

The Climate Change 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.

Click to join Zoom: <https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/91390380790>

Or Telephone: 1-253-215-8782

Webinar ID: 913 9038 0790

Agenda

1. 5:30 Call meeting to Order/Roll Call/Accept of Modify Agenda /Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. 5:35 Approve September 9, October 16, and November 20, 2024 Minutes
3. 5:40 Public Comment
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 Climate Change Advisory Committee, with no response, and the Climate Change 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, attached below. 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. 5:45 Update and Discussion of Zero Emissions Hand Tools (Julie Mathews, Ray Victurine, Jens Boemer, Kevin Thomas)
5. 6:00 Climate Cafe February 21 (Mike Cox)
6. 6:15 Potential Collaboration with Team from Edmonds (Climate Equity Forum and Interested in Forming Information Sharing Coalition with Other Cities) (Mike Cox, Kevin Thomas, Sanjay Bhatt)
7. 6:30 Annual Accomplishments and Work Plan Presentation (Ellen Schroer, Deputy City Manager)

8. 6:45 Updates (Ellen Schroer, Deputy City Manager)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Code process steps
 - Electric Vehicle Ordinance Research & Recommendations – consider establishing subcommittee
 - Woodward Solar Project
 - Heat Pump pilot program status update
 - Climate Manager position vacancy update
 - CCAC Input for Comprehensive Plan
 - GHG Inventory update
 - Volunteer recognition save the date – April 24
9. 7:30 Adjourn

Attachments:

Meeting Minutes from September 9, October 16, and November 20, 2024

Draft Work Plan for 2025

2023 Version of Accomplishments to Update

Bainbridge Island CCAC Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Michael Cox

Roll call:

- Committee members: Michael (Mike) Cox, Julie Matthews, Steve Richard, Ray Victorine, Derik Broekhoff, Sanjay Bhat, Jens Boemer (online)
 - Absent: Kevin Thomas, Michael Kleeman
- City Staff liaison: Ellen Schroer
- Peter Best, presenter to the committee

Agenda: Mike proposed adding an item related to finding another Vice Chair for the committee

Conflicts of Interest:

- Sanjay disclosed he is marketing director at Kitsap Transit, which has a contract with COBI to promote transit, which is managed by Autumn's group at the city. He also serves on the Board with Courtyards on Madison, working with Department of Energy on community solar grant projects.
- Jens disclosed he is an employee of EPRI, a research institute that does work with PSE, but is not currently involved in any work with PSE.

Minutes for March meeting: Steve motioned for approval, Ray seconded, adopted by those present.

Public comment: None

Agenda items

- City updates
 - Peter Best presented on Comprehensive Plan public engagement
 - Ellen Schroer provided updates on solar PV carbon offset project, heat pump pilot project, climate officer position, and sea level rise work, recommendations on EV charging code (on council agenda for September 24), and forthcoming October ETIPP presentation
- CCAC updates
 - Julie and Ray updated the committee on deliberations related to electric hand tools ordinance
 - Mike briefly updated the committee the Climate Action Plan dashboard (no material updates)
 - Kevin and Mike updated the committee on forthcoming electrification expo
 - Mike asked for volunteers to replace him as Vice Chair; agreed to forward this to the whole committee via email

There were no committee action items or votes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Bainbridge Island CCAC Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2024

Meeting called to order by Michael Cox at 5:33 pm

Roll Call:

- Committee members: Michael (Mike) Cox, Michael Kleeman, Steve Richard, Julie Matthews, Sanjay Baht, Kevin Thomas (remote), Ray Victorine (remote), Jens Boomer (remote)
 - Absent: Derik Broekhoff
- City Staff Liaison: Ellen Schroer, Deputy City Manager
- City Council Liaison: Kirsten Hytopoulos (remote)

Agenda:

- Mike requested an update on Climate officer position.

Conflicts of Interest:

- Sanjay disclosed he is marketing director at Kitsap Transit.

Minutes for June meeting:

- The minutes from the September meeting not available – will be provided at a later meeting.

Public Comment:

- No public comment.

Confirm new CCAC Vice Chair:

- Sanjay volunteered to be the new CCAC Vice Chair.
- Action
 - Steve motioned to approve Sanjay as Vice Chair, Michael seconded, unanimous approval of those present with Sanjay and Mike abstaining.

Updates on Climate Action Plan Priority Projects:

- PJ Tillman, Cascadia Consulting, discussed their work on the city's heat pump pilot project and on the greenhouse gas emission (GHG) inventory update.

