Electric Leaf Blower Initiative Update



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Presentation Overview



Background – Goals of Initiative





Sunset use of gaspowered leaf blowers by target date of December 31, 2025



Reduce negative health impacts



Provide financial supports



Be proactive to potential State decisions



Enforcement of City's noise regulations

The community wants beautiful and safe open spaces as well as cleaner air and quieter neighborhoods.



Background

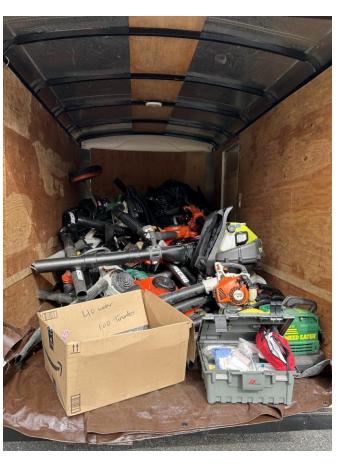
Review of Year One (2023) Actions Taken

- Parks and Public Works Pilot and Data Collection
- Cost estimate of transitioning from gas blowers to electric blowers for Parks and Public Works
- Two virtual Open Houses for businesses
- Equipment demonstration for Kirkland's City crews and other cities
- Roundtable and demo for regional cities
- Roundtable and demo for regional and state elected officials and industry reps



Actions Taken & Key Learnings





- Year Two (2024)
 - Two trade-in events for residential gas blowers in exchange for a \$100 electric blower voucher
 - Leaf Rake Pledge Program
 - City Hall 4 All rake giveaway and community engagement activities
 - Roundtable and demo for elected officials in partnership with Rep. Walen
 - Virtual roundtable for Kirkland businesses
 - Development of draft business rebate program and corresponding manufacturer demo event
 - Continued Parks and Public Works
 Pilot Program and Data Collection

Actions Taken & Key Learnings



	Pros of Electric Blowers	Cons of Electric Blowers	New Learnings
•	Use of electric leaf blowers in some scenarios is appropriate.	 Electric leaf blower technology is improving, but not quickly enough. 	 Evaluation of charging infrastructure in City facilities is necessary to support a full
•	Reduced exposure to noxious		transition.
	gases from gas-powered	 For typical use cases, gas- 	
	blowers.	powered blowers are more efficient and preferred.	 Additional FTE would be necessary to avoid service level implications in the case of a full
		Negative ergonomic impacts of the weight of electric leaf	transition to electric blowers.
		blowers on crew members.	Many landscapers are small
			business owners as well as members of the BIPOC

business owners as well as members of the BIPOC community and could be negatively impacted by a ban of gas blowers.



Looking Forward: Year 3 of Initiative

2025: Propose an Ordinance for Council consideration sunsetting hand-held and backpack gas-powered equipment city-wide while continuing City, business, and resident transitions.

State Legislative Updates – No action in 2025, but still likely in the future.

Potential Options to Explore:

- Local Business Rebate Program
- Restrict City use of gas blowers between Memorial Day and Labor Day
- 'Electric-Only Maintenance' Pilot
- Infrastructure Assessment
- Accessories for electric blowers (equipment
 Extended Initiative or deferred Ordinance holsters, extra batteries, etc.)

- Expand electric equipment use beyond leaf blowers
- Continue community engagement and education
- Enforcement considerations
- timeline



Looking Forward: Year 3 of Initiative

Discussion Questions

- What does Council need going forward to make an informed decision at the end of 2025?
- Do any options presented in the memo seem like good options to explore in developing a draft Ordinance?