

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Hochul signs legislation to create statewide electric lawn equipment rebate program

Public health professionals, business leaders, and environmental groups applaud effort to reduce air, climate and noise pollution, support NY small businesses

ALBANY, NY – Public health officials, environmental advocates, and business leaders applauded Gov. Kathy Hochul for signing legislation on Monday that will establish a statewide electric landscaping equipment rebate program for New York lawn care and landscaping companies, local and county government maintenance crews, and state school districts, colleges and universities. The effort is meant to help companies and government entities more swiftly transition to cleaner, quieter electric landscaping equipment.

Studies show that gas-powered lawn equipment packs a big punch for its small size when it comes to air and climate pollution. [The Environment America Research & Policy Center 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.](#) This ranks New York fourth in the nation for climate pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment. New York ranked third in the U.S. (behind Florida and Texas) when comparing fine particulates, which trigger asthma and damage people's hearts and lungs.

With leaf blowers and other landscaping equipment already revving up across New York this fall, Gov. Hochul's signature to state assembly bill [A2657-A](#) (introduced by Assemblyman Steve Otis with a state senate companion bill introduced by State Senator Liz Krueger) should cut climate emissions in New York, help make landscaping activities in local communities quieter, protect workers in the landscaping industry from harmful air and noise pollution, and support small business owners across the Empire State.

Advocates supporting this legislation developed a [white paper](#) laying out the many benefits from, and support for, this policy. The policy was endorsed by [over 100 environmental, public health and community groups across New York](#), as well as numerous manufacturers and retailers of landscaping equipment including STIHL tools, Ace Hardware stores, Home Depot, EGO tools, Greenworks tools and others.

In response to the governor's signing of the legislation to create a statewide electric lawn equipment rebate program for New York-based lawn care and landscaping companies, business leaders, environmental groups and health professionals released the following statements:

"The New York State District of the American Academy of Pediatrics heartily endorses Governor Hochul's signing of the Electric Lawncare Rebate Bill into law," stated **Steven J Goldstein MD, Chair of Chapter 2 of the NY State American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health and Climate Change**. "Gov. Hochul's action helps cement her legacy of supporting legislation that will protect child and population health in the years to come. Reducing the release of toxic gases and air pollutants, decreasing noise in our communities, and protecting workers are only some of the benefits of the bill."

"This bill is a win for public health," noted **Dr. Bonnie Sager co-founder of the nonprofit group [Quiet Clean Alliance](#)**. "It will accelerate the transition to quieter, cleaner, and safer land care. We will all benefit from less noise pollution, and our children will breathe cleaner air in their neighborhoods and public spaces."

"New Yorkers can breathe a little easier knowing that Gov. Hochul and state legislators are taking steps to help reduce air and climate pollution from landscaping equipment," said **David Masur, Senior Advocate for Environment New York**. "This policy makes New York a national leader in the effort to promote cleaner alternatives to the leafblowers and other lawn equipment that's so common in our lives and used in our communities."

"New York is moving toward quieter, cleaner, battery-powered landscaping equipment thanks to the approval of this legislation. NYPIRG applauds Gov. Hochul for signing this legislation and thanks Assemblymember Otis and Senator Krueger for the strong advocacy," said **Blair Horner, NYPIRG's Senior Policy Advisor**.

"The establishment of a rebate program at the state level would directly benefit New York municipalities and organizations and the landscaping companies that service them, allowing the state to move faster to transition to electric equipment," said **Jill Bellenger, the Quiet Clean Alliance's New York State Coordinator**. "Passing rebates for clean, quiet lawn equipment at the state level can make the transition attainable for all."

"For over 30 years, Broccolo has been a leader in the landscaping industry with environmental initiatives from less pesticide use, more natural landscapes for stormwater protection and diverse plantings of green spaces," noted **Laurie Broccolo, CEO of Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care in the Rochester area**. "We applaud Gov. Hochul's signature on this legislation that will help convert the landscaping industry to electric powered equipment to reduce noise and emission pollution. It's healthier for our employees and the community."