



**City of St. Helena
Active Transportation and Sustainability
Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 6, 2022 @ 5:00 PM**

PLEASE NOTE: Any person who wishes to speak regarding an item on the agenda or make a comment under the "Oral Communication" portion of the agenda may do so, but please observe the time limit of four minutes. Members of the public and other parties are welcome to email their comments to the Staff Liaison Preya Nixon at pnixon@cityofsthelena.org

This meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 54953 (as amended by AB 361) which authorizes teleconferenced meetings under the Brown Act during certain proclaimed States of Emergency. The Governor of California proclaimed a State of Emergency related to COVID-19 on March 4, 2020. This teleconferenced meeting is necessary so that the City can conduct essential business and is permitted under Government Code 54953 in order to protect public health and safety of attendees.

Consistent with Government Code Section 54953, this meeting will be held via teleconference only, and will not be physically open to the public. Board, Commission and Committee members and staff will teleconference into the meeting by audio and/or video. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar.

Those members of the public wishing to participate must do so remotely via Zoom electronic meetings in the following ways; by either logging onto the Zoom link located on the meeting agenda (please download the app to your computer or mobile device) and enter the meeting ID or by calling a listed number and enter the meeting ID. Public comment for meetings will be accepted via email to publiccomment@cityofsthelena.org. All public comments must be emailed by two hours prior to the meeting. Emailed public comments will not be read out loud but will be publicly available and attached to the on-line agenda.

Please see the end of the agenda for detailed PUBLIC PARTICIPATION instructions.

Please click on the link below to join the ASTC Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324705871>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16699006833,,84324705871# or +13462487799,,84324705871#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 843 2470 5871

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324705871>

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
 Committee Chair: Leslie Stanton Vice Chair: Jeff Farmer
 Members: Glenn Smith, Madelyn Chandler, and John Zimmerman
 Alternate Members: Vacant and Vacant
 City Council Member Liaison: Paul Dohring, Vice Mayor
 Staff Liaison: Preya Nixon, Asst. to the City Manager
3. PUBLIC FORUM:
 An opportunity for the public to directly address the Committee on items of interest to the public that are not listed on the agenda. Any person addressing the Committee should provide his or her name and address, and limit comments to four minutes. **Because of restrictions imposed by the Brown Act, the Committee may not engage in substantive discussion, nor take action on matters not described on the agenda.**
4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMITTEE:
 Reports by staff and/or committee on items of general interest. ***Brief questions for clarification may be posed and answered, and Committee may request that items be placed on a future agenda. Except under certain circumstances, the Brown Act prohibits any other discussion or action by the Active Transportation & Sustainability Committee.***
5. CONSENT CALENDAR:
 Members of the Active Transportation Committee or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of considering alternative action, for extended discussion, or for public comment. Unless that is done, on motion may be used to adopt all recommendation actions.
 - 5.1. Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2022. 7 - 9
[DRAFT MINUTES Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee - 01 Jun 2022](#)
6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:
 - 6.1. Receive a presentation on the Napa County Climate Challenge website 11 - 20
[Napa County Climate Challenge Presentation](#)
[Staff Report- Napa County Climate Challenge website](#)
 - 6.2. Consideration and Feedback Regarding a Draft Ordinance Banning the Use of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers 21 - 33
[Staff Report- Potential Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers](#)
[ST HELENA Ordinance Regarding Leaf Blowers-c1](#)
[ClareBarr.PublicComment](#)
[EllenKieval.PublicComment](#)
[KellieCarlin.PublicComment](#)
[SusanMcWilliams.PublicComment](#)
7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
 - 7.1.
 - Review and approval of Committee governing language
 - Presentation from Fire Chief John Sorensen regarding vehicular speeding and potential traffic mitigation
 - Active Transportation Plan Phase II

- Potential Reusable Foodware and Waste Reduction Ordinance
- Napa Countywide Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Presentation (fall 2022)

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Active Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2022 at 5:00 pm, at a location to be determined.

I do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing agenda was posted on the City website on July 1, 2022.

/s/ Preya Nixon

Preya Nixon, Asst. to the City Manager

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact City Hall at (707) 967-2792. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II). However, City staff will attempt to assist at any time with accessibility.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact City Hall at (707) 967-2792. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II). However, City staff will attempt to assist at any time with accessibility.

