

Submitter: Gerald Kubiak  
On Behalf Of: Clean Air Lawn Care - West Side  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB525

To: Oregon State Senate  
Committee on Energy and Environment  
2023 Oregon Legislature  
From: Gerald Kubiak, owner  
Clean Air Lawn Care - West Side  
PO Box 415  
Beaverton, OR 97075

Dear Chair Sollman and Committee members:

Regarding legislation to limit/eliminate gas powered leaf blowers in Oregon...

As a resident of NE Portland and owner/operator of a commercial landscape maintenance company that utilizes an entirely battery-powered set of mowers, trimmers and BLOWERS, I want to state my support for the phase-out of gas-powered leaf blowers, AND state affirmatively that use of electric or battery-powered leaf blowers is effective, practical and reasonably doable for all landscape maintenance operators in our urban areas.

My company serves 70+ clients (mostly residential, a few commercial and multi-family) in NW and SW Portland, Beaverton and Hillsboro, doing all phases of landscape maintenance. We operate 2 trucks - each of which visits 6-10 properties per day - and use our battery-powered blowers (Stihl, Ryobi) at a typical level all day. Each truck has 3-5 batteries, and we swap in fresh batteries throughout the day.

The sets of batteries need to be charged overnight, though we do charge somewhat at client houses during the work day, plugging in here or there for 45 or 90 minutes at a time. The electric blowers are adequately strong, and this charging routine is doable and reasonable.

The upfront costs of changeover and equipment purchases are a challenge, but a phase-in is reasonable given the equivalent costs paid by conventional operators with regular gas/oil purchases.

Each truck carries \$500-\$1,000 worth of blower-specific batteries. The Stihl batteries in particular have lasted for 3-5 years so far, at least, with basic care and regular recharging.

Effective larger-scale facilities for disposal/recycling of batteries needs to be a part of this discussion.

Thanks for your consideration. Would be pleased to provide further details or input.

The negative air quality and noise pollution impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers are significant and are present daily in our neighborhoods. In composing this, I was just reminded of these impacts on Friday, March 17, on SW Vista Ave. in Portland, near Ainsworth School, as I worked in my client's back yard. The crew working at a neighbor of my client ran a gas-powered blower for at least 15 minutes straight... generating a disconcerting level of noise and worse yet, an exhaust cloud that drifted my way and literally irritated my throat and made breathing unpleasant.

Gerald Kubiak  
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