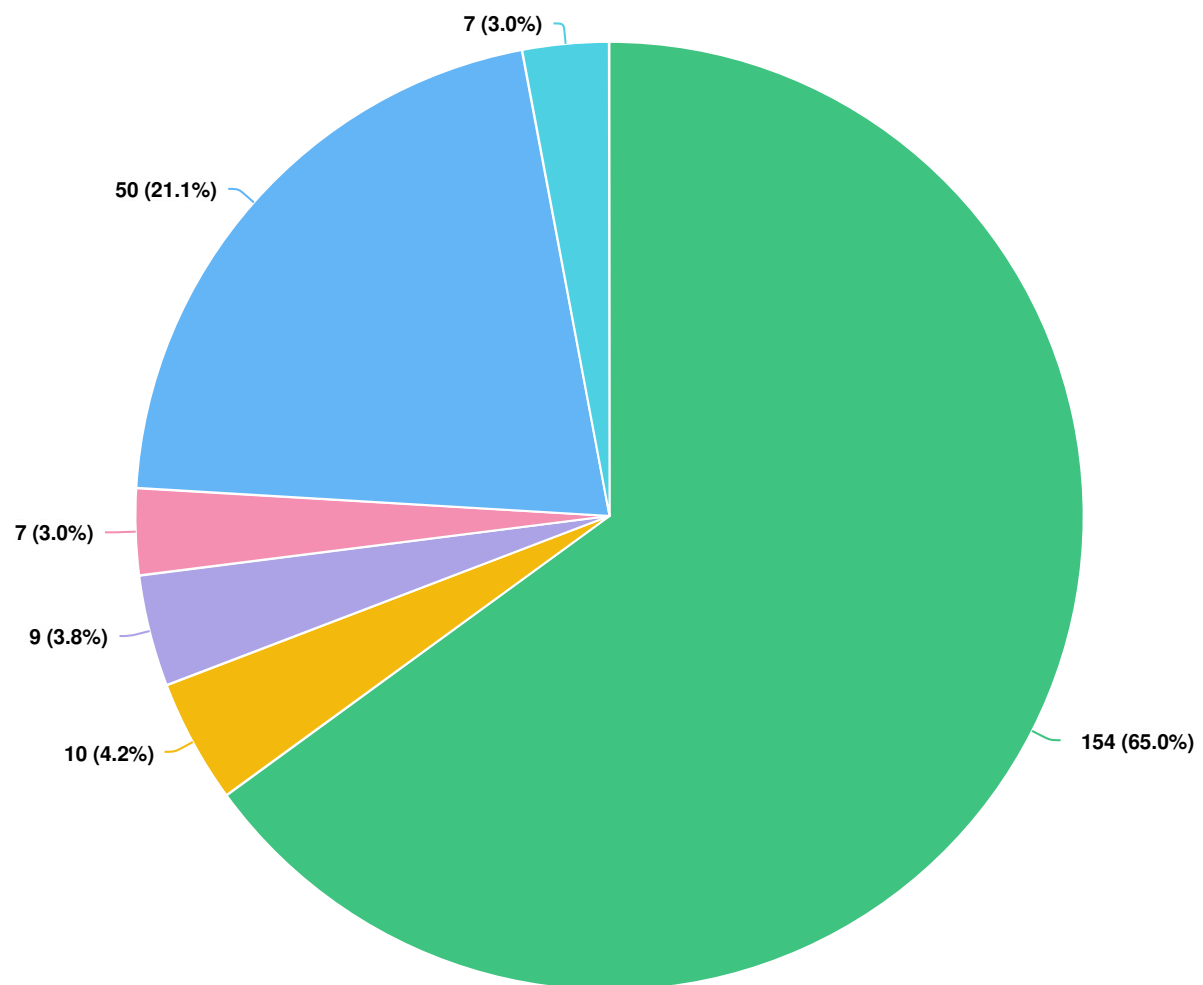
Question options

- High purchasing costs
 ● No access to battery charging
 ● No access to wall plug-in
- Lower equipment performance or durability
 ● Lower overall convenience
 ● Lack of availability for purchase
- Short battery life
 ● Lack of information about existing models
 ● I don't see any barriers
 ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (219 response(s), 23 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 | How likely are you to support a policy promoting the use of electric leaf blowers over gas-powered leaf blowers?



