



**Race Equity Advisory Committee
Special Meeting**

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

6:00 PM

Chamber Conference Room, City Hall

280 Madison Ave N

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

The Race Equity Advisory Committee will hold this meeting in person,
in the City Hall Council Conference Room.

Attendance may be in person or the meeting is also
accessible via the Zoom meeting platform.

Zoom Meeting

<https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/97751595218>

Telephone: 1-253-215-8782

Webinar ID: 977 5159 5218

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 6:00 PM

2. Housekeeping

- Accept or Modify November 7 Minutes
- Accept or Modify January 8 Agenda
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- REAC Code of Conduct
- Suquamish Ancestral Land Acknowledgement

3. Public Comment – 6:10 PM

In person public comment is accepted at this time on any topic of public interest. Each commenter will have three minutes, or such amount as the meeting chair determines, to speak. Public comment is not taken on individual agenda items during the meeting. Public comment is simply received by the Race Equity Advisory Committee, with no response, and Race Equity Advisory Committee cannot deliberate on items that are not on the agenda. The lack of comment is not an endorsement or a denial of the comment.

Please refer to guidelines and instructions for public comment, including orderly behavior and civility in remarks ([LINK](#) to instructions). Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting to cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov, provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

4. The Election and REAC – 6:15 PM

- a. Safety at meetings (summary of meeting with City Manager and Police Chief)
 - i. Meet earlier in the day
 - ii. Incident training
 - iii. Joe Clark small group meetings
 - iv. Continue current safety measures
- b. “Welcoming and Inclusive City” status
- c. Immigrant solidarity
- d. Possible Restructuring of Task Forces
 - i. Winslow Sub-area Plan (member: Olivia)
 - ii. Guiding Principles (members: Eric, Renni, Caitlin, Jing)
 - iii. Outreach/Community Events (no members)
 - iv. Technology (members: Olivia, Raul, Renni)
 - v. Zero Emissions (members: Jing, Raul, Lynn)

5. Equity and Inclusion Manager Report – 6:50 PM

- a. Racial Equity Toolkit training
- b. REAC Workplan 2025

6. Regular Business – 7:00 PM

- a. Bystander Training update
- b. Task Force Reports
 - i. Winslow Sub-area Plan
 - ii. Zero Emissions
- c. City Council Meeting Report
- d. Report Out Items for Council
- e. Other Items

7. Good of the Order – 7:20 PM

8. Adjourn – 7:30 PM

**City of Bainbridge Island Race Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL

Co-chair Renni Bispham called the meeting to order at 6 PM at City Hall and on the Zoom Webinar

Members present: Lynn Beck (via Zoom), Renni Bispham, Raul Camacho, Jing Fong, Caitlin Lombardi

Liaisons present: None

Also present: Equity & Inclusion Manager Anshu Wahli

Excused: Councilmember Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Olivia Hall, Councilmember Jon Quitsland, Eric Stahl

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept October 3, 2024 minutes (Fong/Lombardi). Approved unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

No modifications to the agenda were proposed. Motion to accept the agenda (Camacho/Lombardi).

Approved Unanimously 5-0.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Ruys told REAC that the Baha'i community on Bainbridge Island has been hosting a race amity event periodically since the 1960's. It takes place the second Sunday in June. Barbara is also a liaison for the Bainbridge Island-North Kitsap Interfaith Council.

THE ELECTION AND REAC

What might the election results mean for REAC's workplan?

- Potential impacts included changes in federal funding for DEI, increased anger, and heightened hate rhetoric and behaviors.
- Proactively offer more community events and resources in anticipation of hate behavior. This will impact REAC's workplan. Caitlin, Olivia, and Renni will review the work plan to see which activities need to be elevated.
- Request for advice from Chief Clark or City Manager Blair King regarding safety and security during REAC meetings. Later in the meeting, Anshu agreed to set up meeting with Chief Clark and City Manager King. Renni, Olivia, Raul, and Anshu will attend on behalf of REAC.

