

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Restrictions

By: David Dickerson, Legislative Analyst II
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Issue

Describe (1) how Connecticut's neighboring states and their municipalities regulate gas-powered leaf blowers, including bans, phase outs, or incentives to switch to electric, and (2) recent legislation regulating or incentivizing changes to alternative power sources. This report supplements OLR Report [2024-R-0177](#).

Summary

No state neighboring Connecticut has banned gas-powered leaf blowers, but Rhode Island appropriated \$250,000 to an electric leaf blower rebate program this year.

Additionally, we identified several municipalities in Massachusetts and New York that have ordinances restricting gas-powered leaf blowers. These ordinances generally fall into one or more categories: (1) full bans, whether immediately or on phase-out schedules; (2) time of day bans; and (3) time of year bans. Violations typically result in a warning followed by fines ranging from \$50-\$1,500. Providence, Rhode Island is currently contemplating a phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers which achieved first passage on October 2, 2025, but has not received final passage when this report was published.

Finally, Connecticut and its neighboring states have all introduced legislation this past year related to gas-powered leaf blowers. Although none of them passed, they would have imposed various restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers or created incentive programs to switch to electric equipment.

Rhode Island Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program

This year, the Rhode Island legislature appropriated [\\$250,000](#) for an electric leaf blower rebate program (administered by the [Office of Energy Resources](#)). The rebate is only available to businesses, nonprofits, and public entities whose operations involve the extensive use of leaf blowers. The rebate covers the purchasing of a handheld or backpack electric leaf blower and related batteries, up to \$1,500 or 75% of the cost (whichever is less), with a limit of two additional batteries per leaf blower. An additional rebate of \$250 is available if the entity is in certain municipalities with the highest asthma rates (e.g., Providence, Westerly, and Woonsocket).

Municipal Restrictions on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Table 1 below is a non-exhaustive list of municipalities in Massachusetts and New York that we have identified as having restrictions or bans on using gas-powered leaf blowers. Additionally, Providence, Rhode Island is currently contemplating a phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers which achieved first passage on October 2, 2025, but has not received final passage when this report was published.

This report is a brief overview and is not a comprehensive review of municipal gas-powered leaf blower restrictions. For more information, please visit the respective municipality’s regulations page.

Table 1: Lawn Equipment Restrictions in Neighboring State Municipalities

Municipality	Ordinance Restrictions
Concord (MA General Bylaws, Construction Noise Bylaw , & Non-Criminal Disposition Bylaw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Phases out gas-powered handheld leaf blowers on the following schedule:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Currently, the use of gas-powered handheld leaf blowers is allowed on residential properties of less than 1.5 acres from March 15 to May 31 and September 15 to December 30 and is otherwise bannedEffective March 15, 2028, the use of gas-powered handheld leaf blowers by commercial landscapers is bannedEffective March 15, 2030, the use of gas-powered handheld leaf blowers by residents on their own property is bannedNoise from emergency work is exempt (i.e. work performed to protect, provide, or restore public safety or work by private or public utilities when restoring utility service)Penalties: first offense, warning; second offense, \$100 fine; any subsequent offense, \$200 fine

Table 1 (continued)

Municipality	Ordinance Restrictions
<p>Lexington (MA, General Bylaws, Ch. 80)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phases out gas-powered leaf blowers on the following schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently, commercial landscapers cannot use gas-powered leaf blowers ○ Effective March 15, 2026, residents on their own property cannot use gas-powered leaf blowers • Currently, residents cannot use gas-powered leaf blowers outside of the periods of March 15 to May 31, and September 15 to December 30 • The use of wheeled leaf blowers powered by four-stroke engines on properties larger than one acre are exempt from the ban but must abide by the time of year restriction • Further exemptions may apply for certain activities, such certain first responder activities or training exercises related to emergency activities • Penalties: first offense, up to a \$100 fine; second offense, up to \$200; and subsequent offenses up to \$300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each day a violation continues is considered a separate offense
<p>Nantucket (MA, General Bylaws, Ch. 101)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans gas-powered leaf blowers for any commercial landscaper, commercial landscaping company, or other entity engaged in a business of providing home and yard repair, cleanup, and maintenance services for money • Penalties: first offense, a warning or a \$300 fine; subsequent offenses, \$300 fine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each violation or one that is repeated more than 30 minutes after a cease order, is considered a separate offense. Each day or portion of a day is considered a separate offense