Update and Discussion of Zero Emissions Hand Tool Ordinance:

- Subcommittee (Ray, Kevin, Jens, Julie) presented a draft memo to the City Council on the proposed zero emission hand tool ordinance with recommendations for a pared down phased approach and an emphasis on equity. A number of suggestions were provided. A revised memo will be shared with the Race Equity Advisory Committee and then presented at the November CCAC meeting.
- Action
 - No committee action was taken

Equity Discussion:

- Discussion on the “Racial Equity and Racial Equity Lens” is postponed until the next CCAC meeting.

Updates from Deputy City Manager:

- EV Charging Code- Code revisions will be discussed at Planning Commission meeting on December 12 and then forwarded to City Council. Anticipate enactment, if approved, in January or February. Current focus is on commercial construction, multifamily will be addressed after that.
- Open Meetings Act, Public Comment, First Amendment, Public Records Act training handout in packet.
- Puget Sound Energy Memorandum of Understanding- was approved by the City Council resolution on October 8.
- Waste Management negotiations with BI Disposal are ongoing through November. May have resolution in December.
- Fehr and Peers fleet electrification report- will be presented at City Council study session November 19 with opportunity for Council to ask questions but not to make any decision.
- Climate manager position- still actively recruiting. Application period is open until November 3. Lots of applications have been received.
- Next CCAC meeting is scheduled for December 13- after school is out for the holidays. Need to determine if there will be a quorum or to cancel the meeting.

CCAC Updates:

Electrification Fair report out- Held September 14 at Woodward. There was a good turnout and favorable reviews. Discussed general ideas for future events.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Bainbridge Island CCAC Meeting Minutes, November 20, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Kevin Thomas

Roll call:

- Committee members: Steve Richard (online), Derik Broekhoff, Sanjay Bhat, Jens Boemer, Julie Matthews, Ray Victurine
 - Absent: Michael Cox, Michael Kleeman
- City Staff:
 - Ellen Schroer, liaison to the committee
 - Hannah Boettcher, sustainable transportation coordinator
- City Council liaisons: Leslie Schneider

Agenda: Ellen Schroer requested to postpone equity item (city equity coordinator not available)

Conflicts of Interest:

- Sanjay disclosed he is marketing director at Kitsap Transit, which has a contract with COBI to promote transit, which is managed by Autumn's group at the city. He also serves on the Board with Courtyards on Madison, working with Department of Energy on community solar grant projects.
- Jens disclosed he is an employee of EPRI, a research institute that does work with PSE, but is not currently involved in any work with PSE.

Minutes for prior meetings: Not available. Notes for September, October, and November will be provided at the next committee meeting. Ellen Schroer noted that the city is moving to recording "action minutes" (a more succinct summarizing of action items).

Public comment: None.

Sustainable Transportation Update:

- Hannah Boettcher provided an updated on the sustainable transportation plan.

Zero Emission Hand Tool Ordinance:

- Julie updated the committee on development of recommendations regarding the hand tool ordinance.
- Committee members discussed recommendations and outreach strategy around what goes into the ordinance, and meeting with REAC before finalizing.
- Decision to be finalized in January.

City Updates:

- Ellen Schroer updated the committee on EV charging code, heat pump pilot program, climate manager vacancy, and GHG inventory.

Action item:

- Kevin motioned to not meet in December; Ray seconded. All were in favor.
- Next meeting in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.



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 noon on the date of 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.

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 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 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

Bainbridge Island Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal

Last Updated: May 7, 2024

Purpose

The City Council will be considering an electric landscaping tool ordinance. The potential ordinance would prohibit gas engines for leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, string trimmers, and non-riding mowers with less than 25 horsepower. Equity concerns have been raised at the possibility of this ordinance. Staff are proposing the following equity-driven Lawn Care Rebate Program.

Program Funding Request

Staff request \$50,000 be allocated to rebates to eligible residents. Staff also requests \$2,000 for program outreach. This \$52,000 would come from funding allocated to the Climate Action Plan. This does not include any funding dedicated to staff time.

Process

1. A resident purchases an eligible tool from participating retailers.
2. Within 30 calendar days from the date of purchase, the resident takes their old lawnmower to Bainbridge Disposal. They must ensure all fluids have been removed from the machine to be accepted. Bainbridge Disposal has offered to for-go the resident drop-off cost for program participants.
3. A resident would then complete the online rebate application and submit it to the City. The form would require the submittal of a receipt or invoice for the lawn care equipment, proof of income eligibility, and a copy of a drop-off form designed by the City and handed out by Bainbridge Disposal.
4. Staff review and either approve or deny the application. Once approved, a check would either be mailed to the resident, or they can pick up at City Hall.