EQUITY & INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT

- a. **Racial Equity Toolkit update.**

Anshu would like to move this toolkit from draft status to adoption by COBI. It has been piloted with the Utility Rates Study. Scott Winn would do two 2-3 hour trainings in early 2025. Priority for training will be COBI leadership and race equity team, City Council, and REAC.

b. Committee use of text and personal phones for communication.

A reminder: REAC members may not text their colleagues about REAC matters via personal phones. Transitory messages like “Please check your email” are allowed. Messages with content need to be sent through email.

c. December and January REAC meetings.

January 2 is early in the month—and right after the holiday— for a regularly scheduled REAC monthly meeting Anshu will look into alternative meeting dates for the first half of January

DEIS UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Caitlin reported that she and Olivia finalized and sent a letter—with REAC input— to city council encouraging the use of the Race Equity Toolkit in the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) decision-making process regarding the preferred alternatives. Councilmembers Matthews and Schneider reached out about having REAC walk the full council through the draft toolkit and how it might be applied.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Possible repeat Bystander Training update

We had a successful Bystander Training in the spring and would like to bring back the facilitator, Healing Equity United for 1.0 (up to 70 people) and 2.0 trainings (up to 50 people, at least three weeks after 1.0 training) in 2025. REAC has the budget to offer the trainings and will get back to HEU to confirm what dates work for us

b. Task Force Reports

Zero Emissions landscaping tools .

The Climate Change Advisory Committee will have a clean copy of a Zero Emissions recommendation for us by our December meeting. The council plans to study this issue in February.

Guiding Principles

Caitlin, Eric, and Jing have been following up on the city manager’s request to review the guiding principles that appear on the city council agenda and other COBI documents. We are working on recommendations for an approach to review these guidelines with an equity perspective, incorporating all three pillars of sustainability—environment, economy, and equity—not just environment, and paying attention to vague words that historically can lead to interpretations that are discriminatory. The group may have recommendations ready for the December meeting.

c. City Council Meeting Report

Nothing reported.

d. Report Out Matters

- What are the follow-up steps towards the full council using the draft race equity toolkit in the DEIS process?
- Security at REAC meetings.

e. Other Items

REAC membership, participation, and responsibilities.

Renni would like to see the work more equally spread out among the group, especially because there are now seven instead of nine members. Let's try to match skills and interests for maximum impact. REAC members were asked to email everything they're working on so a visual representation can be created to capture our efforts.

Lynn asked if REAC would have the opportunity to provide input or be involved in planning of the public spaces for the affordable housing project' by the ferry. Anshu will inquire with Blair.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Tonight, BISD is taking public comment on the process for choosing a superintendent.
- At the City Council meeting on Nov. 12, there will be two proclamations: Christina (Corpuz Peato), from the school district will accept the Native American Heritage Month Proclamation. Eve Palay will accept the Transgender Awareness Week Proclamation.
- Association of WA Cities (AWC) is offering its annual scholarship, Center for Quality Communities, to high school seniors interested in local government. An ad hoc committee will make a recommendation to AWC. Three scholarships will be awarded. Encourage seniors to apply!

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM



Race Equity Advisory Committee Code of Conduct

The Bainbridge Island Race Equity Advisory Committee encourages community attendance and participation. We are committed to providing a safe environment free from discrimination and harassment.

We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and inclusion and to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with these values. Please be prepared to participate in courageous conversation. Stay engaged. Agree to experience discomfort. Feel welcome to speak your truth. Expect and accept non-closure.

The Race Equity Advisory Committee has assigned two designees as the first point of contact for anyone who thinks that they have experienced discrimination, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior during this meeting. Please contact a designee if you have any concerns.

Today's designees are the REAC Co-chairs.



dx^wsəq^wəb

PLACE OF THE CLEAR SALT WATER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

“Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished.”

Chief Seattle 1854

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is within the ancestral territory of the suq^wabš “People of Clear Salt Water” (Suquamish People). Expert fisherman, canoe builders and basket weavers, the suq^wabš live in harmony with the lands and waterways along Washington’s Central Salish Sea as they have for thousands of years. Here, the suq^wabš live and protect the land and waters of their ancestors for future generations as promised by the Point Elliot Treaty of 1855.