Question options

- ☒ Very likely ☐ Somewhat likely ☐ Neither likely nor unlikely ☐ Somewhat unlikely ☐ Not likely at all ☐ Need more information

Optional question (237 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q8 | Do you have any additional information you would like to share about electric leaf blowers?

Anonymous

4/18/2023 09:23 AM

They are better in everyway.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 10:52 AM

I think there should be a noise limit for all leaf blowers.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 11:29 AM

Please expand our noise ordinances to ban gas powered leaf blowers.

Anonymous

4/20/2023 09:59 AM

It would be great if we mandated a policy to use electric leaf blowers. Gas-powered leaf blowers are loud and polluting.

Anonymous

4/21/2023 08:34 AM

Survey cites "gasoline-powered leaf blowers produce significant emissions"...What is considered "significant"? i.e. compared to cars...

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:06 AM

It should be homeowners choice, not government forced!

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:06 AM

The technology needs to catch up to the needs and desires. The current models are either too heavy or lighter but not powerful enough to be effective.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:08 AM

Already have switched to electric lawn and garden equipment. I think the City should consider collecting old or dead batteries for recycling as homeowners upgrade and/or replace so that old and dead batteries do not end up in our landfills.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:16 AM

Please share the results of this survey with other cities to learn from.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:16 AM

I feel concerned for the small businesses being able to afford that switch. Could they be provided some sort of stipend to help with the cost? Bilingual community outreach would need to be provided

Anonymous

Electric blowers and other yard equipment simply aren't there yet. I

4/24/2023 09:25 AM

have both and use the electric only for quick cleanup on deck or entry patio. Please do not consider any sort of ban of gas powered blowers until the industry is able to produce electric blowers with comparable performance.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:27 AM

Can you share what percentage of emissions are caused by leaf blowers over a year? If you are serious about emissions, why start with one of the lowest usage equipment and affect small and minority owned landscaping businesses. No one works harder than these small businesses. Why not focus on the big emitting folks? Focus on agriculture, manufacturing, construction - are you scared of their lobbying power. Increase public transportation frequency and make its value proposition compelling that citizens think twice before using their cars.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:30 AM

Green works has a line of commercial mowers and blowers, as does Club Cadet. Changing to electric is long overdue

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:33 AM

If you institute a ban on gas powered leaf blowers, suggest you have a trade in program by which some compensation is offered to owners of gas powered leaf blowers. By doing so I think owners would be more willing to part with them in exchange for a more expensive battery powered one

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:33 AM

I have a plugin leaf blower and it's quite noisy. I'd be much happier if they were quieter as I don't use it much because of the noise.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:35 AM

Peoples' choice of lawn and garden equipment is not government business and Redmond should not waste time on this. That said, I'm fine with promoting electric so long as the City avoids coercive ordinances or policies. As a homeowner, I use gas and electric blowers. Electric blowers are convenient for some cleanup chores but are not adequate for roof and surface maintenance where fir trees are nearby.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:38 AM

Please support this change to electric blowers!

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:39 AM

Gas powered chain saws contribute to the same problems and easily confused with each other.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:43 AM

As Redmond's residential density continues to increase, early morning noise (such as from gas leaf-blowers and waste trucks) disrupts the sleep of more and more people. I favor stronger, enforceable rules against noisy equipment, including restrictions on gas-powered equipment.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:44 AM

There should be noise ordinances of some sort about how many can be running at one time!

Anonymous

4/24/2023 09:52 AM

Everyone here pays for a garden obsorborant prices to maintain a landscaping. I do my own because I cant afford one. Now you are asking that throw out my perfectly good blower into the landfill so I can purchase an electric one wirh batteries that pollute our earth to make and dispose of because of some "noise" that is less than regular city noise and emissions from the same gas we use foe our cars. Sure make me feel guilty and responsible for using items that the mega corporations created.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:01 AM

It is good to blow leaves off the paved surfaces and back into the yards/beds. Not good to actually pick them up and take them away as they represent nutrients that the soil/plants need. Blowers are good for just moving things a bit. If you actually need to gather them (to take to compost pile, etc.) they are not as good as an old-fashioned rake.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:20 AM

I live in a condo. The landscape company ESLC, uses gas powered leaf blowers. I would like all landscape companies to switch to electricity powered blowers.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:20 AM

We are tired of being disturbed by loud gasoline blowers in Redmond. Please require electric only as soon as possible.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:23 AM

A rake doesnt need a battery and is cheap! I do not like leaf blowers. I detest the noise pollution. Please van them as our neighbour is obsessed and uses them early morning often! Thank you so much. Please ban ASAP!

