

NEWS RELEASE

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Electric Lawn Equipment Demo Day at state Capitol shows benefits of clean, quiet electric lawn & garden equipment

Retailers, manufacturers, and lawn care businesses support legislation to establish a New York incentive purchase program for electric lawn equipment

[ALBANY, NY] – With momentum growing in the state legislature to pass a statewide rebate program for purchasing electric lawn equipment, representatives from STIHL, EGO, Milwaukee Tools, Ryobi, The Home Depot, and Ace Hardware joined organizers from NYPIRG, Environment America, and other advocacy groups for an informative day of testing out cleaner, quieter electric lawn equipment. The “Electric Lawn Equipment Demo Day” offered state legislators and their staff, as well local residents, the opportunity to learn about the benefits of going electric.

The event took place as state legislators in Albany are considering a proposal to create a statewide rebate program for the purchase of electric lawn care equipment by landscaping companies and local government maintenance crews in New York. The legislation ([S.1574](#) in the state Senate and as bill [A.2657](#) in the state Assembly) has been introduced by State Senator Krueger and State Assemblymember Otis.

"Addressing the climate crisis requires action on all fronts," stated the legislation's lead sponsor, **State Senator Liz Krueger**. "Gas-powered landscaping equipment emits a stunning amount of greenhouse gases and co-pollutants, not to mention the noise that blights communities across the state. This bill will make it easier for New York's landscaping companies to transition to cleaner, quieter equipment. It's a win for small businesses, workers, communities, and our shared environment."

Assemblyman Steve Otis, the chief sponsor of the bill in the Assembly said, "Enacting a tax rebate program for the purchase of electric-powered landscaping equipment is one of the easiest ways to encourage the move to cleaner gardening tools. Of special importance is providing assistance to commercial landscapers, who are often small business owners facing many financial challenges beyond the added cost of new equipment. Quieter, cleaner equipment is already on the market with new improved products available regularly as the technologies improve. With important support of over 100 organizations, the rebate program will accelerate the move to a cleaner environment."

Businesses support electric lawn equipment, page 2

“As a manufacturer of high quality, professional battery outdoor power equipment, STIHL supports both Senate Bill S.1574 and Assembly Bill A.2657, which offer funding to help landscapers offset the cost of transitioning their equipment fleets to zero emission outdoor power equipment,” noted **Jason Mabb, Director of Branch Operations for Northeast STIHL**. “Similar programs supporting professional battery adoption have seen great success in other states, and are well regarded by the landscaping community, as the programs protect both their businesses and the environment, and support their customers’ demands.”

When it comes to creating harmful air and global warming pollution, gas-powered lawn equipment packs a big punch for its small size. [The Environment America Research & Policy Center has created an interactive map that estimates gas-powered lawn equipment in New York produced almost 1.4 million tons of climate pollution in 2020 -- equal to the global warming pollution released by more than 300,000 cars annually.](#)

“With New Yorkers spending more and more time out in the yards and gardens this time of year, electric equipment offers a cleaner and quieter way to get our lawn work done,” stated **Environment America's Kate Canada**. “Unfortunately, gas-powered lawn equipment packs a big punch for its small size when it comes to climate and air pollution. In fact, New York ranks 3rd in the country for fine particulate emissions from lawn equipment, and 4th in the nation for global warming emissions.”

“For too long, New Yorkers have endured the unnecessary loud noise and pollution of landscaping equipment. Our event here today shows that there are cleaner and quieter alternatives. All New York needs is legislative action this session,” said **Blair Horner, Senior Policy Advisor at NYPIRG**.

“The Home Depot supports this measure because it will encourage New York customers to choose electric landscaping equipment across all seasons that is good for the environment while not compromising on efficiency and power,” wrote **Matthew Campion, State and Local Government Relations for The Home Depot**. “We commend the sponsors for considering such forward-thinking legislation, and are eager to contribute to its successful implementation via collaboration, partnership, insight, and information sharing.”

The Home Depot represents nearly 27,000 associates at 101 stores and multiple distribution centers across New York state.