Income Qualification

Income qualification will be based on US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Income Limits for the Bremerton-Silverdale metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The income thresholds for income-qualified incentives are 80% area median income (AMI) and below. Income thresholds will be adjusted for household size and will follow HUD 2023 Income Limits methodology. Income thresholds are shown in the table below.

Bainbridge Island Lawn Care Rebate Program Income Limits								
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
80% AMI	\$61,000.00	\$69,700.00	\$78,400.00	\$87,100.00	\$94,100.00	\$101,050.00	\$108,050.00	\$115,000.00

According to Census data, the average family size is 2.84 on Bainbridge Island. Rounding up to three and based on these income qualifications, this program could assist up to 1,500 families. However, not all families live on a parcel of land that requires them to maintain their lawn, nor do all families own gas-powered lawn care equipment, thus this number is a conservative estimate.

Rebate Options

Staff researched West Coast governments that currently implement a lawn care rebate program. Based on the review, staff recommend modeling Bainbridge Island's program off of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's *Clean Green Yard Machines* program.

The program would offer the following rebates:

- Up to \$100 for a purchase of \$200 or less¹
- \$150 for a purchase of \$201-\$350
- \$250 for a purchase of \$351+

If all 1,500 families were to participate in this program, the estimated rebate amount that would be distributed would range from \$150,000² to \$375,000,³ however, staff expect this to be a conservative estimate based on factors mentioned in the previous section.

Per the funding request, the budget would allow up the following:

Voucher Amount	Maximum Number of Vouchers Available
Up to \$100	500
\$150	333
\$250	200

Program and Eligibility Requirements

The City would implement the following program and eligibility requirements:

- Submittal of an application does not guarantee a rebate. Program eligibility is determined at the sole discretion of the City. The participant will be notified if their application is deemed ineligible.
- Applicant must be a resident at the address identified in the application.
- Limit one (1) rebate per address for every two (2) consecutive years.
- Combo kit with one power unit and multiple attachments is considered one equipment type.
- For bundle purchases of two or more pieces of eligible equipment, separate applications must be submitted for each piece of equipment. Equipment purchased as part of a bundle are eligible for separate rebates only if each piece of equipment has a separate power unit. For the first piece of eligible equipment, the rebate amount is based on the current individual retail price of that specific equipment. The rebates for subsequent eligible pieces of equipment in the bundle with a separate power unit are based on the remaining balance of the purchase price of the bundle, less the current individual retail price of the first piece of equipment for which the rebate was applied.
- Applicant must submit a rebate application within three (3) months of the purchase date of the new equipment.

¹ Applicant will be responsible for a minimum of 50% of the purchase price for equipment priced \$200 or less.

² 100% participation on the \$100 rebate

³ 100% participation on the \$250 rebate

- The new electric equipment must be purchased with a power unit and from a manufacturer-authorized retailer or dealer.
- Applicant must turn in a fully functional old gas- or diesel-powered lawn care equipment to Bainbridge Disposal for permanent recycling.
- Applicant must maintain ownership of the new lawn care equipment for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years following the purchase date.
- New equipment must:
 - Be new, not used, or previously owned
 - Be electric (corded or battery-powered)
 - For mowers, be push or self-propelled under 25 horsepower (or equivalent) for residential use
 - Have a minimum one-(1) year manufacturer warranty
- Lawnmowers that are not eligible:
 - Reel mowers
 - Riding lawn mowers
 - Tractors used to pull mowing equipment
 - Tow-behind mowers
- The rebate period would begin upon passage of the ordinance and end when the mandate for electric lawn care equipment begins.

Table of Some Existing Leaf Blower Regulations/Laws—not comprehensive, current as of date information was inserted-
Draft 1-7-25

Jurisdiction	Scope- equipment covered	Other limits	Enforcement	Incentives	Leadtime
City of Seattle	Leaf Blowers	<p>A. By January 2025, or later, if necessary, the City and its contractors will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and</p> <p>B. By January 2027, or later, if necessary, institutions located in Seattle, businesses operating in Seattle, and Seattle residents will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.</p> <p>Mayor's Directive follows adoption of Resolution 32064</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting in July 2023, all new leaf blower purchases by departments must be electric powered equipment, either plug in or battery, to begin transitioning to an all-electric inventory. • Conduct a current and accurate inventory of all existing leaf blowers. This inventory will be updated annually to assess the status of the transition. • Create a roadmap to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers by 2025, achieving at least a 50% reduction in use no later than 2025, 75% by 2026, and 100% by 2027, aiming to achieve that goal sooner. • Assess current charging capacity at facilities and identify infrastructure improvements needed to support battery charging of electrified equipment. • Form an internal department transition team made up of one or more members from each 	None yet	Plan is to develop incentives as well as outreach programs to promote the changeover. Would also employ a racial equity toolkit	Resolution 32064 September 2022