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:31 AM

I live in a Townhome on Avondale Road, during the week gas blowers run all day at the Colony, usually Wednesday, then Ashord Park on Thursdays (from 8 am to 3 pm,) on Fridays it is a Townhome to the left of Ashford Park, not sure of name of it, it is non stop, the leaf

blowers at Ashford work in a group of 3 men all working the debris to one big pile, it is so loud you can barely hear yourself think, I sincerely hope Redmond passes a ordinance banning these smelly and loud pieces of equipment. I think other communities have already done so. There are plenty of plug-in's at each unit should the need for recharging. Last fall the grounds keepers had additional workers, 6 or 7 men all working as 1 unit to blow leaves, I could not be on phone could not hear radio, TV just horrendous noise. I want to thank who ever brought this to the attention of the city council. Also the smell of those leaf blowers is terrible.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:44 AM

Leaf blower technology and battery life are not there yet for commercial use. They have place on small jobs. We have used them for the last two years where possible.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:50 AM

I have an investment in my current blower and should not be forced to buy an electric one before my current blower quits working.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:51 AM

Promoting and encouraging. Don't require it, at least not for an extended period of time.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:52 AM

Our city would benefit by less noise for residents who wish to enjoy our activities without listening to a gas 2-stroke engine running.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:59 AM

Please let me know what I can do to help get the use of gas-powered leaf blowers banned in residential areas in Redmond and at Grass Lawn Park, which is right next to our house. Contact me at gellerjh@hotmail.com if I can help.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 11:03 AM

I don't actually use leaf-blowers, but I am affected by their loud noise and pollution. I would be in favor of any policy that limits that.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 11:07 AM

I work in Redmond and have experienced loud noises from lawn equipment during meetings held inside buildings. In addition, people with hearing issues can be negatively impacted when walking near landscapers. It is good to be mindful of loud noises in addition to support for the environment.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 11:23 AM

Our family lives at a downtown apartment and would prefer a ban on all leaf blowers.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 11:59 AM

The noise made by gasoline-powered leaf blowers is absurd. They can be heard from blocks away and can ruin what would otherwise be a very pleasant neighborhood walk. They can force windows to be kept closed -- often requiring the use of air conditioning over natural cooling. Anything that can be done to eliminate gasoline-powered leaf blowers in Redmond would be a great benefit to the population.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 12:23 PM

I have an electric leaf blower and have no issues with it. I am constantly walking in my area and most of the neighbors use a lawn maintenance company. Gas powered blowers are very LOUD and I have to turn up the volume on my headphones to hear my music or podcasts during a walk. I can also hear blowers inside my house when the neighbors are getting their yard maintained.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 12:55 PM

Gas leaf blowers are annoying. I literally hear one right now at a neighbor's place. It'd be great to ban them at some point - I'm completely in favor of mandating electric only (or rake! :p)

Anonymous

4/24/2023 01:05 PM

I'll support switching to them so long as they're quieter and less annoying. I'm even willing to pitch in if the cost is a burden to the city or small businesses.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 01:11 PM

Redmond resident for 20+ years. Don't use leaf blower and frankly don't care for them but is this SERIOUSLY something the CITY is spending time and money on? There are many other priorities you should be addressing.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 01:24 PM

More people should probably just use an old-fashioned rake, instead.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 01:47 PM

Electric leaf blowers would be wonderful

Anonymous

4/24/2023 01:59 PM

I do not own a leaf blower, and I'd support any measure that lowered air pollution and lowered noise levels in residential areas.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 01:59 PM

If the US will seek nuclear power we might survive the P/C on wind and solar. We need to be energy independent and phase in alternative not have gov't try to control our lives.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 02:06 PM

Too noisy all week long the condo and Townhomes and apartments in my area, from morning about 8 am to 3 pm these are large pieces of equipment the workers carry on their backs, seem to have got larger and more powerful and more noise. I cannot talk on phone or even listen to TV or radio, last fall there were 7 men on 180th all working in tandem to gather up the leaves, all had large equipment, they could be raking instead. Please do something about this issue and send me any updates.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 02:25 PM

The city should not be wasting its time or tax payer dollars on something that is not going to have any overall effect on climate change.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 03:28 PM

A terribly skewed survey to promote an agenda to ban gas Blowers

Anonymous

4/24/2023 03:48 PM

We currently own an electric leaf blower and are very pleased with it. Thank you very much for taking action on this constant problem!