SUQUAMISH TRIBE





CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Public Comment

Members of the public are encouraged to submit public comment to the City Advisory Committees. Interested parties may provide comment by:

- Emailing the [committee members](#). This comment may be submitted at any time.
- Providing in-person comment at a meeting.
- Providing comment at a meeting via Zoom, in accordance with the advance notice and camera requirements.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment in-person at a meeting should sign up to speak on the sign-in sheet. The Chair will call the people signed up on the sign-in sheet, and speakers will have three minutes (or such other time set by the Chair) to speak. The Chair or a designee will indicate when the time has elapsed.

Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice to the City by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting at cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov, provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

Guidelines for public comment are below. These guidelines were established for and approved by the City Council and also apply to all advisory boards, committees and commissions of the City Council.

Excerpts from the Governance Manual regarding public comment:

5.6 Respect and Decorum

It is the duty of the Presiding Officer and Councilmembers to maintain dignity and respect for their offices, City staff, and the public. While the Council is in session, the Councilmembers shall preserve civility, order and decorum. No member of the public shall, by conversation or otherwise, delay, disrupt, or interrupt the proceedings of the Council, nor engage in any of the prohibited behavior described below. Councilmembers and the public shall obey the proper orders of the Presiding Officer of the meeting.

5.6.1 Orderly Behavior and Civility in Remarks

Any person disrupting the business of the Council, either while addressing the Council or attending the proceedings, shall be asked to leave, or be removed from the meeting. Continued disruptions may result in a point of order by the Presiding Officer or a Councilmember pursuant to the Council's parliamentary rules, or a recess, forced removal, or adjournment as described elsewhere in this manual. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Speaking without being recognized by the Presiding Officer.
- b) Continuing to speak after the allotted time has expired.

- c) Speaking on an item at a time not designated for discussion by the public of that item, such as speaking on a quasi-judicial item at a time other than during a public hearing or closed record proceeding on the matter.
- d) Throwing objects.
- e) Speaking on an issue that is not a public topic, in violation of Section 9.12.2.
- f) Speaking in favor of or in opposition to a ballot proposition or a candidate for public office, provided, that public comment is allowed when the City Council is considering taking a collective position in favor of or in opposition to a ballot proposition as authorized in RCW 42.17A.555.
- g) Impersonating a City Councilmember or a member of the City staff.
- h) Shouting or otherwise engaging in loud or boisterous behavior.
- i) Continuing to make repetitive remarks after being requested not to do so by the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City Council.
- j) Attempting to engage the audience rather than the Council, e.g., asking audience members to stand, clap, boo or otherwise express collective support or opposition to any matter.
- k) Booing, hissing, or otherwise disrupting the comments of another speaker.
- l) Using racial slurs or other slurs directed at the color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, or mental, physical, or sensory disability of any individual or group, under circumstances where such words constitute “fighting words” under constitutional law.
- m) Refusing to modify conduct after being advised by the Presiding Officer that the conduct is disrupting the meeting or disobeying any other lawful order of the Presiding Officer or a majority of the City Council.

5.6.2 Permission Required to Address the Council

Persons other than Councilmembers and Administration shall be permitted to address the Council only upon recognition and introduction by the Presiding Officer of the meeting.

9.12.2 Subjects – Whether or Not on the Current Agenda

Public comments received during the public comment period may be on any public topic, whether or not on the agenda, but a comment on the subject that is covered by a public hearing at that meeting must be made during the period of the public hearing. All public comments shall be made consistent with Section 5.6.

9.12.3 Use of Microphones

Comments shall be made directly into the microphone, as it is necessary for the public record and for the audience to hear all proceedings. No comments shall be made from any other location.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09

Bainbridge Island Welcoming and Inclusive City Resolution

A **RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, affirming that Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that respects the fundamental human dignity of all people.