Jurisdiction	Scope- equipment covered	Other limits	Enforcement	Incentives	Leadtime
		impacted department. This team, facilitated by Seattle Parks and Recreation, will meet quarterly to share information and align best practices.			
City of Kirkland, WA	Considers use bans. Leaf Blowers to start and then hope to bring in other equipment	<p>Sunset the use of gas-powered hand-held and backpack leaf blowers in Kirkland by a target date of December 31, 2025</p> <p>Ensure a responsive transition to electric leaf blowers that reduces the burden and maximizes the potential benefit to Kirkland landscaping businesses and residents</p>	None yet	<p>2024: City implements financial incentive programs to support private sector and resident transition to electric equipment; deploys an educational and information campaign for Kirkland residential households and businesses</p> <p>Organized Leaf Blower trade in event and provided \$100 voucher for new electric leaf blower</p> <p>Organized Leaf Rake Pledge program</p>	<p>Resolution 5-5585 April 2023</p> <p>2025: Propose an ordinance for Council consideration sunsetting hand-held and backpack gas-powered equipment city-wide while continuing City, business, and resident transitions.</p>
Washington DC	Bans use. On January 1, 2022, the Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2018 took effect. The Act prohibits the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in the District of Columbia and impacts landscapers who do business in the District, and residents who own gasoline-powered leaf blowers.		Companies or individuals that now use gasoline-powered leaf blowers in the District are subject to fines of up to \$500 for each offense. Anyone can document and call in a violation		Four years
Boulder, CO	Leaf Blower-deferred action	City Council deferred taking a regulatory approach to address the impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers and other landscaping tools for at least the next year. This decision came after city officials recommended against new regulations, citing several years of examining the environmental and noise pollution caused by these	No part of discussion yet	Maybe required to meet national air quality standards for ozone	Pending – possible passage in 2025

Jurisdiction	Scope- equipment covered	Other limits	Enforcement	Incentives	Leadtime
		devices. The key reasons for not pursuing full electric equipment mandates included the high costs of electric alternatives, the limited availability of such equipment, and equity concerns.			
Colorado	Bans use of gas-powered equipment with engines 25 HP or less by state agencies prohibits the use of gas-powered push lawnmowers and other lawn equipment under 10 horsepower on other public property within the Denver Metro and the nine-county North Front Range ozone nonattainment area 2025	June to August Does not impact homeowners on their own property			Passed February 2024, effective 2025
California- Calif Air Resources Board regulation Assembly Bill 1346	Bans sale. Newly manufactured small off road engines produced for sale in California must be zero emission				Regulation approved December 2021, effective 2024. Phase 2- generators and large pressure washers in 2028
Fairfax, CA Ordinance # 867	Bans use. Gas powered Leaf blowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, edgers, pole saws, chainsaws (w/blades < 18 inches), movers are prohibited	Hours of operation limited to M-F 8AM to 6PM, S/S/H 9 AM to 4PM	Warning letter then \$100 citation, then increase by \$100 increment up to \$500. Or document that violator traded in gas powered equipment for electric in lieu of paying citation	Vouchers to help professional landscapers (up to \$20.00 per purchaser) Temporary extensions and exemptions available for self-reported financial hardship and a demonstrated lack of commercially available cost comparable equipment	Enacted July 2022 effective for residents, town staff and Town contractors Jan 1, 2023, Commercial landscapers effective Jan 1, 2024.
Dallas, TX	Incentivizes purchase. purchase. Rebate program to help residents purchase electric lawn equipment				2023-2024 budget
Utah- GreenXchange program	Incentivizes purchase. Rebate program for specified locations in Utah (Provo, Spanish Fork, Salem, Nephi, Manti)	Rebate amounts- lawn mower \$300; snowblower \$300; Chainsaw \$300; Grass trimmer \$50; Leaf blower \$50 Apply, get approval, dispose of equip at specific location, buy new send in documentation and get rebate			

Jurisdiction	Scope- equipment covered	Other limits	Enforcement	Incentives	Leadtime
Newton ,CA	Noise ordinance- based on dB(A)	Noise from electric or internal combustion yard equipment is prohibited except between Weekdays 7 AM to 8 PM, Sat/Sun/Holiday 9:30 AM – 7 PM Saturdays			
Texas, Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, Kansas, Florida and maybe more	Gas bans are illegal				

ORDINANCE 2024-

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, adding a new chapter 16.14 to the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code prohibiting the use of landscaping tools powered by internal combustion engines and regulating the use of electric-powered landscaping tools.