S.1574 passed the state Senate by a vote of 52-9 on March 17, showing its broad bipartisan support. A.2657 passed out of the Assembly Committee on Energy last Tuesday, May 6, and has been sent to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

“As an industry leader in professional battery technology, EGO Commercial is eager to support the successful implementation of this program by providing insights and recommendations

Businesses support electric lawn equipment, page 3

based on our experience,” wrote **Rob Collins, East Division Director of Dealer Sales at EGO Commercial**. “We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with legislators and program sponsors to develop a rebate initiative that truly benefits the landscaping industry while advancing environmental sustainability.”

Bill Swartz, a store owner of Robinson’s Ace Hardware, said “We’re proud to be locally owned Ace stores serving New Yorkers and are glad to be included in this conversation. We care about what happens in New York and are ready to serve small businesses, and local crews. We carry an extensive line of battery-powered equipment from trusted brands that can help them modernize their fleets. Big thanks to EGO, STIHL, Milwaukee, and DEWALT for supporting today. We’re ready to support our customers as changes take effect.”

The legislation has also received statewide support from the non-profit community. [Over 100 environmental, public health, and community organizations from across New York distributed a letter to members of the state senate and assembly last week, calling for the swift passage of a proposal pending in the legislature to help transition to clean and quiet electric lawn equipment and away from dirty gas-powered lawn equipment.](#)

Letters in support of the legislation from [Broccolo](#), [Chargebot](#), [EGO](#), [The Home Depot](#), [Live Sust](#), [Serenity](#), and [Stihl](#).

AN OPEN LETTER URGING SUPPORT FOR S.1574/A.2657

February 25, 2025

Dear Members of the New York Legislature,

We write to urge you to co-sponsor legislation introduced by State Senator Liz Krueger (S.1574)¹ and State Assemblyman Steven Otis (A.2657)² that will establish rebates for the purchase of electric lawn equipment in New York.

This legislation will play a critical role in reducing global warming pollution, improving air quality, and reducing noise pollution by promoting the adoption of quieter, zero-emission lawn care equipment.

This is incredibly important since research shows that gas-powered lawn equipment produces an outsized amount of air, climate and noise pollution—both in New York state and nationwide.

According to the Respiratory Health Association, gas-powered lawn equipment contributes to ground-level ozone and fine particulate pollution (PM 2.5).³ Even short-term exposure to these pollutants can cause or contribute to asthma, heart attacks, cardiovascular disease, and premature death.⁴

It's estimated that in 2020 alone, gas-powered lawn equipment in New York produced almost 1.4 million tons of climate pollution, the equivalent to the emissions from more than 300,000 cars annually.⁵

Moreover, in a recent study from the Environment America Research & Policy Center, New York State ranked *third* in the country for fine particulate emissions from lawn equipment, and *fourth* in the nation for carbon dioxide emissions.⁶

Gas-powered lawn equipment also emits high levels of carcinogens, such as benzene and butadiene, along with other toxic compounds, including formaldehyde (a known respiratory and skin irritant) and nitrous oxides (which can cause lung damage and disease and is one of the key precursor pollutants that combines chemically to form ground-level ozone).⁷

Incredibly, levels of air pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment are so high that **operating a gas-powered leaf blower for just one hour produces as much smog-forming pollution as driving a car 1,100 miles – the distance from Albany to Jacksonville, Florida.**⁸

Gas-powered leaf blowers also are significant culprits of noise pollution. The vast majority of gas-powered leaf blowers exceed 70 decibels measured at 50 feet, which is considered dangerous to hearing. Additionally, this noise impacts the immune system, causes adverse cardiovascular effects, and impairs the learning, hearing, sleep, and language development of children.⁹ Acoustic research also shows that gas-powered leaf blower's distinctive low-frequency noise penetrates further than other machine-generated sound waves, including through solid walls.¹⁰

The studies are clear: the impacts of both the air and noise pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment put the health of our most vulnerable community members—children, older adults, and those with underlying respiratory and other health conditions—at risk.

Given this, we call on the New York state legislature to move swiftly to pass Senator Krueger's S.1574 and Assemblyman Otis's A.2657 to establish rebates for electric lawn equipment. This will help transition New Yorkers away from the use of the dirtiest gas-powered lawn equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and other handheld tools.

Thank you for your consideration and support, and please do not hesitate to contact us with questions about this important legislation.

