

ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT – LEAF BLOWER REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
8 March 2022
Virtual Meeting

Attendees

1. Co-Chairs Mike Braiman & Ghida Neukirch
2. Beth Drucker
3. Hall Healy
4. Chuck Myers
5. Brian Rener
6. Fred Wacker
7. Nick Wheeler
8. Alison Winslow

Absent

9. Tessa Murray

Scope of Work

Following is the scope of work for the sub-committee that was identified by the Regional Working Group.

- a. Technical/specification review of commercial technologies (gas, battery, electric) equipment and how such technology meets or does not meet service demands
- b. Cost(s) of various commercial equipment and necessary components (charging stations, etc).
- c. Explore options to phase-in regulations to address any technology or cost burdens
- d. Exemptions due to technology or other reasons may include:
 - Resident use of equipment
 - Public Property
 - Golf courses
 - Other land in excess of X acreage
- e. Consider financial incentives and possible buy-back options

Notes

“Current” commercial technologies was stricken from the scope of work so it was clear that commercial technologies should be explored.

It was suggested that an education component be added as an important action item to undertake - Public education and contractor information.

A question was raised if we are limiting our review to leaf blowers only or other technology. It was stated that all options should be pursued and we should consider environmental implications of alternatives.

Some companies are retrofitting gas with alternate fuels that are still noisy and have environmental considerations.

Some states subsidize the use of equipment. In colder environment such as Illinois versus California, the horse power output is inferior.

Some communities allow the use of leaves in the street and some communities do not. How the leaves are collected and disposed should be taken into consideration.

It was stated that American Green Zone Alliance (agza.net), led by Dan Mabe, Founder and Executive Director has a wealth of knowledge on technology/equipment options. Beth will obtain information and share with this subcommittee.

Part of the scope should be to evaluate cost, noise and price of equipment.

National Quiet Communities is a non profit dedicated to helping communities reduce health and environmental hard from noise and pollution.

Glencoe's "Leave the leaves" was a successful public education campaign to encourage the public to leave leaves on their properties.

Next Steps

- Beth will connect Mike to the American Green Zone Alliance to obtain technology options and research they have conducted.
- Mike/Nick will invite Dan Mabe, Founder and Executive Director to the group's next committee meeting to provide a fifteen-minute presentation.
 - The presentation will be recorded for future reference and to share with the larger Working Group.
- Fred will research technology options for the group's consideration as well.
- Fred will follow-up with Scott Grams, ILCA, about research their professional association has undertaken on this topic.
- Nick will research if communities across the country have undertaken research on alternate equipment and the alrger topic to explore leaf blower regulation options and considerations.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ghida S. Neukirch
City Manager, Highland Park