WHEREAS, all people — including persons of all races, creeds, colors, national origins, sexes, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, mental abilities, and physical abilities — are respected and valued members of our community, and are vital to our shared health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming community where diverse people, families, and institutions thrive; and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island's inclusive culture and values enhance our cultural fabric, economic growth, and overall wellbeing for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, we remember our history, including the oppression of indigenous peoples and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and we vow as a community: Nidoto Nai Yoni — Let It Not Happen Again; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island was the first community in the United States during World War II where, under a dark cloud of racial prejudice, fear, and uncertainty, and a shameful lack of political leadership, Japanese Americans were wrongly exiled from the West Coast; yet the majority of the members of our community believed in fundamental constitutional rights and protections, stood by their friends and neighbors, and refused to succumb to bigotry and hatred; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island is committed to continuing to build an inclusive and safe community, where all persons are fully accepted, integrated, and protected; and

WHEREAS, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between our native-born and foreign-born community members are crucial in encouraging and preserving Bainbridge Island's welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island encourages our businesses, civic groups, schools, government agencies, and other community institutions to undertake their own initiatives, beyond this resolution, to make Bainbridge Island a welcoming place for new residents from other countries, and an inclusive community for all people;

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island is a place of sanctuary for targeted communities and persecuted peoples; a City that opposes hate and bias and acts of intolerance committed against our

neighbors; and a City that vows to cultivate and support a culture of compassion, kindness, and protection; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

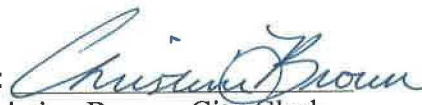
The City of Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that embraces all residents and visitors regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, mental ability, and physical ability; a City that strives for unity and harmony in our community; and a City that respects the essential human dignity of all people.

PASSED by the City Council this 14th day of February, 2017.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 14th day of February, 2017.

By: 
Val Tollefson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

By: 
Christine Brown, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: February 3, 2017
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: February 14, 2017
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-06

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, relating to Community Policing.

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-09, affirming that the City of Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that respects the fundamental human dignity of all people; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Immigrant Status Information.

A. Unless required by law or court order, no City of Bainbridge Island Police Department officer or employee shall inquire into the immigration status or nationality of any person, or engage in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status or nationality of any person.

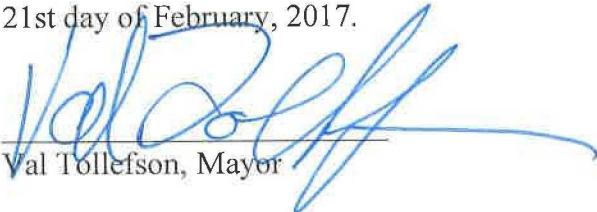
B. The Bainbridge Island Police Department shall not investigate, arrest, or detain any person based solely on immigration status or nationality.

C. The Bainbridge Island Police Department shall maintain policies consistent with this section.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days from its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 21st day of February, 2017.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 21st day of February, 2017.


Val Tollefson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:


Christine Brown, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:
ORDINANCE NUMBER:

February 3, 2017
February 21, 2017
February 24, 2017
March 1, 2017
2017-06

Race Equity Advisory Committee

Annual Report and Workplan for 2024

Members

Position 1: Lynn Beck

Position 7: Jing Fong

Position 2: Eric Stahl

Position 8: Renni Bispham

Position 3: Caitlin Lombardi

Council Liaison: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson

Position 4: Olivia Hall

Council Liaison: Jon Quitslund

Position 5: Raul Camacho

Staff Liaison: Anshu Wahi

Position 6: Savanna Rovelstad

Report on January 2023 – June 2024 Activities

- Helped create job description, criteria, and served on interview committee for COBI's first Equity and Inclusion Manager
- Organized Council/REAC workshops with Scott Winn to come closer to shared understanding and vocabulary around race equity
- Consulted on race equity implications of COBI's Uncrewed Aerial Systems Memorandum of Understanding
- Staffed Farmers Market Info Booth
- Helped plan and support Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
- Helped plan and support MLK Day Celebration
- Helped plan and support Juneteenth Celebration
- Co-devised, promoted, and coordinated inaugural BI Reads for Justice programming and activities
- Drafted a Racial Equity Lens for application in city-related decision making
- Provided recommendation to City Council for zero emissions hand tools ordinance
- Assisted in the development of equity-focused questions for and participated in Planning Commission interview panels