Sincerely,

- ❖ Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Environmental Health
- ❖ All Our Energy
- ❖ Alliance for a Green Economy
- ❖ Audubon Society of the Capital Region
- ❖ Bash the Trash Environmental Arts LLC
- ❖ Bedford 2030
- ❖ Big Reuse
- ❖ Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon
- ❖ Buy Local, Grow Local
- ❖ Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC)
- ❖ Caring for Creation Reformed Church of new Paltz
- ❖ Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
- ❖ Church Women United in New York State
- ❖ Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena-Coeymans
- ❖ Clean Air Coalition of Western New York
- ❖ Clean+Healthy
- ❖ Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- ❖ Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
- ❖ Coastal preservation network
- ❖ Color Henrietta Green
- ❖ ColorBrightonGreen
- ❖ Concerned Health Professionals of New York
- ❖ Deignan Institute at Iona University
- ❖ Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
- ❖ Dropseed Native Landscapes
- ❖ Earth Eden Sanctuary
- ❖ Earthkeeper Health Resources
- ❖ East River Park Action
- ❖ Environment America
- ❖ Environment New York
- ❖ Extinction Rebellion Mid-Hudson
- ❖ Fairspring LLC
- ❖ Finca Seremos
- ❖ FlyingTrillium Gardens and Preserve, Inc.
- ❖ Fossil Free Tompkins
- ❖ Four Harbors Audubon Society
- ❖ Friends of the RiverWalk Tarrytown
- ❖ Gas Free Seneca
- ❖ Genesee Valley Audubon Society
- ❖ Grassroots Environmental Education
- ❖ Great SouthBay Audubon Society
- ❖ Green Map System
- ❖ Green Ossining
- ❖ Green Party of New York
- ❖ Green Sanctuary Team at Albany UU
- ❖ HabitatMap
- ❖ Healthy Yards
- ❖ Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
- ❖ Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc. 501(c)(3)
- ❖ Huntington CALM
- ❖ Irvington Green Policy Task Force, a committee of the Village of Irvington, NY
- ❖ Lady Clippers, Inc.
- ❖ Lakeview Organic Grain
- ❖ Mamaki
- ❖ NRDC

- ❖ Neighborhood Sun
- ❖ New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
- ❖ New Paltz Climate Smart
- ❖ New York Climate Action Group
- ❖ New York Interfaith Power & Light
- ❖ New York Progressive Action Network
- ❖ New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP) - District II
- ❖ New Yorkers for Clean Power
- ❖ North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
- ❖ North Fork Audubon Society
- ❖ North Shore Audubon Society
- ❖ Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council
- ❖ Northern Catskills Audubon Society
- ❖ Northern New York Audubon
- ❖ NY Clinicians for Climate Action
- ❖ NYC Bird Alliance
- ❖ NYCD16/15 Indivisible
- ❖ NYPAN environmental committee
- ❖ New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
- ❖ O.D. Greene Lumber CO INC
- ❖ People for a Healthy Environment
- ❖ Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York
- ❖ Possible Rochester | Possible Planet, a 501c3
- ❖ Pound Ridge CALM
- ❖ Pound Ridge Energy Action Committee
- ❖ Protecting Our Waters
- ❖ Quiet Clean Alliance
- ❖ Reach Out America
- ❖ ReWild Long Island
- ❖ Rockland Audubon Society
- ❖ Roctricity LLC
- ❖ Sane Energy Project
- ❖ SASD
- ❖ SectorOne Realty LLC
- ❖ Seneca Lake Guardian
- ❖ Serenity Lawncare Inc.
- ❖ Sierra Club
- ❖ Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
- ❖ Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- ❖ Solarize Albany
- ❖ South Bronx Unite
- ❖ South Shore Audubon Society
- ❖ Southampton Town Sustainability Advisory Committee
- ❖ Southern ADK Audubon Society
- ❖ SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force
- ❖ Sustainable Finger Lakes
- ❖ Sustainable Saratoga
- ❖ The Climate Reality Project NY Chapters Coalition
- ❖ Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center
- ❖ Third Act NYC
- ❖ Third Act Upstate New York
- ❖ Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board
- ❖ Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
- ❖ Town of Huntington Gateway Garden
- ❖ Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative
- ❖ Town of Pound Ridge Conservation Board
- ❖ United for Action
- ❖ United For Clean Energy
- ❖ Upper Nyack Green Committee
- ❖ UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary
- ❖ WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
- ❖ West Branch Conservation Association
- ❖ Yonkers Committee for Smart Development
- ❖ Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee

Endnotes:

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- ¹ New York Senate bill 1574, <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S1574>.
 - ² New York State Assembly bill 2657, <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A2657>.
 - ³ Respiratory Health Association, “Leaf Blowers Leave Lungs Vulnerable,” <https://resphealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blowers-Leave-Lungs-Vulnerable.pdf>.
 - ⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Association, “Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Particulate Matter,” <https://www.epa.gov/isa/integrated-science-assessment-isa-particulate-matter>.
 - ⁵ Environment America, “Lawn care goes electric,” <https://environmentamerica.org/center/resources/lawn-care-goes-electric/>.
 - ⁶ Environment America, Frontier Group, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, “Lawn Care Goes Electric: Why it’s time to switch to a new generation of clean, quiet electric lawn equipment,” https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Lawn_Care_Goes_Electric_Oct23.pdf.
 - ⁷ U.S. EPA, “Characterization of Emissions from Handheld Two-stroke Engines,” <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100GDP7.PDF?Dockey=P100GDP7.PDF>.
 - ⁸ Colorado Public Interest Research Group, “Small Machines, Big Pollution: How shifting to electric lawn and garden equipment can significantly reduce harmful ozone pollution on Colorado’s Front Range,” <https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CoPIRG-Foundation-report-Small-Machines-Big-Pollution-Dec-1-2022.pdf>.
 - ⁹ Erickson, L. C., & Newman, R. S. (2017). “Influences of Background Noise on Infants and Children.” *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 26(5), 451-457. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721417709087>.
 - ¹⁰ Walker E, Banks, JL (2017) Characteristics of Lawn and Garden Equipment Sound: A Community Pilot Study. *J Environ Toxicol Stu* 1(1) doi <http://dx.doi.org/10.16966/2576-6430.106>.

NEW YORK'S ELECTRIC LAWN CARE REBATE PROGRAM

New Yorkers too often are exposed to the noise – and the air pollution – generated by gas-powered lawn equipment. Moreover, reliance on gas-powered equipment runs counter to the recommendations of the world's climate experts who have urged the reduction of reliance on fossil fuels.¹

New York, the nation, and the world must move away from noisy, polluting gas-fired lawn equipment and shift toward quieter, clean battery-powered options.

Noise and Air Pollution

Gas-powered equipment are much louder than electric equipment.² This is not only annoying to the public, it damages the hearing of the landscaping workers, especially when used repeatedly over long periods of time.³ It is also damaging to the nearby ecosystems, which disrupt the communication of a variety of animals,⁴ particularly those who rely on sound to communicate.

Air pollution from the use of gas-powered lawn equipment is also a grave concern. Fossil-fuel-powered landscaping equipment releases fine particulates and greenhouse gases in every county in New York, with Erie, Suffolk, Nassau, and Monroe counties being the largest emitters. Annually, fossil fuel powered lawn equipment utilizes over 800 million gallons of gasoline, which largely get burned into the atmosphere.⁵

Fossil-fuel-powered lawn equipment poses a significant threat to the environment. For example, when a commercial lawn mower is used for just one hour, it produces as much smog-forming pollution as driving 300 miles in a car. Using a commercial leaf blower is even more polluting, emitting as much smog-forming pollution as driving 1,100 miles in a car.⁶

Health Concerns

Gas-powered lawn equipment pollutes the air, and that pollution creates damaging health effects for New Yorkers. When inhaled, fine particulates can cause respiratory failure, damage to the cardiovascular system, worsened mental health and cognitive functions, fertility and pregnancy issues, a weakened immune system, increased chances of having cancer, and increased risk of respiratory illness.⁷ For those who constantly use this equipment, these health threats are worsened.⁸

This equipment can cause damage to New Yorkers' lungs and ears and has been shown to increase the risk of getting multiple forms of cancer.⁹ Lawn care workers are more likely to suffer from depression,¹⁰ and are more likely to have cardiological disease, breast cancer, prostate cancer.¹¹

