



# PHASING OUT GAS LEAF BLOWERS

## What is happening with leaf blowers in Ann Arbor?

In December 2023, the City of Ann Arbor enacted new restrictions to phase-out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Transitioning out gas-powered leaf blowers will lead to cleaner air, better community health, less noise pollution, and fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

## Why transition away from gas-powered leaf blowers?

- **Health benefits:** Gas-burning leaf blowers release harmful pollutants that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, cognitive impacts and respiratory disease.
- **Fewer emissions:** Using a gas leaf blower for one hour can emit the same amount of greenhouse gases as driving a car over 1000 miles.
- **Cleaner Environment:** Spills are common when refueling gas-powered leaf blowers. Fuel spills seep into soil and can enter groundwater and waterways.
- **Noise:** Gas-powered leaf blowers can operate as loud as 100 decibels which can cause hearing damage and stress from noise pollution. That is almost as loud as a jet flyover.
- **Waste Reduction:** Electric leaf blowers have fewer moving parts that break or need replacement compared to gas-powered leaf blowers. Their batteries can also be recycled.

## What are the new restrictions?

- **Summer ban:** Use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited in the city from June 1 to September 30. Electric leaf blowers may be used during this time.
- **Seasonal use and phase-out:** Use of gas-powered leaf blowers is permitted from October 1 to May 30 through 2027. Starting January 1, 2028 use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited at all times in the city.

## What are the alternatives?

- **Go electric:** Electric leaf blowers are healthy alternatives to their gas-burning counterparts and are widely available.
- **Skip the leaf blower:** Rather than using a leaf blower, clear sidewalks and driveways using a broom or rake. Or, mulch leaves and leave them to improve the health of lawns.

## What is coming next?

The City of Ann Arbor will launch resources to help lower the cost of transitioning to electric leaf blowers by the end of 2024.

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