

From: marian.falla
To: legisl@ri.gov
Subject: OPPOSE S2574
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 12:55:29 PM
Attachments: [leaf blower April 2024.pdf](#)
[gas blower leaf blowers are getting banned.pdf](#)

Attention: Senators de la Cruz, Burke, Patalano, and Rogers

S2574 will be heard by the Senate committee on Housing and Municipal Government on 9April126.

Electric lawn care business now are serving Providence, Barrington, and other northern and east bay towns. Electric landscaping is significantly quieter and better for local air quality than gas-powered options, and EcoQuiet's (and other companies in the future) presence in Rhode Island will be a significant contribution to healthier landscaping. I am concerned this bill's impact and it's effort to deprive our local governments of their ability regulate gas-powered leaf blowers. I OPPOSE S2574.

See below information supporting my position.

S2574, a bill would prohibit Rhode Island towns from regulating gas-powered leaf blowers. The question is why given the climate crisis and impact of particulates to health of RI residents.

Please review:

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/news-releases/ecquiet-lawn-care-expands-all-electric-organic-landscaping-services-to-rhode-island-302713404.html?shclid=advocacy&utm_source=bn&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advocacy&utm_term=.81e48b2f1b01xvABicmlkEFTFXx02V1R0bT1q83BXcmplc340VvshH8Fq00M1yMNW5MTc40D1wM0g5Mg3BHpqgB1PopF2wIswZvpxk2W38k1yF80nl4RndapavYBqfL3RkjuXDCqqaU3h_aem_d54b-zh20R3eS6u1K6P2PA

Thanks for your service
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From: marian.falla
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 1:25 PM
To: 'HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov' <HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov>; 'HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov' <HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov>; 'HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov' <HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: OPPOSE H7150

Attention: Dawn Huntley, Committee Clerk

Representatives: Paplauskas, Hopkins, Fascia, Place, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Roberts, Newberry, Noret, and J. Brien

RE: H7150 to be heard by the House committee on Municipal Government & Housing.

The RI House is considering a bill that would prohibit/limit Rhode Island towns from regulating gas-powered leaf blowers. This bill mimics similar laws that have been enacted in Georgia and Texas, as the landscape industry pushes back against the RI trend of gas-powered leaf blower limitation regulations that is gaining momentum around the country and in RI.

Municipalities should be able to act in the best interests of their residents and be able to take steps toward resident's health, noise and town's sustainability goals, even when the state lags behind.

The bill's sponsor's (Representatives Paplauskas, Hopkins, Fascia, Place, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Roberts, Newberry, Noret, and J. Brien) may not understand RI residents and communities desire for clean, healthy and sustainable environment and climate goals. For example the bill would allow some narrow regulations of outdoor power equipment and not factor in pollution, health and noise considerations due to legacy fossil fuel equipment which is not the best available technology (BAT) today. The fact is that the bill's approach appears to support the extreme pollution of the gas engines rather than support the transition to clean energy solutions now available in RI.

Municipalities must be able to act in the best interests of their residents and not cave into the landscape businesses that refuse to transition to BAT. Towns must be able to take steps toward their health and sustainability targets, and not be overridden by the state.

Local governments in RI should be able to regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in alignment with what their residents want and not have RI State override their clean energy goals.
Please see below and attached articles:

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-technology-business-environment-and-nature-gardening-c669f3901ba435bf76750bb5e339adba>

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-technology-business-environment-and-nature-gardening-c669f3901ba435bf76750bb5e339adba>

Blowers, mowers and more: American yards quietly go electric

BY KATHERINE ROTH
Published 9:38 AM EDT, September 16, 2021

For Jared Anderman, of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, **switching from gasoline-powered tools to electric ones for lawn care was a no-brainer.**

"I'm concerned about climate change and wanted tools that are more eco-friendly, and also quieter. I like listening to music when I do yardwork and this way I can enjoy music or a podcast while I work," he said. "I could never do that with gas-powered equipment."

The biggest advantage of all, he says, is maintenance. "Gas mowers are a pain. With electric tools, they boot right up and there's really no maintenance at all. It's just about keeping the batteries charged."

First, he bought an electric lawnmower. Then an electric string trimmer, hedge trimmer and leaf blower. "I don't have an electric snowblower, yet. But when I do replace the gas snowblower, it'll be with an electric one," he says.

There's a quiet transformation going on in yards across the country. Longstanding complaints about the roar and fumes from gas-powered leaf blowers, mowers and other equipment have grown even louder as more people work from home because of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, **the quality of zero- to low-emissions electric landscaping equipment has improved markedly, with battery packs that last longer.**

"Batteries have changed a lot in the past year alone, and we are there in terms of technology. Now it's just a matter of getting the word out to professionals and consumers," says Kurt Morrell, associate vice president for horticulture operations at the New York Botanical Garden.

"Last year we were 90 percent electric on hedge trimmers and this year it's

100 percent. My guys won't even touch a gas hedge trimmer anymore," says Morrell, who oversees the trimming of the garden's 4,850 linear feet of hedges.

There are even autonomous lawnmowers akin to the Roomba vacuum cleaner.

"They are really taking off, and in the next four or five years you'll see more robotic mowers in the private sector," says Morrell.

Morrell, who also teaches aspiring landscaping professionals, says that while electric trimmers and mowers are now as good or better than gas-guzzling versions, cordless electric leaf blowers are still a challenge "because they require a lot of velocity and power, and the weight of the battery at this point is a lot heavier than gas."

But the technology is evolving quickly, he says. "When I teach my landscaping management students, who will go on to manage large landscapes, I know they will be using electric equipment."

The electric tools, and some less-polluting gas options, are just part of a [rethinking of many lawn-care practices](#) and their effect on the environment.