A Solution: Establish Incentives For Lawn Companies To Move To Electric-powered Equipment

Assemblymember Otis and Senator Krueger have introduced an Electric Lawn Care Rebate Program (A.2657, S.1574). This legislation:

FACTS

Every year, fossil fuel powered lawn equipment pollutes more than 234 million cars

Fossil fuel powered lawn equipment is twice as loud as electric equipment

New York is among 4 other states that make up the top 25% of emissions from fossil fuel powered lawn equipment



Incentivizes Landscapers to switch from fossil fuels and onto electric equipment by offering financial incentives for landscaping companies to purchase new electric equipment. Some areas in New York have banned fossil-fuel-powered equipment;¹² this legislation would help landscaping companies comply with the new requirements.

Creates a Cleaner New York by reducing noise and air pollution. The noise pollution is both annoying and harmful to New York's humans and animals, while the air pollution contributes to climate change. By the numbers, New York is actually one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions by fossil fuel powered lawn equipment in the country, only five states make up the top 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in the country, with New York being one of them.¹³

By establishing the Electric Lawn Care Rebate Program, New York State can help reduce its air emissions, reduce unnecessary noise, and build a cleaner safer environment. Not just for landscapers, but for every New Yorker.

For more information contact, Daniel Bayer, dbayer@nypirg.org, 518-436-0876 x269

¹ "New Warning From The Scientific Community: Stop Fossil Fuels Before It's Too Late" International Panel on Climate Change, <https://eccoclimate.org/ipcc-ar6-stop-fossil-fuels-before-its-too-late/>.

² Hope, Paul, "Gas vs Electric Leaf Blower: Which is Better?" Consumer Reports <https://www.consumerreports.org/home-garden/leaf-blowers/gas-vs-electric-leaf-blower-which-is-better-a6168456021/#:~:text=down%20on%20cost,-Noise,score%20of%202.5%20for%20gas.>

³ L. De Graaf, "Health of greenspace workers: Morbidity and mortality data from the AGRICAN cohort", the Agrican Group, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935122007022#:~:text=Results,1.71%20%5B1.17%E2%80%9332.50%5D>.

⁴ Chiu, Allyson, "The Problem with Gas Powered Leaf Blowers" the Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/11/05/leaf-blowers-fall-environment-health/#>.

⁵ Son, Jiahn, "Lawn Maintenance And Climate Change", Princeton University, <https://psci.princeton.edu/tips/2020/5/11/law-maintenance-and-climate-change>.

⁶ California Air Resources Board, "Small Engine Fact Sheet," <http://www.vcapcd.org/wp-content/uploads/pubs/Rules/CleanAirFund/CA-Air-Resources-Board-garden-equipment-fact-sheet.pdf>.

⁷ "Toxic Air Pollution", American Lung Association, <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/what-makes-air-unhealthy/toxic-air-pollutants>.

⁸ Banks, Jamie, "National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment," Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/banks.pdf>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ "Air Pollution's Impact on Mental Health" The American Psychiatric Association, <https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/air-pollutions-impact-on-mental-health>.

¹¹ Banks, Jamie, "National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment," Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/banks.pdf>.

¹² Village of Ossining, "Gas Powered Leaf Blowers FAQ" <https://www.villageofossiningny.gov/building-department/pages/gas-powered-leaf-blowers-faq#:~:text=In%202018%2C%20The%20Village%20of,September%2015%20and%20December%2015.>

¹³ Banks, Jamie, "National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment," Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/banks.pdf>.



1203 East Warrenville Road
Naperville, Illinois 60563
1.866.624.3786

February 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As a leading manufacturer of high-quality professional battery-powered outdoor power equipment, EGO Commercial strongly supports Senate Bill S.1574 and Assembly Bill A.2657. These bills provide critical funding to help landscapers transition their fleets to zero-emission equipment, reducing environmental impact while maintaining business efficiency. Similar programs in other states have been widely successful and well received by the landscaping community, as they balance sustainability with the practical needs of professionals and their customers.