Table 1 (continued)

Municipality	Ordinance Restrictions
<p>Newton (MA, Newton Ordinances Ch. 17 & 20)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans leaf blowers from Memorial Day to Labor Day, except one 65 decibels A-weighted (dB(A)) (generally, the volume of spoken conversation) electric or battery powered leaf blower per lot may be used subject to the below time restrictions • Leaf blowers may be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, except the city allows its parks, recreation, and culture department to use leaf blowers before 7:00 am for certain maintenance ○ 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays • Leaf blowers may not be used on Sundays and legal holidays, except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ by residents on their property between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm ○ on contiguous lots under single ownership that total a minimum of thirty acres that are used for institutional or recreational purposes between 9:30 am and 12:00 pm • Permitted leaf blowers must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet certain manufacturing requirements ○ Bear an affixed manufacturer's label that is not altered or concealed that indicates (1) the model number of the leaf blower, and (2) documentation that the leaf blower has a noise rating of 65 dB(A) or less • Commercial leaf blower operators must have a permit to use leaf blowers within the city and follow certain requirements • During emergencies, the mayor or the mayor's designee may temporarily allow the use of leaf blowers for the purpose of storm clean up or other special circumstances • Penalties: first offense, warning; second and subsequent offenses, up to a \$300 fine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each day the violation continues is considered a separate offense; violations are considered misdemeanors. Violations may also be charged civilly, along the same fine structure
<p>Marblehead (MA, General Bylaws, Ch. 75)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans using gas-powered leaf blowers from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with limited exceptions for emergencies • Penalties: first violation, a written warning; second violation, \$100 fine; and subsequent violations, a \$200 fine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The property owner upon which the offense occurs is responsible for compliance, and all warnings and fines are issued to that property owner. The Police and Health Departments, upon witnessing violations, must require the offending person to stop

Table 1 (continued)

Municipality	Ordinance Restrictions
Bronxville (NY, General Legislation, Ch. 210)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans using internal combustion leaf blowers (i.e. gas powered, including electric leaf blowers that are plugged into gas-powered generators) from December 15 to March 15 and May 15 to October 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Internal combustion leaf blowers may only be used outside of those periods from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm • The mayor may suspend these provisions for certain extreme weather events for debris cleanup • Penalties: first offense, fine of up to \$250; second offense, a \$500 fine; subsequent offenses, a \$1,000 fine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The penalties apply equally to the party operating the gas-powered leaf blower, the party employing the operator, and the party whose property the violation occurs on
Rye (NY, General Legislation, Ch. 122)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using gas-powered leaf blowers is allowed from (1) October 1 to December 15 and (2) March 1 to April 30. During this period, generally only one gas-powered leaf blower may be used per lot • Subject to the time restriction above, gas-powered leaf blowers may only be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays ◦ 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekends • Gas-powered leaf blowers may not be used on holidays, Rosh Hashanah, or Yom Kippur, though the town's head of public works may allow them after significant storms or weather events, for up to 14 days • These restrictions do not apply to certain exempt entities (e.g., schools, municipalities, golf courses, and retirement communities) • Electric leaf blowers can be used for landscaping activities all year • Penalties: first offense, a civil fine of up to \$250; second offense, a fine of up to \$350; third offense, a fine of up to \$1,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The following all violate the provision, those operating the gas-powered leaf blower; employing the person operating the device; and who owns, rents, or controls the property on which the offense occurs
Irvington (NY, General Legislation, Ch. 148)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans using, operating, or permitting of any gas-powered leaf blowers, backpack, or other portable sprayer • Penalties: first offense, \$250 fine; any subsequent offense, \$500 fine

Table 1 (continued)