Anonymous

4/24/2023 04:00 PM

As a homeowner, using a battery powered (electric) leaf blower is a no brainer...simple, fast, easy, no barriers to purchasing or using. Commercial lawn care, however, is a different story, as they need the power and runtime offered by gasoline powered devices. I think any efforts to incent homeowners to move to electric won't result in much impact because so many of us switched many years ago. I would like to see discussion and incentives around helping small yard care businesses make the successful leap in a way that's not too burdensome for them.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 04:14 PM

Use a large rake :)

Anonymous

4/24/2023 04:16 PM

It's about time the City of Redmond examines this issue. I feel gas-powered blowers should have been banned a long time ago. AND no blower should be run before 8am.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 04:35 PM

In a wheelchair you are at eye level when they are blowing and they blow it directly at your face they seem not to realize to turn it away when you're going by one of my caregivers yelled at them and they just ignored her so yes I think that education in the use of them and also not doing things that will harm people children disabled people

wheelchair people older people people with breathing difficulties etc. I could see the use of some kind of solar recharging system because they are always using them outside and they have that on electric bicycles for long trips as they pedal they use solar power to recharge the battery so why couldn't they do something like that with the blowers. It would leave a lot less for the street cleaners to have to clean and pick up to have to clean and go up and down finding empty streets etc in the middle of the night and making lots of noise. The noise is deafening it hurts your ears the fumes hurt your lungs and your eyes and your nose etc. When I first moved to Redmond it was much greener with not all these tall buildings situated in a very small area and I do not think that it can support all the pollution and noise it is toxic for residents. And we don't have many natural filters now because in order to make all these buildings they took out all the green areas and trees so right now near me I live downtown Redmond across from trader Joe's to make a reference they are doing all kinds of construction and they even do it late at night on Sundays and I mean they just do whatever they want because no one is around to stop them they bring in big equipment and tear things down and it loosens all kinds of stuff in the air but of course by the next day it is all cleaned up because they use blowers all night long and I have a sneaking hunch that no one in the city government knows this is going on.. furthermore there should be strict time limits of when they can be used not the middle of the night and very early in the morning for sure. But the blowers that come around here blow in the rain snow and everything and I don't know what they're doing when they're blowing it around in the snow and rain they can't really be doing much except making noise and pollution. I am very willing to speak out and give more ideas and you are welcome to call me at 425-881-7755 my name is Connie Stansberry and I am sure that you will find me in your city records except volunteer human service commissioner. I had a stroke and I am homebound but I still have my mind so I would be more than happy to help push this through in any way I can. I am better at writing than speaking I get nervous in front of people but also it is hard for me to speak because of the stroke I did not lose my ability to speak I just have to be very careful and slow but I can suggest many things for another speaker to promote these things. Thank you so much for listening to me. I really care about the area I live in even if I could move I wouldn't because I love the area but I don't think it was well thought out or planned how to work and live in the same area without all the noise our apartments are not very well insulated and noise rises. Forgive me if some of this does not make sense I do have to use speech to text and it doesn't always come out right

Anonymous

4/24/2023 05:31 PM

I think moving to electric is important for our environment, however if new policy gets put in place to ban gas powered, I recommend it be

implemented with plenty of time for individuals and companies to purchase electric equipment. I'd hate to see companies go out of business, or get fined because they can't afford to purchase new equipment right away. Let's give everyone time. In addition, do we know if our infrastructure can support the move to everything that is going electric? (e.g. cars, appliances, etc)

Anonymous

4/24/2023 06:03 PM

For homeowners, this is an easy switch, assuming you are on a small plot. If you have a larger plot or are a landscaper that needs to perform this work at many homes, this switch will be harder, and they will need more of an incentive.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 07:35 PM

Are gas leaf blowers noisy? Yes. Are electric leaf blowers silent? No. Unfortunately, physics tells us that a great amount of electricity is needed to power an electric leaf blower, more than the average household outlet socket provides, to provide enough output equal to a gas powered unit. The technology just isn't there yet. I wouldn't support coercive policy to get residents and commercial users to switch. It's not fiscally reasonable. I don't want to subsidize this change. I don't want to pay increased costs operators would charge because that change of subpar equipment is expensive, slower, and inconvenient for those users to get the same job done. Technology will catch up and this change will happen. It doesn't need to be forced.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 07:37 PM

Could you tell us what percentage of all gas emissions in Redmond are from leaf blowers? 1%? People who operate leaf blowers are mainly landscapers who are at the bottom of the income scale and struggling to make ends meet. Telling them that they must switch to all-electric leaf blowers seems petty and elitist.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 08:01 PM

Banning gas leaf blowers should not be the only gas powered tool banned; the City of Redmond should also ban gas powered trimmers/edgers to further reduce noise and air pollution!!!