While we fully support the intent of S.1574 & A.2657, we encourage legislators to model this rebate program after California's highly effective CORE program (<https://californiacore.org/how-to-participate-professional-landscape-2/>). CORE prioritized getting durable, professional-grade battery-powered equipment into the hands of landscaping professionals—particularly small businesses and sole proprietors—who often face the greatest barriers in transitioning from gas. The program included product requirements to ensure funding was directed toward high-performance, long-lasting equipment, rather than low-quality battery products that fail to meet the demands of professional use and ultimately contribute to landfill waste. Additionally, the CORE program emphasized the role of servicing dealers, ensuring that eligible equipment could be properly maintained and deliver long-term value to users.

As an industry leader in professional battery technology, EGO Commercial is eager to support the successful implementation of this program by providing insights and recommendations based on our experience. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with legislators and program sponsors to develop a rebate initiative that truly benefits the landscaping industry while advancing environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Collins".

Rob Collins

Director of Dealer Sales | East Division
EGO Commercial

January 29, 2025

S.1574 & A.2657

To Whom It May Concern,

As a manufacturer of high quality, professional battery outdoor power equipment, STIHL Incorporated (d/b/a Northeast STIHL) supports both Senate Bill S.1574 and Assembly Bill A.2657, which offer funding to help landscapers offset the cost of transitioning their equipment fleets to zero emission outdoor power equipment. Similar programs supporting professional battery adoption have seen great success in other states, and are well regarded by the landscaping community, as the programs protect both their businesses and the environment, and support their customers' demands.

While STIHL supports both bills (S.1574 & A.2657) in general, we highly recommend modeling this rebate program after the very successful California CORE program, which focused on getting high quality, long lasting professional battery products into the hands of landscaping professionals (<https://californiacore.org/how-to-participate-professional-landscape-2/>). The CORE program focused on small companies and sole proprietor landscapers, who often face challenges in transitioning from gas to battery. The program included product requirements, which aimed to keep true professional-grade products as the focus of the funding, instead of low quality/cheap battery products (which are easily exhausted by professional use and quickly wind up in landfills). The program also focused on the servicing dealer, ensuring that eligible products could be maintained and used for years to come.

As an active participant in the California CORE program, STIHL is happy to provide feedback to legislators and sponsors of this program to ensure its successful implementation.

Sincerely,



Jason Mabb
Directory of Branch Operations
Northeast STIHL



April 21, 2025

S.1574 & A.2657

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Randall Hitchins and I am a landscape professional, writing to you on behalf of the company I work for, ChargeBot. We provide mobile charging solutions to landscapers who use battery equipment all over the United States.

I've been in the landscape industry for a long time, and in the past few years battery-powered equipment has vastly improved. There is now a wide range of commercial-grade battery equipment available. As more and more landscapers go electric, the technology is quickly catching up to support the transition. ChargeBot is one such example of a business that has evolved to support the changing industry.

ChargeBot supports S.1574 & A.2567 because these measures assist landscapers who want to make the switch to electric equipment. There are a variety of reasons why landscapers are choosing to go electric, from customer demand, to personal preference, to environmental sustainability. As industry professionals consider changes they can make to benefit their own businesses and the communities they serve, measures such as S.1574 & A.2567 go a long way to help them follow through with implementation.

This forward-thinking legislation benefits businesses, public health, and the environment. At ChargeBot, we often consult with businesses that are considering using battery equipment or are looking to upgrade their current systems. We are deeply engrained in the landscape industry and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with and support legislators and program sponsors who have both the industry and the environment's best interests in mind.

Sincerely,

Randall Hitchins
Production Manager
ChargeBot



Monday April 20, 2025

Dear members of the NY legislature,

As a small business owner and operator of a landscaping and lawn care company on Long Island, I'm writing to ask you to cosponsor [A.2675/S.1574](#).

This legislation is sponsored by Assemblyman Steven Otis and Senator Liz Krueger, and will create a statewide rebate program for the purchase of electric landscaping equipment by landscaping companies and local government maintenance crews in New York.

In 2021, I started my own lawn care business, [Serenity Lawncare](#), that utilizes electric-powered lawn care equipment instead of gas-powered equipment. I did this so that I could help the local community reduce air pollution and noise while still getting quality lawn care services. We are growing our business at a very good clip year after year, and 2025 will be our best year yet.