- Appointed to affordable housing RFP review panel
- Provided recommendations for the Ted Spearman Justice Center including hard changes to align with ADA requirements and general cultural competency
- Cooperatively developed the COBI naming convention process for public facilities
- Served on the Public Art Selection Committee for the Ted Spearman Justice Center
- Gave input and guidance for Winslow Sub Area Plan outreach and engagement process
- Met regularly with City Manager and Chief of Police
- Submitted recommendation to Council on community response to affordable housing project at 625 Winslow
- Organized Bystander Training attended by over 65 community members
- Engaged with BIHS youth groups
- Completed listening sessions with community leaders
- Responded to community instances of racism and bias both publicly and personally

June 2024 – December 2025 Workplan Priorities

- Respond to and initiate discussions with Council on recommendations for policy, actions, and community engagement as requested
- Meet regularly with Equity and Inclusion Manager, Police Chief, and City Manager
- Collaborate with Equity and Inclusion Manager on drafting and finalizing the Race Equity Lens for Council approval and adoption
- Encourage Council to apply Racial Equity Lens to policy decisions and guide them through the process
- Initiate and produce community engagement events such as focus groups, equity-based trainings, sack lunch discussion opportunities, and educational events
- Send recommendation to Council regarding revised Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles with Race Equity Lens applied
- Continue to engage with youth, and consider options for youth engagement on REAC
- Draft a document outlining the responsibilities and protocols to execute those responsibilities of REAC
- Schedule and participate follow up meeting with Scott Winn. Topics could include case study discussion and clarified lanes

- Develop recommendation to update city code for who can serve on REAC to include business owners and those who have significant ties to the community
- Collaborate with the Climate Change Advisory Committee on making recommendations for the Zero Emissions Hand Tool ordinance
- Continue to advise on community engagement efforts for the Comprehensive Plan and Winslow Sub Area Plan

Memorandum

To: Bainbridge Island City Manager and Bainbridge Island City Council

From: Climate Change and Race Equity Advisory Committees

Date:

Re: Recommendations regarding draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Zero Emission Landscaping ordinance as presented to the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) on May 15, 2024, and to the Race Equity Advisory Committee (REAC) on June 6, 2024 (see Attachment 1—Draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance and the Agenda Center on the COBI website¹). While both Committees support the spirit and direction of the draft ordinance, we share the following concerns and recommendations.

Our Concerns

We believe an all-encompassing ordinance such as the draft presented to CCAC and REAC in the spring of 2024 would effectively force residents and contractors to completely retool all of their landscaping equipment at once. In our view, this approach is not appropriate for Bainbridge Island. Our recommendations are based on concerns around the ordinance's scope, the feasibility of adoption at this time, and equity issues, all of which could hinder its acceptance and adoption, and, thus, its effectiveness.

Considering the state of the technology, costs, and the specific landscaping demands on Bainbridge Island, we are concerned that enacting of the ordinance as drafted would place severe hardship on Island residents and landscaping contractors, and potentially force many landscapers to cease operations on the Island. Such disruption could lead to significant push back from Island residents who would need purchase more costly landscaping equipment or services. Moreover, enforcement of the ordinance could be challenging and thus less effective.

Our Proposed Alternative

As an alternative to the draft ordinance, we recommend Council take a more targeted and phased approach by adopting a Council resolution that (1) considers banning the use of all gas-powered leaf blowers on the Island in the near-term, (2) sets an overall goal for how many landscaping tools used on the Island should be non-gasoline powered by 2030; and (3) supports the business and residential community in their efforts to transition away from their gas-powered tools. This approach broadly resembles efforts by other cities and considers the particularities of Bainbridge Island.