WHEREAS, use of small landscaping tools that are powered by internal combustion engines contributes to noise, toxic emissions, particulate matter, vibration, and greenhouse gases that negatively impact human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, electric-powered alternatives for small landscaping tools are widely available in the market; and

WHEREAS, the Bainbridge Island City Council desires to limit the use of certain small landscaping tools that are powered by internal combustion engines in furtherance of the City’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.

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

Section 1. Small Landscaping Tools. A new chapter 16.14 is hereby added to the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code to read as follows:

SMALL LANDSCAPING TOOLS

- 16.14.010 Purpose.
- 16.14.020 Definitions.
- 16.14.030 Use of Small Landscaping Tools.
- 16.14.040 Exception for Emergency Responders.
- 16.14.050 Penalty.

16.14.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to control dust and other airborne pollution, reduce health hazards, and minimize noise pollution resulting from the use of leaf blowers and other small landscaping tools that are powered by internal combustion engines.

16.14.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings set forth below:

- A. “Hedge trimmer” means a powered gardening tool used for trimming and cutting back bushes, shrubs, and hedges.
- B. “Internal combustion engine” means an engine within which fuel (typically gasoline or diesel) is combined with an oxidizer and ignited, thereby producing hot gases that drive a piston or perform other work as they expand.
- C. “Lawn edger” means a powered cutting tool used to form distinct boundaries between a lawn, typically consisting of grass or other botanical ground cover, and another ground surface feature such as paved, concreted or asphalted area, or a granular material such as sand or uncovered soil.
- D. “Leaf blower” means a tool that propels air out of a nozzle to move debris, such as leaves or grass cuttings.
- E. “Non-riding lawn mower” means a tool that uses one or more revolving blades to cut grass or other landscape material to an even height and that is not designed to be ridden by the operator.
- F. “Small Landscaping Tools” means hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, leaf blowers, non-riding lawnmowers, and string trimmers.
- G. “String trimmer” means a tool that uses a rapidly spinning flexible monofilament line or plastic line to cut grass or other landscape material.

16.14.030 Use of Small Landscaping Tools.

- A. Use of the following small landscaping tools is prohibited in the City of Bainbridge Island:
 - 1. Hedge trimmers powered by internal combustion engines;
 - 2. Lawn edgers powered by internal combustion engines;
 - 3. Leaf blowers powered by internal combustion engines;
 - 4. Non-riding mowers powered by internal combustion engines that are rated at 25 horsepower or less; and
 - 5. String trimmers powered by internal combustion engines.
- B. The use of electric-powered small landscaping tools is permitted in residential zones subject to the requirements of this section, provided, that hours of operation are limited to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. Operation is prohibited on Sundays and on federal, state, and City holidays.

- C. The use of electric-powered small landscaping tools is permitted in non-residential zones subject to the requirements of this section, provided, that hours of operation are limited to 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Operation is prohibited on federal, state, and City holidays.
- D. Cuttings, refuse, and debris shall not be blown or deposited onto neighboring properties, into critical areas (such as streams, ravines, and wetlands), into storm facilities (such as gutters, catch basins, rain gardens and dispersion trenches), or into a street.
- E. After small landscaping tool use, all debris and waste materials shall be disposed of in yard waste receptacles (if available from the local solid waste hauler), at a transfer station (if yard waste is accepted for disposal separate from garbage), or retained on site for compost or other uses. Debris and waste materials shall not be disposed of in containers designated for trash or garbage.

16.14.040 Exception for Emergency Responders.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this chapter, small landscaping tools powered by internal combustion engines may be used by police, fire, and public works emergency responders for the purpose of responding to emergency situations, including but not limited to, the clearing of downed trees and brush in areas needing expedient clearing for the safety of the public.

