



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 6:30 pm
North Neighbors Resource Center
945 Columbia St NE, Salem

Present:

Executive Committee Members

Leigh Tracey-Gaynair, Chair
Ryan Erickson-Kulas, Secretary & Treasurer

Heather Ames, Member At Large

Association Members

Sarah Vick
Karla Winans
Dr. Irving Brown
Tim Patterson

Celine Coleman
Cathy Hornaday
Jenny Morrow
Jim Stuller

Guests

Brandon Gould- Salem PD
Marissa Theve, Quiet Clean Salem
Paul Tigan, Ward 1 City Council Candidate
Virginia Stapleton- Ward 1 Councilor
Michael Hoselton

David Carlson, Marion County Circuit Court Judge Candidate
Martin Habekost, Marion County Circuit Court Judge Candidate
Matthew Tracey, Marion County Circuit Court Judge Candidate
Michelle Vlach-Ing, Marion County Circuit Court Judge Candidate
Karla Winans

MINUTES

1. Introductions
2. Highlights from Highland Neighbors
 - a. North High School Theatre Department made State 2024!
 - b. Plants are blooming
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. **Motion to Amend Minutes:** Sarah Vick
 - b. **2nd:** None
 - c. **Motion Fails**
 - d. **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Ryan Erickson-Kulas
 - e. **2nd:** Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
 - f. **Vote: Motion Passes**
4. Guest Reports/Updates/Presentations
 - a. Salem Police Officer -Sergeant Brandon Gould
 - Department hosted a Community Violence Reduction Initiative session last month and 3 more will be occurring.
 - The city has a neighborhood watch program but it is not particularly active; Interested parties should contact the Community Engagement Officer
 - Recent arrest on mail theft case
 - b. City Councilor(s) - Virginia Stapleton- Ward 1 Councilor
 - Recent decision to change EMS services to be city run which should save over \$1m

- North downtown urban renewal area approved
 - Strong support for library funding via hundreds of phone calls and emails in addition to in person rallies
 - Revenue Task Force Town Halls occurring with a virtual event on 4/16 and an event occurring at Center 50+ on 4/23
 - 4/14 council meeting will discuss options for allocation of Opioid Settlement funds
 - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - April declared Oregon Dark Sky Awareness Month during 4/8 council meeting
- c. Paul Tigan Ward 1 City Council Candidate Presentation
 - d. Marion County Circuit Court Judge Candidate Forum Including:
 - David Carlson
 - Martin Habekost
 - Matthew Tracey
 - Michelle Vlach-Ing
 - e. Quiet Clean Salem Presentation, Marissa Theve
 - Presentation included as [Attachment A](#)
 - Discussion following the presentation led to considering a vote on endorsement of Quiet Clean Salem's mission at the next meeting.
5. Highland NA Board/Committee Chairs Updates
 - a. Quarterly Chairs Meeting Recap
 - b. March 30th Kids Clothing Swap Event Recap
 - Event a huge success with dozen of attendees and hundreds of items of clothes donated
 - Tentatively scheduled another kids clothing swap and school supplies drive on 8/24 at Highland Elementary
 - c. Salem Seekers Funding Request
 - **Motion to Sponsor River Road Event with \$225:** Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
 - **2nd:** Ryan Erickson-Kulas
 - **Motion Passes Unanimously**
 - d. April 20th Earth Day Clean Up Event
 - e. June 8th Garage Sale
 - f. June 21st Make Music Day Salem
 - Discussion of outreach to the organization to see if events can be hosted in Highland
 - Ryan Erickson-Kulas volunteers to reach out
 - g. July 26th Highland Neighborhood Family Council Summer Fun Family Friday- Volunteers needed
 - h. Mural Refresh Committee- Still seeking volunteers
 - i. National Night Out Committee- No updates
 6. General Board Updates- N/A
 7. Neighborhood Concerns
 - a. Discussion of safety concerns at River Road Park
 8. Land Use- NA
 9. **Motion to Adjourn:** Ryan Erickson-Kulas
 - a. **2nd:** Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
 - b. **Motion Passes Unanimously**

*Next monthly meeting: May 9, 2024

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get connected and stay informed!