¹ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/AgendaCenter>

Our Objectives

The proposed approach, as described further below, supports both the objectives of COBI's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) on the Island by 90% by 2045, as well as the goal to apply an equity-based approach to city actions.^{2,3}

Detailed Analysis and Recommendations

Emissions from gas-powered landscaping tools are an identifiable and manageable GHG source category, and we consider it as appropriate for the City to take steps to reduce them. The transition to electric landscaping tools provides an effective, identifiable step that individuals can take to contribute to the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). These individual actions could also accelerate residents' electrification efforts in other sectors like heating/cooling and transportation.

Meaningful and equitable communication as well as meetings with residents and businesses are needed to help ensure a smooth transition and sufficient community support for successful implementation. By addressing the points below, we believe the City Council can create a more efficient, effective and equitable approach that considers the needs of all community members while still achieving important environmental and public health goals.

Establish an Achievable Goal

We recommend that the City Council adopts a resolution setting a goal that by 2030 at least 80% of all landscaping tools used on the Island will be non-gasoline powered. Once adopted by Council, COBI's "Go Electric" website⁴ should communicate the goal and the rationale behind it and encourage all residents, contractors, and businesses to plan accordingly.

Establish a Phased Approach-- Starting with Leaf Blowers

We also recommend the City consider a more limited ordinance now to make it more targeted and adopt a phased approach to regulating landscaping tools. As a first step, and subject to input received from residents and landscaping companies, we recommend banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the near term, possibly starting as early as September 2025 but not later than June 2026. The effective date should be based on consultation with landscapers and public input.

The rationale for this first step is the fact that leaf blowers represent the most commonly reported noise nuisance, they tend to emit the most fumes and emissions and pose the greatest health threat to those who operate them. There are reasonably priced, relatively effective, electric alternatives, thus easing the economic impact of such an ordinance.

² <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1331/Climate-Action>

³ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1124/Race-Equity-Advisory-Committee>

⁴ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

Moreover, given the nuisance factor, there is likely to be less pushback, and more support from our community.

As a second step, the City could consider restrictions on additional landscaping equipment, such as string trimmers and lawn movers in subsequent phases as equipment capabilities improve. Part of that transition would need to include a more thorough analysis of charging needs, as well as realistic ways to ensure access to sufficient battery storage and recharging throughout the day.

Provide Information to the Community on the Health and Environmental Impacts

We recommend providing information regarding the health and environmental impacts from gas-powered tools. Options for electric alternatives should be widely shared with the Community and landscape professionals. Extending the outreach beyond updates to COBI's "Go Electric" website⁵ should include a communications or social marketing campaign that, among others, would aim to gain community support for the proposed actions. All communications regarding landscaping equipment should be at least bilingual, i.e., English and Spanish, in order to reach all impacted communities.

Revise the Incentive Program

The currently proposed rebate program applies only to income-qualified Bainbridge property owners, not to commercial companies and is limited to one piece of electric-powered equipment per property address every two years (see Attachment 3 - Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal).

We recommend that the rebate program consider rebates to both residents and to commercial landscaping companies. Limiting incentives only to income-qualified residents will limit the usefulness of the program.

A program should be developed to ensure rebates for equipment and batteries also are available for companies that conduct landscaping business on Bainbridge. Financial incentives also need to be significant and inclusive enough to meaningfully encourage the purchase and use of electric landscaping tools. The City, in conjunction with the CCAC and the REAC, could explore sources of funding that could potentially support the rebates.

Explore Partnerships with Area Retailers

We recommend reaching out to local retailers such as Ace, Home Depot, and Lowes to see if it is possible to get bulk discounts if we aggregate demand from multiple purchasers.

⁵ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

Apply the City's Climate Lens to Any Proposed Ordinance.

We recommend the City use the climate lens developed for projects on the Island for this program. The CCAC would be happy to help with its application.

Prioritize Equity Concerns From the Start of the Process.