Many gardeners and landscapers are moving away from "a hyper-managed standard of blow drying leaves," for instance, in favor of "just letting leaves be leaves, with some of them staying on the ground," says Daniel Mabe, founder of the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA), which offers homes, businesses and organizations across the country a certification for low carbon-footprint landscaping.

Letting more leaves, plant stalks and other garden debris cover garden beds during the winter helps the soil, and insects and other wildlife, experts say.

Where power tools are needed, the shift from gas to electric is not unlike the trend toward electric cars.

According to the California Air Resources Board, a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, [operating a gas leaf blower for an hour can create as much smog-forming pollution as driving a Toyota Camry 1,100 miles.](#)

The battery-powered lawn equipment sector is growing at a rate three times faster than gas, according to the Freedonia Group, a division of [MarketResearch.com](#).

"In terms of residential adoption of electric landscaping equipment, at least here in California, it's already about 50 percent," Mabe says.

He sees more resistance to electric equipment among professional landscaping companies than among residential consumers. But he estimates there are now at least 200 "all-electric" [landscaping companies](#). Many of them make use of robotic technology, programming and maintaining the lawn equivalent of the Roomba.

Andrew Bray, vice president of government relations for the Fairfax, Virginia-based, National Association of Professional Landscapers, says, "[The transition to electric is inevitable, and most landscapers are trying out this equipment all the time. But while the technology is already there for homeowners -- and I myself use electric equipment at home -- the technology isn't there yet for most of the commercial sector.](#)"

"With leaf blowers, for example, they don't yet have the battery power needed for commercial use," he says.

And he said there are cost and infrastructure hurdles for professional landscapers looking to switch from gas to electric.

"Since battery packs are not interchangeable between brands of tools, you'd have to retrofit your whole shop so that everything is the same brand. You'd also probably have to upgrade the wattage of the electrical system in your shop, since an average crew would need about 36 batteries," he says.

Still, [electric's momentum is growing](#). Stanley Black & Decker, a leading maker of outdoor products, estimates that the volume of electric-powered landscaping equipment that North American manufacturers shipped went from 9 million units in 2015 to over 16 million last year, an over 75 percent increase in the past five years.

"We continue to innovate in cordless (electric) products focused on delivering high performance while having lower noise and no emissions in use," says John Wyatt, senior vice president of Stanley Outdoor.

https://apnews.com/article/gardening-leaf-blowers-raking-a94aad2a8371e9211ca12d1eb9130b107utm_source=copy&utm_medium=share

The problem with leaf blowers, and what you can do instead

BY JESSICA DAMIANO

Updated 10:23 AM EDT, April 23, 2024

When I was a kid, I used to help my mother clear leaves the old-fashioned way — with a rake.

These days, I don't see many rakes in my neighborhood. It seems everyone has a leaf blower or a landscaper who uses one, often at ungodly hours, which disrupts humans as well as wildlife.

[The near-constant cacophony has led many communities around the country to restrict or completely ban gas blowers, which typically are louder than electric or battery-operated models, and pollute more, too. Some municipalities offer residents rebates or trade-in programs to replace the gas](#)

[equipment with electric.](#)

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL WOES

The noise isn't merely a nuisance. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [prolonged exposure to noise louder than 70 decibels may damage your hearing. Gas-powered leaf blowers can register as high as 100 decibels at the source \(the levels decrease with distance\).](#)

Most electric models range from 59 to 70 decibels. For context, a motorcycle engine registers at about 95 decibels; normal conversation is around 50. And it's worth noting that each 10 decibel increase is not merely 10 points louder but 10 times louder, so 80 decibels is a tenfold increase over 70.

[Gas-powered leaf blowers also expel fumes and pollutants like carbon monoxide.](#) Both gas and electric blowers stir up particulate matter, dust, mold, pollen, and pathogen-containing bird and animal feces into the air that we (and insects and wildlife) breathe. Folks with respiratory issues or allergies may be especially sensitive.

Both types also blow away mulch, contribute to soil erosion and disrupt delicate ecosystems. The soil depletion makes plants more vulnerable to disease and infestations, which could lead to higher pesticide usage.

The machines' forceful blasts – which travel up to 200 mph, can displace, injure and kill pollinators and other insects. Birds, too, can become startled into changing their feeding, nesting and mating habits.

SO, WHAT TO DO?

Share this information with your friends and neighbors. If you hire a landscaper, express your concerns and ask them to use electric equipment. If enough people do that, the demand will hopefully effect change.

If you have the time and inclination, rake. On hard surfaces, use a broom. Those are sustainable alternatives that also provide good exercise and some peaceful time alone with your thoughts.

Clear the lawn, but consider [leaving leaves where they fall](#) in beds and borders.

Leaf sweepers, which operate like push mowers, capture and collect leaves, twigs and other garden debris in an attached bag. This offers an additional advantage over blowers, which simply move debris out of the way or into a pile that needs to be gathered before reuse or disposal. Electric models are also available.

[If you must use a blower, opt for an electric or cordless rechargeable model as a cleaner, quieter compromise.](#) The initial price tag might be higher, but you'll quickly recoup the cost with savings on gas and oil.

And if a gas-powered model is truly your only option, do yourself, your neighbors, and the birds and bees a favor by running it sparingly and only at half-throttle.

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Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning [Weekly Dirt Newsletter](#). You can [sign up here](#) for weekly gardening tips and advice.

In summary, RI legislature should be discussing legislation that supports the [transition to cleaner, quieter, rechargeable equipment for lawn maintenance](#) rather than shielding fossil fuel legacy equipment and maybe offer rebates or buy backs for the polluting lawn maintenance equipment.

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