<https://www.facebook.com/highland.neighbors.salem>

<https://instagram.com/highland.neighbors.salem>



Marissa Theve
Grant Neighborhood 97301



Mission: We are a volunteer effort aiming to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in the greater Salem area to stop the harm they cause to workers, the environment, and everyone nearby. We are working to raise awareness of this issue, promote healthier alternatives, and advocate for the elimination of these devices in the greater Salem area in a way that is fair and equitable.

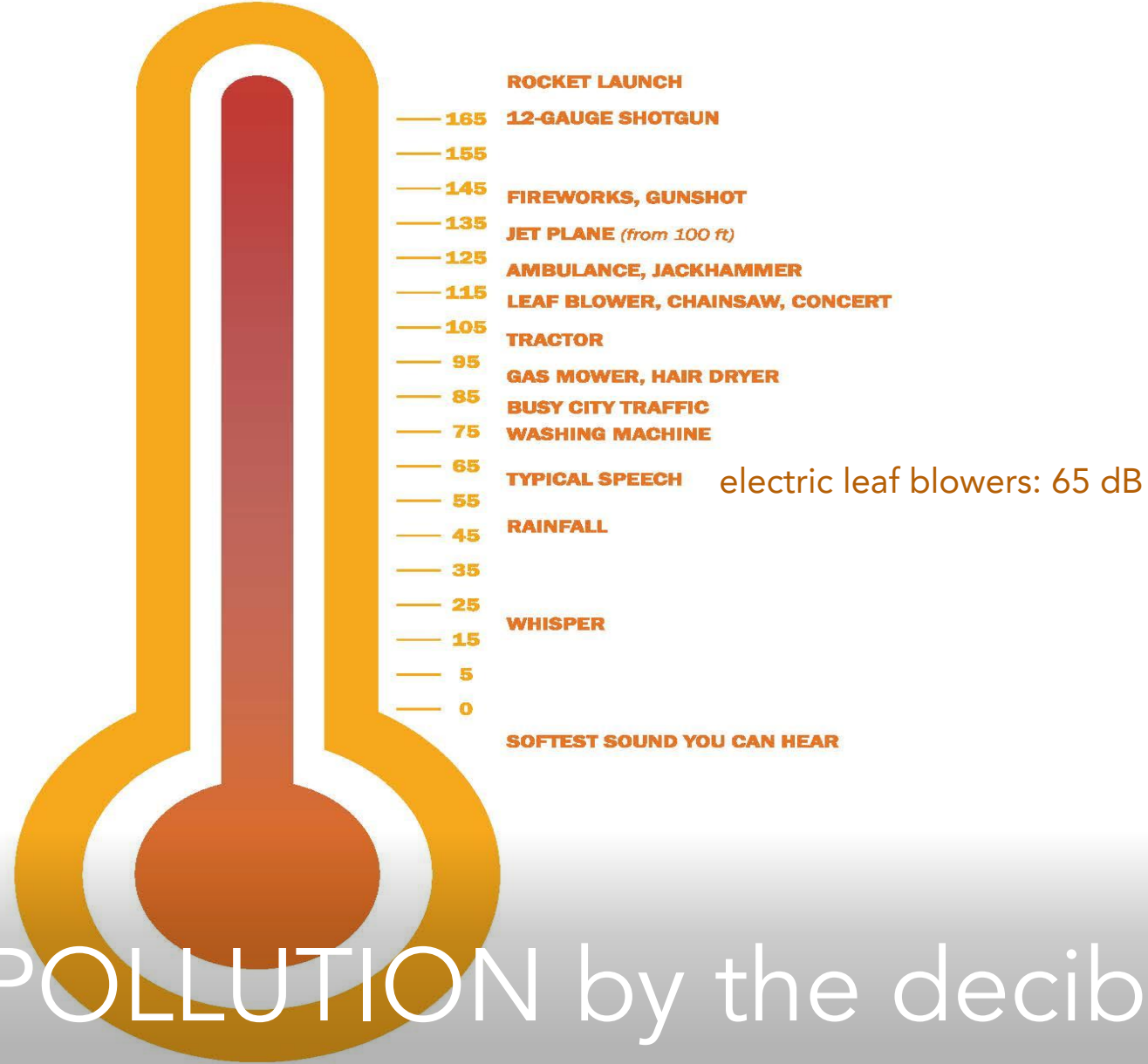


LEAF BLOWERS (aka the devil's hairdryer)