Anonymous

4/25/2023 12:23 AM

Condo owner: PLEASE PASS A LAW OUTLAWING THE USE OF GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS!!!!

Anonymous

4/25/2023 06:06 AM

Ban blowers in general. We have neighbors who use them for several hours several days a week in the Fall from dawn to dark. Noise pollution beyond.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 07:20 AM

We could only afford a corded blower and therefore cannot use on all our property. Quality battery operated blowers need to become cheaper first. Or the city can let residents remove more trees then they don't need any blowers.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 07:57 AM

The noise level is way beyond what is allowed according to noise ordinance to cross fence lines from neighbors. It's just convenience by the landscapers to pour carcinogenic liquids into the gas tank and spew half of it out unburned, while the general public suffers. Follow California in outlawing all 2 cycle engines! Thank you for bringing this up.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 09:19 AM

Efforts like this are ludicrous! Spend your time solving real problems, like traffic and crime. I can't believe how far Redmond governance has fallen.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 09:39 AM

I am all for electric leaf blowers, but I do not agree that a policy should ban and force individuals to not use gas powered tools.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 10:45 AM

I have switched to all electric garden equipment. The equipment work just as good or better then gas powered equipment. The only problem is the initial cost of all the equipment . I do see the equipment prices coming down very fast (in the last few years).

Anonymous

4/25/2023 10:47 AM

As an apartment resident downtown, the difference between electric and gas leaf blowers is very noticeable.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 02:23 PM

I work nights and sleep in the day. Gas powered blowers are the bane of me existence and they wake me up and they are terrible.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 05:02 PM

A trade-in program would be nice with some kind of rebate for purchasing electric.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 09:01 PM

I do not plan to replace my homeowner gas blowers with electric/battery operated blowers.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 10:01 PM

In my neighborhood, the majority of leaf blowers are operated by landscapers, who spend a lot of time blowing off things that to my eye don't need it, usually on a set weekly/monthly schedule. Could

Redmond ever add a small fee per service per blower for companies? Like a plastic bag fee -- just enough to make homeowners pause and reconsider if they really want/need a blower? Thank you so much for considering this topic!! It's a big part of everyday life.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 08:58 AM

year-round commercial property deployment of gas powered leaf blowers is a public nuisance in terms of noise, a significant pollutant of our environment, and pointless (most of the time of the year). Please ban at least commercial use of gas powered leaf blowers, and I would support getting rid of them for everyone. thanks!

Anonymous

4/26/2023 11:15 AM

I'm happy with my electric leaf blower.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:01 PM

I am hoping batteries might be recycled by our City.

Anonymous

4/27/2023 11:53 AM

I have both an electric and gas at different locations, the electric is just if not more capable than the gas. I continue to use the gas unit as it works, and the replacement cost is high. When the gas unit dies, I expect to replace it with electric, however I do not foresee that happening in the next two years.

Anonymous

4/27/2023 02:30 PM

Via this campaign to transition from gas to electric leaf blowers, perhaps we could also advocate for leaving leaves where they fall. Overall soil health is detrimentally impacted by removing this return of rich resources to the earth. Can we please also provide education on the benefits of not removing this material? Not only is this material vitally important for the flora and fauna but also for us. If we deny our soil this natural cycle of renewal we will ultimately suffer, too.

Anonymous

4/28/2023 12:16 PM

I would love to see a ban on gas leaf blowers. They are a terrible nuisance.

Anonymous

4/28/2023 09:42 PM

I think a ban on gas blowers would target yard workers (blue collar) who may not have the money to invest in electric blowers or have time to charge them between jobs. It's easy to put things in place in higher income one areas, but often we neglect to think of all it will affect. I personally love my electric lawn mower and may invest in an electric blower at some point. But I do not support an outright ban of gas blowers.