A.2675/S.1574 can help New York state lawn care and landscaping companies more easily and affordably transition to cleaner and quieter equipment. It will also help local government maintenance crews move more swiftly to cleaner options.

Supporting local small businesses and communities across the state is good for our economy, and in this case it's also good for our health and our planet.



A Robotic Lawncare Company

Given this, I hope that you will cosponsor this legislation and ask the chamber's leadership to call this legislation for a vote as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance,

Kevin Boodram,

Founder, CEO

Serenity Robotic Lawncare



April 7, 2025

S.1574 & A.2657

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Anna Kelly and I am a landscape professional, writing to you on behalf of the company I work for, Live Sust Inc. We provide battery-powered and eco-friendly landscaping services in Montgomery County, MD and Washington, DC.

DC and Montgomery County have both passed bans on gas-powered leaf blowers. DC's ban went into effect in 2022 and Montgomery County's will take effect in July of this year. While we support these bans specifically and the move away from gas-powered equipment broadly, we recognize the initial financial toll that these mandates can have on landscapers, especially small businesses. It's important to note that many case studies show how the switch to battery equipment actually saves money in the long run, but for small businesses, the upfront investment of starting over with their equipment fleet can certainly pose a challenge.

While the landscape industry as a whole remains somewhat divided on gas vs. battery-powered equipment, there is strong momentum and a clear shift towards electrification. Much of the backlash against battery equipment was initially aimed at the quality of available equipment, but that is no longer a problem. There is now a wide variety of excellent professional- and commercial-grade equipment available. The other common argument against switching to battery is the upfront cost, which, by offering landscapers rebates on new battery equipment, is exactly the issue that these bills aim to remedy.

In recent years, there has been significant research on both the noise and air pollution impacts of gas-powered lawn equipment. The data supporting the move away from gas equipment is undeniable. State-level support of battery equipment shows that New York not only cares for the health of its people and its land, but also supports the landscaping industry. The ability of these bills to have a positive on humans, the environment, and industry all at once is a unique and powerful thing. I urge New York to be a leader in this effort and to pass bills S.1574 & A.2657.

With gratitude for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue,

Anna Kelly
Director of Customer Success & Operations Manager
Live Sust Inc.



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March 3, 2025

Chairwoman Kreuger, Chairman Otis, members of the New York Assembly and Senate –

On behalf of The Home Depot's nearly 27,000 associates at 101 stores and multiple distribution centers across the state of New York, we would like to express our support for S.1574 (Kreuger)/A.2657 (Otis), establishing an electric landscaping equipment rebate program.

The Home Depot supports this measure because it will encourage New York customers to choose electric landscaping equipment across all seasons that is good for the environment while not compromising on efficiency and power.

We commend the sponsors for considering such forward-thinking legislation, and are eager to contribute to its successful implementation via collaboration, partnership, insight, and information sharing. We thank the legislature for including snow equipment in the proposal, and would urge members to consider expanding eligibility to include any and all New Yorkers that seek electric landscaping tools to meet their needs.

Our mission at The Home Depot has always been to offer products that meet the needs of our customers. By promoting the adoption of zero emission landscaping equipment, this initiative aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship and our desire to offer customers the latest in eco-friendly technology. We expect that by the end of 2028, more than 85 percent of our sales in outdoor power equipment will run on rechargeable batteries instead of gas. This transition will reduce over 2,000,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases annually from exhaust pipes of residential lawn equipment. To reach this goal, The Home Depot is working to extend its leadership position in battery technology and offer cordless outdoor power tools from market leading brands across the spectrum. Our brands are committed to building rechargeable tools that deliver the power that customers have come to expect from gas-powered equipment and the run times they need to complete a job, all with less noise, less maintenance, and easier startups.

We are confident that this proposed rebate program for New York will significantly boost consumer interest in electric landscaping equipment. The point-of-sale rebate model is an effective way to encourage customers to make greener choices by reducing the upfront cost of electric devices. This approach not only benefits the environment but also stimulates market demand for these products, contributing to the growth of businesses focused on sustainable solutions.

For these reasons, The Home Depot supports S.1574 (Kreuger)/ A.2657 (Otis), and urges swift legislative action on this important piece of legislation for the good of all New Yorkers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Campion", written over a horizontal line.

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