



Program #40037B - Gas Powered Leaf Blower Project FY 2026 Department Requested

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Jeff Martin
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Department Requested
Related Programs: 40037A
Program Characteristics:

Program Description

In March 2024, the Portland City Council voted to phase out the use of all gas-powered leaf blowers by 2028 (City of Portland Code Chapter 8.80.040 section C). The ban applies to both public and private property. Gas-powered leaf blowers emit harmful substances including carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, ozone, and carcinogens. Gas-powered leaf blowers also contribute to hearing damage and noise pollution.

Starting on January 1, 2026, gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited, except during the fall and winter. In 2028, gas blowers will be banned in the fall and winter as well. Those who violate the policy will face a fine of up to \$1,000. The City of Portland and Multnomah County are negotiating an intergovernmental agreement that delegates enforcement authority to the County. The program increases awareness and compliance with the City of Portland's gas leaf blower phaseout ordinance. It will engage leaf blower operators to better understand their perspectives on issues, needs and opportunities to inform policy and communications and to learn more about the need or desire for occupational health interventions. It supports small businesses, which may experience the greatest financial barriers to comply with the ordinance, to transition to all-electric equipment and access related health and economic benefits. It will develop a complaint-based enforcement system that does not place undue burden on any specific group of people or entities subject to the ordinance (e.g., small businesses) that enhances community-wide understanding and skills to support transition away from gas-powered leaf blowers. Increase community awareness of health impacts of harmful sources of emissions and noise.

The Health Department will develop and implement a marketing campaign to inform the public of policy changes and available incentives. The campaign will develop materials to target specific market segments, including landscapers, property management companies and owners, and residents. Community campaign materials will include a webpage, social media posts, posters, and mailers.

Translation into multiple languages for all campaign materials will be standard in order to ensure access to the information needed to comply with the ordinance. The County staff will develop an enforcement program based on the final statute adopted by the Portland City Council, program rules developed by the City of Portland staff, and the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Enforcement will be complaint-driven; staff will field complaints, track them in a database, evaluate complaints, collect evidence, issue citations, and respond to appeals. Environmental Health will model the enforcement systems on existing code compliance programs.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Reach and impressions of community members receiving information on environmental threats	N/A	4,000,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
Outcome	Behavior change: Number complaints successfully resolved and incentives distributed	N/A	20	21	240

Performance Measures Descriptions

1) Includes community members receiving information through mailings, attending events, direct contact with staff, social media, and exposure to media campaigns. 2) Measures behavior change through education, incentive, or citation. Includes community members attending workshops, making direct inquiries, visiting the website, and submitting complaints. Successful resolution of complaint is defined as the cessation of the use of a gasoline leaf blower, whether by education or citation. Enforcement plan currently being negotiated with the City, including the availability of incentives.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

City of Portland code Title 17 - Chapter 17.101, IGA currently in negotiation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Department Requested General Fund	Department Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$151,289	\$0	\$139,323	\$0
Contractual Services	\$58,711	\$0	\$81,512	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$210,000	\$0	\$220,835	\$0
Program Total:	\$210,000		\$220,835	
Program FTE	1.00	0.00	0.80	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 40037B Gas Powered Leaf Blower Project

The ordinance goes into effect 1/1/26, at which point our efforts will pivot from education and incentives to begin enforcement.