Anonymous

4/29/2023 09:42 PM

I don't want my tax money be spent on this non-sense issue. People who use gas power leaf blowers are almost all professional gardeners. They are making a living with it, if they want to switch over, then do so on their own.

Anonymous

5/01/2023 09:13 AM

They are light weight and convenient.

Anonymous

5/01/2023 12:07 PM

When trying to enjoy local parks and trails, battery powered leaf blowers would not be so disruptive as we would not have to endure the high decibels and toxic fumes and dust of the gas blowers. In general, I think blowers that are used in Redmond parks are used according to a timetable rather than when there is debris that needs to be removed. I often see park users blowing a lot of dust and nothing else. This also applies to landscape companies. I actually sweep the sidewalk in front of our residence and it only takes a little more effort and about the same amount of time as the blower. Perhaps introduce sweeping in smaller areas.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 04:29 PM

Especially as work-from-home becomes a regular part of more people's lives, it would be great, especially on beautiful days, to not have to close windows & work through the sounds of leaf blowing. It would be easier to convince my HOA to contract with those using electric if there was a city-wide rule or incentive. Plus, if landscapers are on average lower income, I'd love for them to not have to breathe the exhaust themselves. They may not be able to make the business case to invest in new equipment unless there are incentives or enough demand from customers. Sincerely, work from home employee who just finished mowing my lawn with an electric lawn mower. It's so much more pleasant to use than a gas one!

Anonymous

5/03/2023 05:11 PM

Please include rakes in your messaging; No energy use (other than human), quiet, and better for all of us than driving to the gym.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 05:22 PM

Already have an electric leaf blower.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 05:32 PM

On question 5, I would support a policy promoting the use of electric leaf blowers, such as vouchers and discounts to have electricians install anywhere from 2 to no more 4 outlets depending on the size of house/property (It is super expensive to have electricians doing this kind of work!). I would not support a city ordinance or law that would not make it possible for ALL to be able to switch and by all, I

mean low income families and those that invested on gas leaf blowers for their business are not able to invest in new equipment.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 06:53 PM

The emissions from the production of one lithium battery exceeds the total lifetime emission from one leaf blower. That's not even accounting for the massive recycling emissions and toxic waste batteries produce.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 07:03 PM

So what's best for the environment and the local insects and birds and animals.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 07:38 PM

People are out with noisy, smelly gas-powered leaf blowers at least once a week around my apartment year-round, even at times when there aren't any leaves. They're disruptive, bad for the environment, trigger my asthma, and absolutely ought to be banned city-wide.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 07:40 PM

Maybe a ban for residential use, but commercial landscapers the technology isn't there yet.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 08:03 PM

There should be regulation. If this doesn't pass, then hours of use should be restricted... no early morning or weekends!

Anonymous

5/03/2023 08:11 PM

I have an electric backpack leaf blower. I love it and it impressed everyone I show. I would rather see emissions standards and noise restrictions than a total ban on gas. The battery tech just isn't there yet for people who need to go all day without spending an excessive amount of money on spare batteries.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 09:02 PM

I don't think leaf blowers are necessary at all.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 09:03 PM

Battery cost are high and the life of the batteries are not long. I currently use an electric mower, edger, weed eater, hedger and blower. I've had batteries only last 1-2 seasons and cost \$100 to replace. I now have e-waist to deal with and fear most will just throw in their regular waste can and it ends up in the land fill. Battery technology needs to improve.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 09:19 PM

I started with a battery powered one and that didn't work. We don't own a big property, so the "prolusion" is absolutely nothing compared

to the many big engine trucks and cars in the area. Is this like me expecting from you to save budget on your smallest budget point? What I would highly support is a noise protection over lunch time or sunday mornings etc.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 10:59 PM

Don't be stupid. Don't legislate this area.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 11:37 PM

Banning gasoline engines of this type is the right thing to do.

Anonymous

5/04/2023 05:25 AM

Please don't take my gas blower away from me!!!!

Anonymous

5/04/2023 06:34 AM

I would love to see these go away even in the Union hill neighborhoods!

Anonymous

5/04/2023 06:52 AM

I have no issue banning private homeowners from using gas-powered leaf blowers. But, for professional landscaping companies, I might be more lenient. For an initial rollout of any ordinance, I might allow an exception for professional landscaping companies using leaf blowers on Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 5 PM.