16.14.050 Penalty.

Any person or firm violating any of the provisions of this chapter for the first time shall be issued a warning by the City. A second violation by the same person or firm shall be a Class 2 civil infraction and, upon a finding that the infraction has been committed, the violator shall be required to pay a monetary penalty in the amount of \$125.00. A third or subsequent violation shall be a Class 1 civil infraction and, upon a finding that the infraction has been committed, the violator shall be required to pay a monetary penalty in the amount of \$250.00 for each such violation,

16.14.070 Education and Outreach.

As necessary, the city manager, or their designee, and pursuant to BIMC 16.14, shall provide, or contract for the provision of, education and outreach activities to inform residents, landscaping professionals and other interested individuals about the requirements of this chapter. Education and outreach will be designed to promote natural yard care practices, effectively convey the policies underlying

this chapter, describe the actions necessary to gain compliance with its provisions, and minimize the need for formal enforcement action. The city will emphasize education and outreach rather than enforcement to achieve compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

Section 2. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be preempted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or preemption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force July 1, 2026, which is more than five (5) days from its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this ___ day of _____, 2024.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this ___ day of _____, 2024.

Joe Deets, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Christine Brown, MMC, City Clerk

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

2025 CITY STAFF WORK PLAN ITEMS FOR CCAC PARTICIPATION

Key workplan items for City's Climate Action (and other) staff that align with CCAC goals and are the best opportunities for CCAC engagement are listed below.

Staff Goal: no more than three subcommittee topics in 2025

CAP FOCUS AREA	2025 CITY STAFF WORK PLAN ITEM	POTENTIAL CCAC ASSISTANCE
Other	Measure 2023 GHG emissions and prepare for 2025 CAP update	Respond to staff requests as needed to help gather data, and review draft inventory and public-facing educational materials
Other	Review Climate Action Plan and develop updated version for Council and community consideration	Respond to staff requests as needed to help gather data, and review draft update
Energy	Implement community heat pump installation pilot program (educate community about heat pump options and provide direct information and financial incentives)	Participate in evaluation of proposals/development of phase one of program
Energy/Fuels	Research best practices and support Council consideration of policy for community transition to electric landscaping tools	Assist with research and educational/incentive program development; assist with promoting program and encouraging participation
Community Outreach	Coordinate with community partners to host at least one "expo" (such as the planned electrification expo/conference with Climate Action Bainbridge)	Coordinate with lead for expo (such as Climate Action Bainbridge) to support, staff and promote event(s)
Other	Respond to City Council requests as needed	Respond to City Council requests as needed
Transportation	Several potential projects are in discussion with staff now that may be applicable, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-bike voucher program Bike corral program 	Assist with gathering data for programs, providing input on program development, helping with community outreach, etc.
Other	Review and provide comments on proposed elements, goals, etc. for the Comprehensive Plan and Winslow Subarea Plan updates	Review and provide Committee feedback on draft plans
Community Outreach	Help promote community familiarity with, and use of, new resources regarding climate-friendly tree plantings	Identify community groups/target audiences for this information and help distribute new resources
Energy	Review ETIPP technical assistance reports and identify/implement next steps	Help convene/encourage attendance at multi-partner gathering to discuss next steps

Climate Change Advisory Committee

Annual Report and Workplan for 2024

Report on 2023 Activities (please format to describe your work and includes how this work aligns with Council requests and/or policy priorities.)

- Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) – the CCAC supported staff and participated in multi-partner meetings related to technical assistance about energy resilience and vulnerability assessments for the Island.
- Staffed Climate Smart booths at five (5) community events to support Climate Action Plan Implementation.
- Participated in development of Request for Proposals for solar projects by other public agencies to provide options for offset to the carbon emissions of the Ted Spearman Justice Center.
- Sponsored the Electric Vehicle Expo, held at Woodward Middle School on DATE
- Participation in Groundwater Management Plan development subcommittee with members of the Utility Advisory Committee and Environmental Technical Advisory Committee.
- Recruitment and onboarding of new members.

2024 Workplan Priorities (please format to describe your work and includes how this work aligns with Council requests and/or policy priorities.)

- Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) – continue participation started in 2023 by review of final report and suggestion and support of next steps.
- Community Heat Pump Installation Program – this pilot program addresses priorities related to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions stated by Council in the Climate Action Plan; with an emphasis on equity and income-qualification in the application process it also supports values of equity and inclusion.
- Comprehensive Plan and Winslow Subarea Plan Support – Review and provide Committee feedback on draft plans, as requested by the Council and staff.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers – Assist with gathering data, providing input on program development, and encouraging community participation.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update – Respond to staff requests as needed to gather data; review draft inventory and public-facing educational materials.