

# Gas Leaf Blower Phase-Out FAQ

## **Do other communities have similar ordinances?**

There are more than 100 cities across North America with similar ordinances in place. This includes over 20 cities in California, over 15 cities in New York, over five cities in Illinois. Ann Arbor has also had an [ordinance](#) in place since 2019 that prohibits the use of outdoor power equipment with two stroke combustion engines in the Downtown Development Authority.

## **Is anyone exempt from the ordinance?**

The ordinance applies to everyone within the City of Ann Arbor. No individual, organization, or company that operates within the city is exempt.

## **Where can I learn more about pollinator aware yard care?**

To learn more about pollinator aware yard care, please visit our [pollinator aware yard care webpage](#).

## **What leaf blower brands are recommended?**

Most major lawn care equipment manufacturers carry electric leaf blowers, so there are many different brands out there, and the choice of which brand works best will be different for everyone. Regardless of brand choice, in many cases, it makes sense to use the same brand across equipment as it can make sharing batteries between different pieces of equipment easier. To learn more about brands that have worked for others, take a look at our case study document linked on our website.

## **How can I charge electric leaf blowers?**

There are many different charging options out there. These options include plugging equipment into available outdoor power outlets, creating a charging shed to power equipment overnight, purchasing a portable charger ([example](#)), purchasing a charging trailer ([example](#)), and outfitting an existing trailer for charging purposes ([resource](#)). The choice of which charging option or options work best will depend on your specific situation. To learn more about charging strategies that have worked for others, take a look at our case study document linked on our website.

### **What is the return on investment of electric leaf blowers?**

Return on investment times will vary depending on the specific equipment purchased, but they generally range from two and a half to three years due to reduced fueling and maintenance costs.

### **Are electric leaf blowers safe?**

Yes, electric leaf blowers are safe. They produce no harmful air pollutants during their operation, which eliminates the increased risk of cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, cancer, and respiratory disease that is associated with using gas leaf blowers. Additionally, they run more quietly than gas leaf blowers, reducing the risk of hearing damage. In terms of fire risk, while it's important to follow proper storage guidelines just as with the storage of gasoline and other fuels, battery fires are rare. Always refer to the safety information from the manufacturer to ensure batteries are properly stored and cared for.

### **How do I recycle the batteries in an electric leaf blower?**

In Ann Arbor, lead acid batteries and lithium-ion batteries can be taken to the [HHW Center](#) or [Recycle Ann Arbor](#). Lead acid batteries can also be taken to major scrap yards. Some manufacturers have battery recycling programs in place, sometimes as a part of their warranty program, so you can also check with your manufacturer. If a battery is damaged or leaking, contact your local solid waste division (734.222.3950 for Washtenaw County).