Anonymous

5/04/2023 09:08 AM

I see no reason to use taxpayer \$\$ to buy new leafblowers when current ones work. Where will gas powered ones go? The Landfill? That's ridiculous. Perhaps replacing them one by one as they break...perhaps.

Anonymous

5/04/2023 09:10 AM

Please stay out of our personal lives, we don't need anymore laws.

Anonymous

5/04/2023 09:58 AM

Please pass a policy on landscaping/yard maintenance companies. I'm tired of the high-noise, heavily exhausting units used by these guys during our increasingly rare nice summer days ...when people should be able to enjoy peace and fresh air at their home. The cost of the equipment is minimal, battery packs have adequate capacity, they are lower maintenance, and professional models are now available - please enact a policy to ban their use by these companies and phase out for homeowners alike.

Anonymous

I hear noisy leaf blowers near me all summer long. The noise drives

5/04/2023 11:20 AM

me inside. Many of these landscapers are not needing to blow as much as they do

Anonymous

5/04/2023 12:44 PM

Outlaw all the leaf blowers. They are noisy and inconsiderate. Use a rake.

Anonymous

5/04/2023 01:05 PM

I think folks should use rakes unless they HAVE to use a blower. And I would prefer electric over gas unless it is more expedient to use gas.

Anonymous

5/04/2023 05:51 PM

For large properties an electric blower has zero efficiencies. Takes 3x longer as a homeowner. Talk about more noise pollution.

Anonymous

5/05/2023 06:05 AM

I've tried electric first and it take 4x longer to clean my back yard on a weekly basis

Anonymous

5/05/2023 04:45 PM

I come from Europe, where gas leaf blowers are unheard of. Instead, people use fully manual brooms (!) or electric blowers at most, and regulations limit the noise emission of such devices. It was surprising to see people here using big, loud blowers to chase a few leaves on the sidewalks in the rain, only to blow them onto the road and leave them there. Adjusting to the daily noise from these devices from different directions around our home has been and is definitely a challenge.

Anonymous

5/06/2023 06:10 PM

Personally I don't like leaf blowers and would support a ban as some other cities have, however electric is the lesser of the 2 evils but if you are on track to encourage electric/battery use then why not extend to lawn mowers as well. Gas lawn mowers put out a lot of pollution and noise. With an electric leaf blower you are eliminating the gas pollution component however it still quicks up a lot of dust which makes for poor air quality in that vicinity. I've been using a battery powered mower since 2008. They work fine. I'm on my 2nd that I bought a few years ago (Greenworks 80V). It is as or more powerful than it's gas counterpart, much quieter and no pollution. My chainsaw uses the same battery and again just as capable as it's gas counterpart.

Anonymous

5/10/2023 11:11 AM

I'm a homeowner and I've used both gas and electric lawn tools for years. Electric is easier to start, no idling noise, no smelly messes of spilled gas or changing oil. However, electric also either requires the use of cords (tangling, limited range) or batteries (eventually lose

capacity, limited use time per battery charge, for example I would use three large batteries to HOPEFULLY blow off all of my large yard & driveway and then have to charge for a few hours). Overall I completely support the use of electric and hand tools so that we move away from fossil fuels!

Anonymous

5/11/2023 09:47 PM

Please help us reduce the noise pollution from gas-powered leaf blowers in our neighborhoods all over King County!

Anonymous

5/14/2023 06:47 AM

Citizens should be allowed to use gas equipment until it cannot be repaired.

Anonymous

5/14/2023 07:36 AM

Please move quickly to abolish these obsolete, noisy, and highly polluting machines. It's the right thing to do for our planet and our communities!

Anonymous

5/14/2023 09:44 PM

Electric is much better than gas. I just don't like blowers and dust.

Anonymous

5/15/2023 09:45 AM

Current electric leaf blower owner. They're great! Everybody should use them

Anonymous

5/17/2023 09:24 PM

Our family loves our electric (plug-in) leaf blower! It works great even on wet, heavy debris. We would be grateful for not having to walk by people using smelly gas ones and breathing in the fumes. So gross! Also the gas needs to be cleaned out and disposed of after sitting through the winter. Such a pain! Electric options are far superior in so many ways!

Anonymous

5/19/2023 10:18 AM

Electric power equipment technology is advancing rapidly. I anticipate over the next several years the electric backpack blowers will get lighter and more powerful. The technology is not there yet to convert to electric commercial backpack blowers, but it should be there in the future. Thanks!

