

Electrification of Landscaping Equipment

SD-SEQUEL



San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping

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<http://sd-sequel.org>

Mission Statement

The goal of San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping is to protect worker health and the environment by advocating for the enactment of an equitable ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in all jurisdictions of San Diego County.

SEQUEL is committed to securing a trade-in or buyback program before the ban takes effect to ensure an equitable transition from gas to electric leaf blowers.

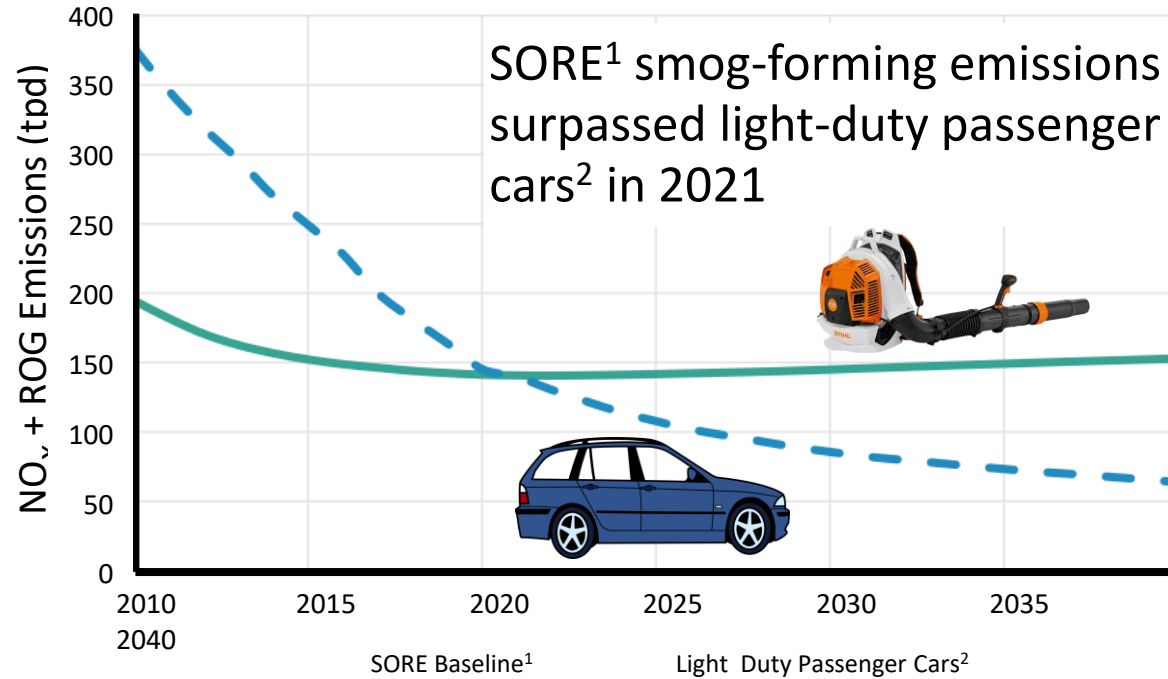


Adverse Effects of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Air Pollution

- According to the California Air Resources Board, running a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour produces the same level of smog-forming pollution as driving a midsize sedan 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver.
- SORE (Small Off-Road Engines) smog forming emissions surpassed light-duty passenger cars in 2021.

Small Off-Road Engine (SORE) Emissions Versus Cars (California - Statewide)



 **CARB** ¹SORE 2020 ²EMFAC2021

Small Off-Road Engines:



Leaf Blower*

Chainsaw*

String Trimmer*



Portable Generator

Lawn Mower

Power Washer

* 2-stroke engines have higher emissions

Smog produced by Oxides of Nitrogen and Reactive Organic Gases

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Community Health Effects

- Emissions and noise levels from gas leaf blowers also present a threat to public health.
- Children, older persons, and people with hearing disorders or neurological conditions like autism are especially vulnerable.

Health Effects for Workers

- Equipment operators who contend with fumes, toxic chemicals, and unsafe noise levels at close range are subject to increased rates of asthma, hearing loss, and neurological damage.
- The strong vibrations from the leaf blowers can also cause permanent numbness and tingling in the hands and arms.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan Goals

- Climate change is proceeding more rapidly than expected. Both the City and County of San Diego are failing to meet their Climate Action Plan goals.
- Implementing a transition to battery-powered leaf blowers is a specific step that could go a long way toward meeting these goals.

California AB 1346

- California AB 1346 phases out sales of new gas-powered small off-road engines by 2024.
- San Diego should lead by moving sooner toward zero emissions from landscaping equipment.
- CA statewide funding of \$30M approved.

Funding for Zero Emission Landscaping Equipment

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

- Statewide \$30M voucher program to subsidize the cost of electric landscape maintenance equipment for sole proprietors and small landscaping businesses.
- Voucher program begins on November 7, 2022 and pays for about 70% of the cost of new electric equipment
- Landscaper purchases equipment from their local dealer
- No trade-in requirements
- More information: <https://californiacore.org>

San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SD-APCD)

- San Diego County \$3M Carl Moyer voucher program to subsidize the cost of electric landscape maintenance equipment
- Open to all businesses and government entities in San Diego County
- Trade-in of old gas-powered equipment is required
- Program start date is TBD
- More information: <https://www.sdapcd.org/>

Take the Next Step

Other Cities have taken the Next Step

Numerous other municipalities around the state, including in SD County, have already banned gas-powered leaf blowers and other landscaping equipment.

- Coronado
- Solana Beach
- Encinitas
- Del Mar

Equity

- SD-SEQUEL recognizes the potential economic hardships in making this transition for small independent landscape operators.
- SD-SEQUEL supports trade-ins and buybacks for transitioning to electric landscaping equipment.

Our Ask of Elected Officials

San Diego County, City of San Diego and Other Municipalities

- 1) Help publicize the CARB and SD-APCD voucher programs to purchase electric landscaping equipment
- 2) Implement a program to transition City/County landscaping crews and contractors over to battery powered lawn maintenance equipment.
- 3) Help secure additional funding for an equitable trade-in/buyback program to assist sole proprietors and small landscaper businesses transition to electric equipment.
- 4) Enact a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, once funds are available for #3 above.

City of San Diego

Leaf Blowers are a priority for the Environmental Committee in 2022.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2022 PRIORITIES

PREPARED BY CHAIR LACAVA

Energy and Decarbonization	Environmental Justice	Natural Resources	Water and Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Electrification• Community Power• Municipal Energy Strategy• EV Charging• Leaf Blowers• Waste-to-Energy• Public Power• Gas & Electric Franchises• Telework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous Inclusion• Equity• Oil Drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees• Wildlife Preservation• Brush Management• Wetland Expansion• Wildlife Management• Beach Fires• Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pure Water• Stormwater Infrastructure• Onsite Water Reuse• People's Ordinance• Recycling Ordinance

Questions