Equity considerations should guide both the outreach and scope when developing the resolution or leaf blower ordinance. Similarly, equitable practices in education and outreach are essential once the resolution or ordinance is adopted. The following actions will help prioritize equity:

a. **Early Inclusion for Equitable Implementation.** Inclusive outreach to BIPOC residential and commercial landscapers must occur before adoption of the resolution or ordinance. We acknowledge that some landscapers may have had negative experiences with government officials in the past and that not all may be licensed and may be hesitant to engage with City officials. As a result, these landscapers will require engagement beyond traditional means. Direct, personal conversations and informal focus groups may provide the City with valuable insights into the practical and financial impacts of transitioning to electric or battery-powered landscaping equipment.

b. **Ensure equitable and effective communication and engagement by:**

- Providing multilingual opportunities for education, information, and questions in at least Spanish and English. Outreach will help determine what other languages may be appropriate.
- Holding multilingual workshops to demonstrate the use and maintenance of electric equipment, potentially with the City's or Parks District's landscaping crews sharing their experiences in transitioning to electric tools. Create short videos that can be shared on the City's website and in emails to residents and landscaping firms.
- Establishing a dedicated Spanish-language hotline or office hours for questions and clarifications. Appointing a Spanish-speaking representative to address questions and provide further information on the initiative.
- Collaborating with the REAC to develop and implement an outreach plan.

c. **Apply a Racial Equity Lens.**

- The current draft of the COBI racial equity lens should be applied to the resolution and any forthcoming ordinance. A racial equity lens must be applied from the outset and throughout the proposed Zero Emission initiative.
- This initiative presents a key opportunity to simultaneously apply both a racial equity lens and a climate lens concurrently to a City project.

d. **Assess Staffing and Resources for Equitable Implementation.**

- Staffing and resources will be critical for equitable outreach, education, and successful implementation. City staff may need to be involved in outreach during the resolution's development phase and most likely in supporting events such as equipment demonstrations and trade-in programs.
- Initiative efforts may be constrained by limited staff capacity, available funding for rebates and incentives, limited local equipment suppliers, and other resource limitations. This is an equity issue.
- Exploring additional funding sources, such as grants and partnering with community nonprofit organizations, will be essential for ensuring equitable outreach, education, and implementation.

Additional Background and Discussion

Summary of Key Elements of the Draft Ordinance

The draft ordinance proposed to prohibit the use of internally combusted hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and lawn mowers rated at 25 horsepower or less on Bainbridge Island after July 1, 2026. Electric-powered hand tools could be used in residential areas on weekdays and Saturdays only between 8AM and 5PM, and in non-residential areas any day between 8AM and 6PM except holidays. Using electric small landscaping tools is prohibited island wide on holidays. There are exceptions for emergency responders.

Support for Transition to Electric Tools

Overall, we support the Council's goal to limit the use of small gas-powered landscaping tools on Bainbridge Island. These efforts strengthen the City's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. We also recognize the negative impact on human health and the environment from these tools (e.g., toxic emissions, particulate emissions, GHGs, vibration, noise harm to users and general nuisance).

We applaud the City for setting an example to transition its own landscaping tools to electric power in 2023.^{6,7} We agree with the City's desire to also encourage residents and landscaping maintenance professionals to shift to electric landscaping maintenance tools as soon as possible

Similar Efforts in Other Jurisdictions

Although efforts are underway in some jurisdictions in the U.S. to put in place some level of restrictions on gas-powered landscaping tools, there are relatively limited instances of comprehensive regulation (See <https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/interactive-map-of-lawn-mower-and-leaf-blower-policies/>. See also Attachment 2 which shows approaches some jurisdictions have taken to regulate landscaping tools). While some jurisdictions in

⁶ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

⁷ 2023 Climate Action Plan Progress Report

Washington are transitioning from gas to electric for at least some equipment, to date statewide bills to require the transition for all landscaping equipment have failed to pass the State Legislature.