"When it comes to blowing leaves around uselessly and creating an insane amount of noise, this model can't be beat."





NOISE POLLUTION by the decibels



DENVER
PUBLIC HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENT

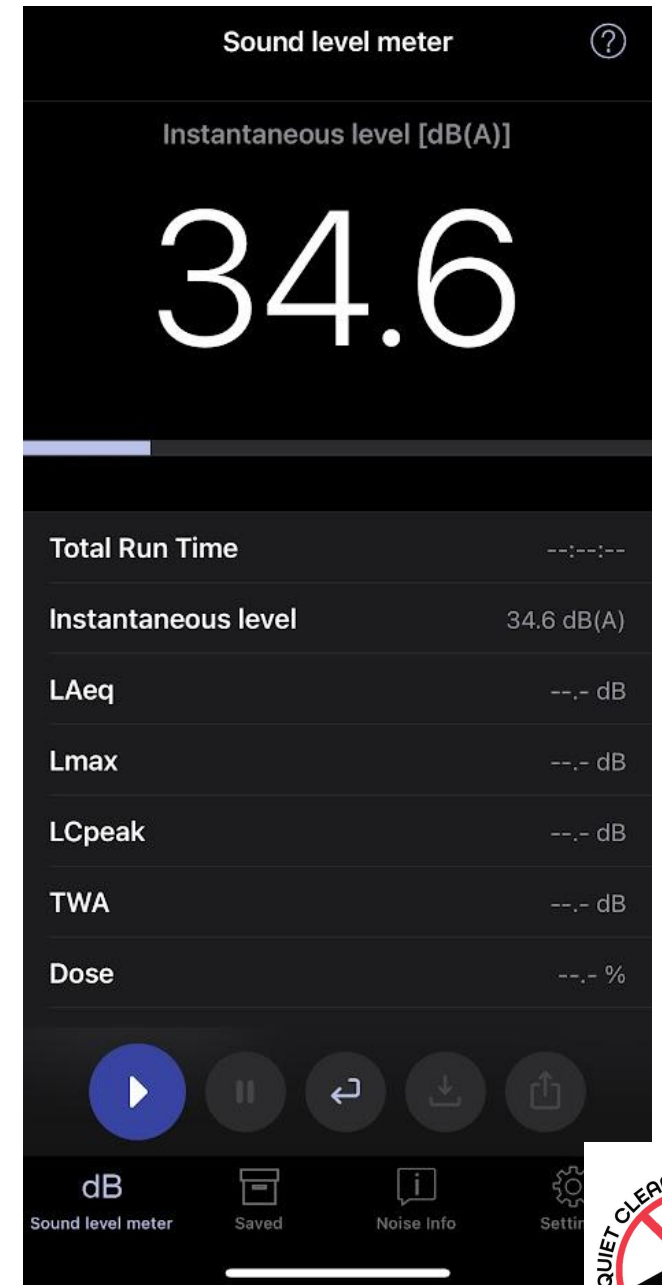
The Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE), Denver's nationally-accredited public health agency, empowers Denver's communities to live better, longer. The divisions of DDPHE are: Animal Protection, Community Health, Environmental Quality, Office of Sustainability, Office of the Medical Examiner and Public Health Inspections. In partnership with Denver Public Health, DDPHE provides quality public health services to the City and County of Denver. For more information about DDPHE, visit www.denvergov.org/dphe or follow us at @DDPHE.



Why?

The harms done by noise pollution include:

- A [study](#) by Bruitparif (French nonprofit) found that in the greater Paris region, the health impacts of noise can cost a person an average **10 months of a healthy life**, and July 2021 study estimated that the resulting social health costs from noise pollution—illness, hospitalization, lost years of work—could cost France €156 billion (\$181 billion USD) per year.
- [A 2019 report](#) from the European Environmental Agency linked noise pollution to **12,000 premature deaths** across the continent, and found that one in five Europeans is regularly exposed to harmful levels of noise.



TOXIC EMISSIONS

1 HOUR Blowing = 1,100 Car Miles

Gas powered blowers are hundreds of times more polluting than automobiles



From: California Air Resources Board – Small Engine Fact Sheet, 2017



EMISSIONS – MORE AIR POLLUTION THAN CARS



Gas Powered Leaf Blower

Non Methane Hydrocarbons	1.495 g/min
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.010 g/min
Carbon Monoxide	6.445 g/min



Ford F-150 Raptor

0.005 g/min	300X more
0.005 g/min	2X more
0.276 g/min	23X more

...who is inhaling this?



Economics of Switching from Gas to Battery Leaf Blowers

Scenario A: Mid-range Property Size and Runtime






Includes up-front cost of battery leaf blower, 2 batteries, plus accessories, and purchase of two new batteries after year 3, plus tax. Gas costs include 2-stroke engine oil and recommended yearly maintenance. This scenario: gas blower is **Husqvarna 525BX**, battery blower is **Ego LB7654** with 2x 5.0 Ah batteries, and runtime is **3 hours/day**, 281 days/year. At time of calculation (June, 2022), gas price is \$6.49 (source: AAA) and electricity cost is \$0.27/kWh (source: U.S. Energy Information Administration). Energy consumption data provided by Husqvarna and Ego.




Source: Santa Cruz Coalition for a Healthy and Safe Environment



How do the handheld models compare?

In May of 2023, Consumer Reports reviewed the performance of leaf blowers




	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED GASOLINE HANDHELD BLOWERS</p> <p>Stihl BG 86 C-E \$290.00 ⁱ</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>78</p>
	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED GASOLINE HANDHELD BLOWERS</p> <p>Senix BLV4QL-M from \$159.00 Shop</p> <p>CR Smart Buy</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>78</p>
	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED GASOLINE HANDHELD BLOWERS</p> <p>Echo PB-2520 from \$169.00 Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>75</p>




	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED BATTERY HANDHELD BLOWERS</p> <p>Cat DG651 from \$349.99 Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>89</p>
	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED BATTERY HANDHELD BLOWERS</p> <p>Ego LB7654 from \$299.00 Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>89</p>
	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED BATTERY HANDHELD BLOWERS</p> <p>Atlas 56999 from \$64.99 Shop</p> <p>CR Smart Buy</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>86</p>



How do the backpack models compare?

In May of 2023, Consumer Reports reviewed the performance of leaf blowers

	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED GASOLINE BACKPACK BLOWERS</p> <p>Husqvarna 360BT from \$429.99 Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>84</p>
	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED GASOLINE BACKPACK BLOWERS</p> <p>Stihl BR 350 \$420.00 ⁱ</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>83</p>
	<p>GASOLINE BACKPACK BLOWERS</p> <p>Husqvarna 150BT \$350.00 ⁱ Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>79</p>

	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED BATTERY BACKPACK BLOWERS</p> <p>Ego LBPX8004-2 from \$699.00 Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>87</p>
	<p>✓ CR RECOMMENDED BATTERY BACKPACK BLOWERS</p> <p>Greenworks 82BA26-52DP from \$839.99 Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>86</p>
	<p>BATTERY BACKPACK BLOWERS</p> <p>Hart HLBL041VNM \$230.00 ⁱ Shop</p>	<p>OVERALL SCORE</p> <p>79</p>



What are other cities doing?

Hundreds of quiet clean variations:

- all blowers or just gas blower bans (Seattle)
- seasonal bans (Burlington, VT)
- specific day, time, and dB (PDX, 2006)
- rebates for trading in gas-powered for electric (NY, CA, MD)



What are other cities doing?

NEW: March 2024 Portland passed a phase out ordinance

- all gas blower phased out by 2028
- October and November carved out for GLB use in 2025-2026
- rebates for electric conversion funded by Multnomah County



What does **Oregon** do now?

HB 2970: Phase-out of Small Gas-powered Engines

Bill Sponsors:

Senator Dembrow, Representative Nerman, Representative Dexter, Representative Nosse

Summary

HB 2970 **phases out the sale of new gas-powered small nonroad engines** (SNEs), one of the largest emitters of smog-forming pollutants and other pollutants that adversely impact human health and the environment.

Contingent on a rule-making process by the Environmental Quality Commission, new SNEs sold in Oregon must be zero-emission beginning January 1, 2026. The bill does not affect equipment already owned or purchased before the rules take effect.

The bill directs the Department of Environmental Quality to **establish an incentive program** for business to purchase zero-emission SNEs, with priority given to small businesses.



What does **Oregon** do now?

HB 2528*: tax credit for purchase of commercial-grade battery-powered leaf blowers

Filed at the request of House Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for Oregon Landscape Contractors Association

Summary

HB 2528 creates income or corporate excise tax credit allowed for purchase of commercial-grade battery-powered leaf blowers and related equipment. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030.

*Generally, we wish this could be coupled with a mechanism so that licensed small lawn care and landscaping businesses can also be supported, for example, with rebates for the purchase of battery-powered leaf blowers



What does **Salem** do now?

[CHAPTER 93. - NOISE | Code of Ordinances | Salem, OR | Municode Library](#)

Sec. 93.020. - Specific noise disturbances.

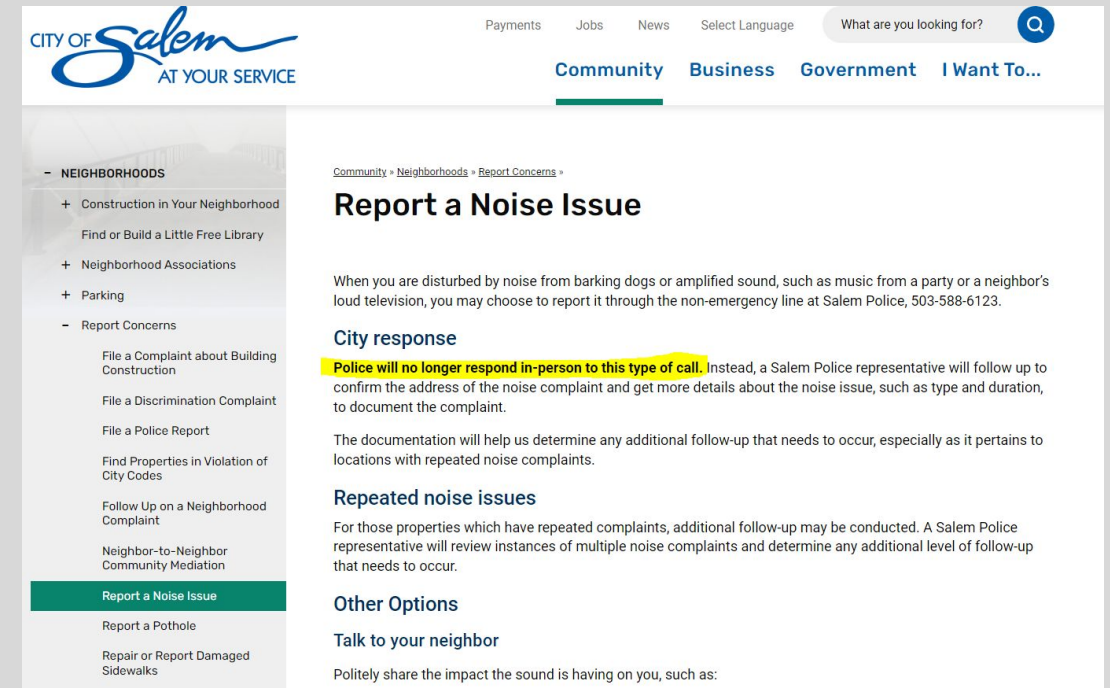
Except as provided in SRC [93.030](#), the following are declared to be noise disturbances per se. This section shall not be deemed to limit noise disturbances for the purposes of SRC [93.010](#) to those enumerated herein.

(c) **Domestic power equipment. It shall be unlawful to operate, or to permit the operation of, any domestic power equipment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day.**



How can the City help?

- Phase out city-owned gas powered leaf blowers
 - *in progress!*
- Increase noise ordinance enforcement
 - *unlikely*
- Adopt new ordinances
 - phasing out all blowers or just gas blower bans
 - creating seasonal use bans
 - creating specific day, time, and dB limits
 - buy back program



The screenshot shows the City of Salem website with the following elements:

- Header:** CITY OF Salem AT YOUR SERVICE. Navigation links: Payments, Jobs, News, Select Language, What are you looking for? (search bar).
- Menu:** Community (highlighted), Business, Government, I Want To...
- Left Sidebar (NEIGHBORHOODS):**
 - + Construction in Your Neighborhood
 - Find or Build a Little Free Library
 - + Neighborhood Associations
 - + Parking
 - Report Concerns
 - File a Complaint about Building Construction
 - File a Discrimination Complaint
 - File a Police Report
 - Find Properties in Violation of City Codes
 - Follow Up on a Neighborhood Complaint
 - Neighbor-to-Neighbor Community Mediation
 - Report a Noise Issue** (highlighted)
 - Report a Pothole
 - Repair or Report Damaged Sidewalks
- Main Content Area:**
 - Breadcrumbs: Community > Neighborhoods > Report Concerns >
 - Report a Noise Issue**
 - Text: "When you are disturbed by noise from barking dogs or amplified sound, such as music from a party or a neighbor's loud television, you may choose to report it through the non-emergency line at Salem Police, 503-588-6123."
 - City response**
 - Text: "Police will no longer respond in-person to this type of call." (highlighted in yellow). "Instead, a Salem Police representative will follow up to confirm the address of the noise complaint and get more details about the noise issue, such as type and duration, to document the complaint."
 - Text: "The documentation will help us determine any additional follow-up that needs to occur, especially as it pertains to locations with repeated noise complaints."
 - Repeated noise issues**
 - Text: "For those properties which have repeated complaints, additional follow-up may be conducted. A Salem Police representative will review instances of multiple noise complaints and determine any additional level of follow-up that needs to occur."
 - Other Options**
 - Talk to your neighbor**
 - Text: "Politely share the impact the sound is having on you, such as:"



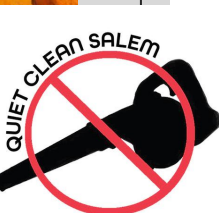
How can the City help?

- Implement strategy EN37 from our [Climate Action Plan](#)

EN37	Develop and implement a plan to phase out combustion and two-stroke engines within the City limits. This would pertain to vehicles, lawnmowers, leaf blowers and other machinery. Potentially begin with phasing out City-owned combustion and two-stroke equipment (e.g., landscaping equipment such as leaf blowers and lawnmowers) to demonstrate leadership. Potentially collaborate with PGE on a tool exchange program .	Medium	\$\$\$	City
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How can individuals help?

- Leave the leaves
- Switch to all-electric lawn care
- Let your neighbors, councilor, and legislators know it matters to you
- Join Quiet Clean Salem



Make America Rake Again.



 **QUIET
CLEAN
ALLIANCE**



Mission: We are a volunteer effort aiming to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in the greater Salem area to stop the harm they cause to workers, the environment, and everyone nearby. We are working to raise awareness of this issue, promote healthier alternatives, and advocate for the elimination of these devices in the greater Salem area in a way that is fair and equitable.