Anonymous

5/20/2023 08:18 AM

no

Anonymous

5/22/2023 07:57 AM

A complete change has to happen in home landscape management. The idea that leaf blowers of any kind are necessary is wrong. Most

of the time it is best to leave the fallen leaves in your garden beds at least through winter. Blowing beds destroys soil structure and important nutrition webs in gardens. The very least we can do is ban all gas powered leaf blowers (most of the blowing time by professionals is not productive--it is a performative act to convince the homeowner the guys are working). Re-educating homeowners about the value of decaying leaves for their gardens is very important.

Anonymous

5/23/2023 01:55 PM

Based on my experience, gas blowers are more powerful and can get the job done faster. But it's possible that there are more powerful electric blowers, or they could be made available for a reasonable price.

Anonymous

6/04/2023 10:37 AM

I'm sure the City of Redmond is getting pressure because other Cities around the region and Country are moving towards putting policies in place for electric. (You're actually behind) Hopefully the technology will improve to the point where an electric blower is as effective and efficient as gas but in terms of Commercial applications it's not even close at this point. And why just the blower? There are lots of pieces of equipment that landscapers use each and every day that kick out the same CO2, have the same noise levels, and supposed health concerns as blowers. Chain saws, weed eaters, hedge sheers, etc..etc... I think Redmond and other Cities have some serious things to consider like how are you going to regulate it, the actual costs to the taxpayer, and the true costs of electric. Like what it takes to make a lithium battery and where those minerals are mined. We in America are just shifting that pollution to other areas of the world in generating these batteries. And then what is done with those batteries when they reach their useful life. I think it's kinda knee jerk.....I have lots of other thoughts for you but don't want to take up too much of your time. Thanks for reaching out to a Redmond business owner. Appreciate the opportunity to comment. Jason JD's Landscape

Anonymous

6/04/2023 08:14 PM

Has anyone thought about what will happen to the batteries on all these small tools, cars ect. regarding recycling them or are we just trading trying to limit emissions with putting heavy metals in our landfills. The United States has not mandated battery recycling as of yet.

Anonymous

6/05/2023 01:48 PM

We believe that battery powered leaf blowers available in the market are not currently ready to replace gas powered ones, especially during leaf cleanup season. An easier target for commercial contractors to meet would be replacing line trimmers, edgers, pruners, chainsaws, and other small 2-stroke equipment, just not

blowers yet.

Anonymous

6/08/2023 06:24 PM

If electric leaf blowers were mandated, productivity would significantly drop. The result would be higher costs passed on to landscape customers. It would also hit smaller landscape companies harder which would lead to lower income for employees or loss of jobs.

Anonymous

6/09/2023 10:26 AM

electric blowers are great but forcing them upon people who may not be ready to switch is unfair and immoral.

Anonymous

6/12/2023 12:41 PM

Survey is a little strange b/c no clear option to pass question 3 if you already own an electric leaf blower, which we do.

Anonymous

6/15/2023 08:10 PM

The city should NOT be sticking its nose in our business!!! If they are so great let the market decide!!!! Please stay out of it!!!!

Anonymous

6/16/2023 03:36 PM

We have used electric blowers with removable, rechargeable batteries for a specific commercial customer who specially requested them over the past three years. The cost was significantly higher than the gas models that we usually purchase (the customer ended up purchasing them for our use), and they are noticeably less powerful. The batteries will only last about one full day of normal use on a charge, and there is no good way to charge these on most jobsites without utilizing gas to run a generator or automobile which defeats the purpose entirely. Additionally, the construction of the model of electric blower that we use, and others that I've seen in the marketplace, are much more easily damaged or broken than gas models. When these damages occur we must send the blowers to an outside company for the much more costly repairs, while most of the issues with gas blowers can be easily fixed by our staff mechanic in-house.

Anonymous

6/20/2023 11:45 AM

We have to operate through a full day without needing to recharge while on site. Most of our other equipment (chainsaws, hedge trimmers, etc) are on gas, so this would be our only battery operated equipment. It adds a level of complication and coordination for our team that will effectively make us need to increase prices on our clients to offset.

Anonymous

6/27/2023 07:21 AM

It will raise costs on the employee time to do the job and in many cases making it unable to the job. Nuclear or hydrogen power would

be better. The landfills already have enough things filling them up.
Grow hemp again and get away from styrofoam and plastics for
packaging.

Optional question (127 response(s), 115 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question