

GAS-POWERED LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



GAS-POWERED LANDSCAPE EQUIP.

Background – City Council Discussion May 21, 2019

- Manhattan Beach's existing ban on mechanical blowers (1998).
- City Council considered and denied a request for an exemption to allow the use of electric leaf blowers in Manhattan Village.
- City Council directed staff and the Sustainability Task Force (STF) to evaluate and provide recommendations on prohibiting all gas-powered landscape equipment and replacement with electric landscaping equipment.



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STF Discussion: Mechanical Blowers- allow electric?

- Mechanical blower ban addresses three concerns in populated areas:
 1. noise impacts;
 2. air pollution from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of gas powered devices;
 3. air quality impacts from dust particles and particulates that become airborne from the blowing action.

STF Recommendation:

City should keep the existing mechanical blower ban intact.



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STF Discussion: Landscape Equipment Impacts

- Air pollution (GHG & smog-forming emissions) concerns → can be reduced with electric devices.
- Noise pollution concerns → can be reduced with electric devices.
- Airborne particulates (fine dust, etc.) → present with any blowing or vacuuming activity, regardless of power.

STF Recommendation:

Support Policy Option 1 – City policy for municipal electrification of landscaping equipment to reduce GHG emissions and noise pollution.



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Seeking Council Direction on Policy Options:

1. Shift municipal operations to zero-emission landscaping through transitioning non-emergency City equipment and contractor equipment to electric models. *Next Step: Staff, Contractor, & Fiscal research needed → Contract Amendment.*
2. Launch landscaping equipment education program for Manhattan Beach. *Next Step: Work Plan Item.*
3. Study a ban on gas-powered landscaping equipment City-wide. *Next Step: Council direction needed.*
4. No Action.