Municipality	Ordinance Restrictions
<p>Larchmont (NY, General Legislation, Ch. 180)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans using any internal combustion engine or motor leaf blower (including electric leaf blowers plugged into an internal combustion engine) • Leaf blowers that are powered by electric motors can be used from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 15 to April 30 and October 15 to December 15 ○ 8:00 am to 5:30 pm on Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays; 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday; and for property owners, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sundays and holidays • The mayor may allow leaf blowers during certain extreme weather events to clean up debris • Penalties: first offense, up to a \$250 fine; second offense, up to \$500; any subsequent offense, up to \$1,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Convictions are considered violations, not misdemeanors or felonies. When a violation occurs, the party operating the leaf blower, the party employing that person, and the owner of the property are all violating the provision
<p>Mamaroneck (NY, General Legislation Ch. 141)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally bans using gas-powered leaf blowers in unincorporated areas of the town • Other leaf blowers can be used, except from June 1 to September 13, in the unincorporated area between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8:00 am and 9:00 pm on weekdays ○ between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm on weekends and certain holidays • The town supervisor may suspend these rules for severe weather or non-weather-related events • Penalties for a calendar year: first offense, a fine of between \$125 and \$250; second offense, a fine of between \$250 and \$500; and for any subsequent offense, \$500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When a violation occurs, the party operating the leaf blower, the party employing that person, and the owner of the property are all violating the provision

Providence, Rhode Island

Providence, Rhode Island's [Ordinance 47724](#), which has not received final passage, but has passed the city council for the first time would phase out gas-powered leaf blowers. The ordinance would establish a phase out schedule as follows:

1. From January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2032, bans anyone from using gas-powered leaf blowers outside of October 1 to December 15, and
2. From January 1, 2033, onwards, bans anyone from using gas-powered leaf blowers.

Violating the ordinance would result in a warning for a first offense and a \$100 fine for subsequent offenses. Penalties would be directed towards the property owner where the leaf blower was used or contracted to be used.

The ordinance also declares the city's commitment towards helping small business owners transition to electric based equipment by working with the state's energy resources and commerce corporation.

Proposed State Legislation

Connecticut

Connecticut's [HB 6263](#) would have required, beginning September 1, 2027, the departments of Administrative Services, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Transportation, within available appropriations, to begin replacing certain gas-powered landscaping equipment with equivalent electric hand-held or push equipment, with certain exceptions for financial or practical reasons.

Beginning September 1, 2029, the bill would have required these agencies, within available appropriations, to prepare bidding documents for contractors that are seeking to do maintenance or landscaping work on state property to use certain electric equipment if they were functionally equivalent to their gas counterparts.

The Environment Committee passed the bill out of committee, but it was never called in the House.

Massachusetts

Earlier this year, the Massachusetts's legislature introduced three bills ([S.555](#), [H.909](#), and [H.3055](#)) that would have created incentives for certain entities to swap from gas-powered equipment to electric equipment. None of the bills passed the committee stage.

[S.555](#) and [H.909](#) would have created a grant and loan program to provide incentive funds for small businesses and municipalities to transition landscape maintenance equipment to low-noise and low-emission equipment. To be eligible, the entity would have needed to surrender gas-powered equipment in favor of low-noise and low-emission equipment.

[H.3055](#) would have created a state tax-credit program for small businesses to convert gas powered landscape equipment to low-noise and low-emission equipment.

New York

During its last session, New York introduced two bills that would have (1) restricted gas-powered leaf blowers and that would have (2) established a rebate program.

Restrictions. [A2114](#) would have required the state environmental conservation commissioner to establish rules and regulations that ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers by January 1, 2027. [S424](#) would have banned the use of gas-powered leaf and lawn blowers between May 1 and September 13 and authorized fines of \$100 for violations. Neither bill progressed beyond the committee stage.

Rebate Program. New York's legislature also introduced two bills ([S1574](#) and [A2657](#)) that would have established an electric landscaping equipment rebate program. The bills would have required the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to, among other things, create a program to provide rebates for certain battery powered electric lawn care devices at the point of sale to institutional or commercial applicants (e.g., commercial landscaping businesses). The rebate would have taken effect immediately and automatically expired and be repealed on January 1, 2036. The Assembly bill was substituted by the Senate bill, which passed the Senate, but not the Assembly.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island's [HB 5343](#), among other provisions, would have (1) generally banned, as of July 1, 2025, state purchases of certain gas-powered leaf blowers (e.g., combustion engine powered handhelds), and (2) required the department of administration to adopt rules and regulations for the ban.

The bill would have also, by January 1, 2028, banned the state or any of its contractors or subcontractors from using gas-powered leaf blowers. But it would not prevent municipalities from enacting more stringent ordinances. The House Environment and Natural Resources recommended holding the measure for further study.

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