Health Related Impacts and Opportunities

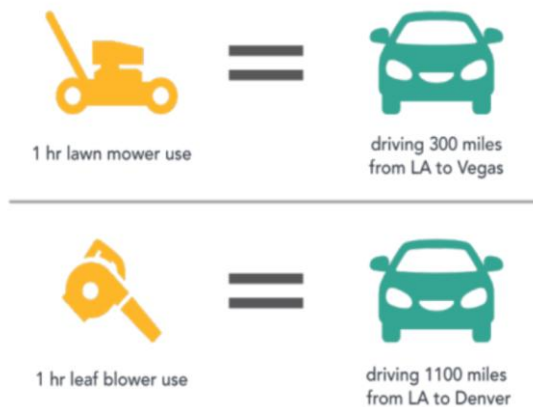
Information on the health effects of gasoline-powered equipment is of concern and the direct health impact on equipment users needs to be communicated throughout the residential and business community. An Island-wide ordinance limiting gas-powered landscaping equipment would help improve our community's air quality. It also would improve the occupational health of landscape workers, who are disproportionately Latino and other black indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

COBI's "Go Electric" website provides some information about environmental and health related impacts from gas-powered landscaping tools. For example, it explains that lawn tools with a two-stroke engine can spew 20 to nearly 300 times the emissions of a car.⁸

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the harmful emissions of landscaping equipment are significant. Data for 2020 indicates such equipment emitted on a national level:

- Nearly 22,000 tons of fine particulates – pollutants that have been linked to respiratory ailments, reproductive and mental health issues. That's as much pollution as would be produced annually by 234 million typical cars.
- More than 68,000 tons of nitrogen oxides and 350,000 tons of volatile organic compounds – the two chemical components of ground-level ozone, which triggers asthma attacks and contributes to premature death. Nitrogen oxide emissions from lawn equipment are equal to annual emissions from 30 million typical cars.
- More than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading cause of global warming.
- A wide array of chemicals that cause cancer, including benzene and formaldehyde.
- The following graphic from Colorado demonstrates the air emission contribution of leaf blowers as compared to lawnmowers by equating one hour of their use with amount of miles driven by a gas-powered vehicle.

⁸ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>



Mixed Opinions on Regulating Landscaping Equipment

In 2023, the City of Bainbridge Island conducted a survey seeking community input on possible ways to regulate landscaping equipment. Responses from Bainbridge residents were varied with many expressing support for some level of regulation, especially around leaf blowers.

Others believed this is city overregulation and not a priority. Responses included support for a rebate or incentive program and specific financial assistance for small businesses. Other respondents also expressed concerns about the cost and efficacy especially for larger acreage properties.

The survey results indicate limited support for such a regulation from business owners. They stated that increased cost of equipment and batteries, the significant impact on small businesses, efficacy and efficiency of electric equipment for commercial use, and the ability to recharge throughout the day are the biggest issues for commercial users.

Needs to Recognize the Costs Imposed on Landscaping Businesses

In our view, the ordinance needs to recognize the costs imposed on the owners of landscaping businesses for switching to electric-powered equipment and thus, move judiciously to gain support for these changes. The current proposal does not address the business needs of the people who will be most impacted by a ban on all gas-powered tools: the professional landscaping crews who work on the Island. These workers, predominantly Latino, take care of Island properties but operate their businesses from off-island locations. Expecting landscaping companies to just pass the increased cost of new equipment to their customers is not reasonable and does not appear to be supported by the wider community.

Learn from the Experience of the BI Parks District and the City

We understand that the Bainbridge Island Parks District is transitioning to electric tools for its landscaping work. An informal discussion with staff indicates they have been able to make a partial transition but have found it challenging to do so for various aspects of

their works. The Parks District staff did not feel a wholesale transition would be practicable at this time given the varied their work requirements. Also, the City's transition to electric tools led to the following staff level conclusion regarding the efficacy of electric landscaping tools: *Electric tools are good for some applications but are problematic for others. Overall, the consensus is they have their uses and do well in some applications, but we should look at what the application is and determine what the most efficient and appropriate tool for the job is.*

Conclusions and Attachments

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft ordinance. We are happy to work with the City staff on specific resolution or ordinance language, community education and outreach.

Attachment 1 Draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance

Attachment 2 Table of some other jurisdiction's approach to regulating landscaping tools

Attachment 3 Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal