



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 319

LCO No. 2288



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BATTERY-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS AND SIMILAR EQUIPMENT BY THE STATE AND MUNICIPALITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) On and after September
2 1, 2027, the Departments of Administrative Services, Energy and
3 Environmental Protection and Transportation shall, within available
4 appropriations, purchase, lease or acquire electric hand-held or push
5 lawn mowers, leaf blowers and lawn trimmers for state agencies for
6 landscaping services on state-owned property whenever such existing
7 gas-powered equipment reaches the end of its useful life.

8 (b) On and after September 1, 2029, the Departments of
9 Administrative Services, Energy and Environmental Protection and
10 Transportation shall, within available appropriations, prepare bidding
11 documents for contractors who seek to perform maintenance or
12 landscaping work on state properties in order to require such bidders to
13 use electric hand-held or push lawn mowers, leaf blowers and lawn
14 trimmers in the performance of such work.

15 (c) On and after September 1, 2030, the use of gas-powered hand-held
16 or backpack leaf blowers shall be prohibited on state owned or leased
17 properties.

18 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, said
19 commissioners may make an exception to such purchase, lease and
20 acquisition requirements if fiscal resources or agency operations depend
21 on the utilization of specific equipment, including, but not limited to,
22 the following operations: (1) Abating or preventing damage during a
23 declared emergency or for equipment used by first responders to
24 provide emergency services, (2) conducting fire hazard reduction and
25 post-fire recovery activities, (3) managing riparian, forest or grassland
26 areas, or (4) maintaining public safety.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) The Department of Energy
28 and Environment Protection shall reactivate the 2010 Lawn Equipment
29 Exchange Fund for municipalities and regional schools.

30 (b) For the calendar years 2026 to 2030, inclusive, the Department of
31 Energy and Environment Protection shall hold product demonstrations
32 for state and municipal agencies to assist with the transition to battery-
33 operated technology, including ensuring the safe and proper upgrades
34 to any needed charging and storage infrastructure, the sharing of best
35 practices among agencies and assisting municipalities with buy-back
36 implementation programs for residents and commercial lawn care
37 companies.

38 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Not later than January 31,
39 2027, the Connecticut Green Bank shall create a loan program or loan
40 products that are tailored to assist Connecticut registered commercial
41 landscapers with the purchase or lease of battery-operated lawn
42 equipment. The Connecticut Green Bank shall use existing statutory
43 authority and access to capital, as well as lending partnerships to create
44 such loans or loan products.

45 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 16-245l of the general statutes is

46 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
47 *1, 2026*):

48 (a) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall establish and each
49 electric distribution company shall collect a systems benefits charge to
50 be imposed against all end use customers of each electric distribution
51 company beginning January 1, 2000. The authority shall hold a hearing
52 that shall be conducted as a contested case in accordance with chapter
53 54 to establish the amount of the systems benefits charge. The authority
54 may revise the systems benefits charge or any element of said charge as
55 the need arises. Commencing on July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter,
56 the sum of two million one hundred thousand dollars shall be
57 transferred from the systems benefits charge to Operation Fuel,
58 Incorporated, for energy assistance, provided two hundred thousand
59 dollars of such sum may be used for administrative purposes. The
60 systems benefits charge shall also be used to fund (1) the expenses of the
61 public education outreach program developed under section 16-244d
62 other than expenses for authority staff, (2) the cost of hardship
63 protection measures under sections 16-262c and 16-262d and other
64 hardship protections, including, but not limited to, electric service bill
65 payment programs, funding and technical support for energy
66 assistance, fuel bank and weatherization programs and weatherization
67 services, (3) the payment program to offset tax losses described in
68 section 12-94d, (4) any sums paid to a resource recovery authority
69 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-243e, (5) low income
70 conservation programs approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory
71 Authority, (6) displaced worker protection costs, (7) unfunded storage
72 and disposal costs for spent nuclear fuel generated before January 1,
73 2000, approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies, (8)
74 postretirement safe shutdown and site protection costs that are incurred
75 in preparation for decommissioning, (9) decommissioning fund
76 contributions, (10) costs associated with the Connecticut electric
77 efficiency partner program established pursuant to section 16-243v, (11)
78 reinvestments and investments in energy efficiency programs and

79 technologies pursuant to section 16a-38l, costs associated with the
80 electricity conservation incentive program established pursuant to
81 section 119 of public act 07-242, (12) legal, appraisal and purchase costs
82 of a conservation or land use restriction and other related costs as the
83 authority in its discretion deems appropriate, incurred by a
84 municipality on or before January 1, 2000, to ensure the environmental,
85 recreational and scenic preservation of any reservoir located within this
86 state created by a pump storage hydroelectric generating facility, [and]
87 (13) the residential furnace and boiler replacement program pursuant to
88 subsection (k) of section 16-243v, and (14) electrification of lawn and
89 garden equipment for the calendar years 2026 to 2030, inclusive. As used
90 in this subsection, "displaced worker protection costs" means the
91 reasonable costs incurred, prior to January 1, 2008, (A) by an electric
92 supplier, exempt wholesale generator, electric company, an operator of
93 a nuclear power generating facility in this state or a generation entity or
94 affiliate arising from the dislocation of any employee other than an
95 officer, provided such dislocation is a result of (i) restructuring of the
96 electric generation market and such dislocation occurs on or after July
97 1, 1998, or (ii) the closing of a Title IV source or an exempt wholesale
98 generator, as defined in 15 USC 79z-5a, on or after January 1, 2004, as a
99 result of such source's failure to meet requirements imposed as a result
100 of sections 22a-197 and 22a-198 and this section or those Regulations of
101 Connecticut State Agencies adopted by the Department of Energy and
102 Environmental Protection, as amended from time to time, in accordance
103 with Executive Order Number 19, issued on May 17, 2000, and provided
104 further such costs result from either the execution of agreements
105 reached through collective bargaining for union employees or from the
106 company's or entity's or affiliate's programs and policies for nonunion
107 employees, and (B) by an electric distribution company or an exempt
108 wholesale generator arising from the retraining of a former employee of
109 an unaffiliated exempt wholesale generator, which employee was
110 involuntarily dislocated on or after January 1, 2004, from such wholesale
111 generator, except for cause. "Displaced worker protection costs"
112 includes costs incurred or projected for severance, retraining, early

113 retirement, outplacement, coverage for surviving spouse insurance
114 benefits and related expenses.

115 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) On and after January 1, 2029,
116 no person shall sell or offer for sale any gas-powered handheld or
117 backpack leaf blower.

118 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) On and after September 1,
119 2030, no person shall use any gas-powered handheld, or backpack leaf
120 blower.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-2451(a)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To transition to battery powered leaf blowers and related equipment throughout the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]