The ZOOM web link, meeting ID, and phone number will be listed at the top of the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Agenda. You will be required to enter the meeting ID, but there will be no password or participant ID.

How to Watch or Listen to Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Meetings:

1. Watch and Listen on Zoom.us by clicking on the link in the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Agenda
2. Listen only by calling the Zoom number listed on the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Agenda

Watch the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Meeting by Joining the Zoom Meeting:

1. **By Computer, Tablet, or Smart Phone:**
 - a. Before joining the virtual Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Meeting, it is highly

encouraged that you download the Zoom App. To sign up for your own free account, visit zoom.us/signup and enter your email address. You will receive an email from Zoom (no-reply@zoom.us). In this email, click Activate Account.

- b. If you are logged into your account, Enter the **Meeting ID** listed on the Active Transportation and Sustainability Agenda. If you have not created an account go to: <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the **Meeting ID**
 - c. Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and tap **Join Meeting**.
 - d. For specific instructions for your device, go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>
2. **Listen Only by Telephone:**
- a. **Dial** the number listed on the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Agenda.
 - b. At the prompt, enter the **Meeting ID** provided on the top of the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Agenda and **Press #. A participate ID is not required.**
 - c. To disconnect from the meeting, hang up the phone.

Ways to Provide Public Comment:

While attending the virtual Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Meeting, the public will have the opportunity to provide live public comment during Public Forum and after each agenda item. When it is the appropriate time for public comment the Chair will verbally open public comment. At this time each individual is permitted 4 minutes to speak.

1. **Send a Public Comment in Advance to** publiccomment@cityofsthelena.org

The easiest way to provide public comment is to email your public comment. Public comments may be emailed to publiccomment@cityofsthelena.org. Please include in the subject line "COMMENT TO ATSC and the AGENDA ITEM". Any public comment is required to be submitted no later than 1 hour before the scheduled meeting and will be included as an attachment to the agenda.

2. **Provide Comment through Zoom meeting from a computer, tablet, or smart phone**

This option allows the public to virtually attend the meeting as a muted 'attendee' with no video or screen sharing capabilities. You will be able to see and hear those participating in the meeting, but they will not be able to hear you until the host unmutes you.

If you wish to provide public comment during a specific agenda item or during public forum, you can use the **"raise hand"** feature located in the control panel at the

bottom of your screen. The icon is a small blue hand. In Windows you can also use the Alt+Y keyboard shortcut to raise or lower your hand. In Mac you can also use the Option+Y keyboard shortcut to raise or lower your hand. The host will be notified that you've raised your hand and you will be placed in a queue with all incoming requests. When it is your turn to speak, you will be notified that the host has unmuted you. To be removed from the queue, just click the '**raise hand**' button again.

3. **Call in to the ZOOM meeting from a cell phone or landline phone only**

This option allows the member of the public with the opportunity to verbally participate in public comment.

If you wish to speak during public comment time dial ***9** on your telephone.

The host will be notified that you would like to speak and you will be placed in a queue with all incoming requests.

When it is your turn to speak, you will be notified that the host has unmuted you. You may press ***9** again if you wish to be removed from the queue.

You will be notified at the end of your statement that you have been muted.



DRAFT MINUTES
City of St. Helena
Active Transportation and Sustainability
Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2022 @ 5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanton called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following were present:

Committee Chair: Leslie Stanton, Vice Chair: Jeff Farmer

Members: Glenn Smith, Maddie Chandler

Alternate Members: Katherine MacDonnell, Vacant

Council Liaison: Paul Dohring, Vice Mayor

Staff Liaison: Preya Nixon, Asst. to the City Manager

Member John Zimmerman was excused.

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Public Comment was received by Gopal Shanker, Recolte Energy

4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMITTEE:

Reports were conducted.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Members of the Active Transportation Committee or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of considering alternative action, for extended discussion, or for public comment. Unless that is done, on motion may be used to adopt all recommendation actions.

5.1. Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022.

[Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee - 06 Apr 2022 - DRAFT MINUTES](#)
[2022 DRAFT Climate Emergency REDLINED](#)

A motion was made by member Chandler and seconded by member Smith to approve the minutes for the Special meeting held on April 6, 2021.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- 6.1. Introduction of framework for Proposed Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers Ordinance and Reusable Foodware/Waste Reduction Ordinance

[Staff Report](#)

Presentation was given by Preya Nixon, Assistant to the City Manager

For Leaf Blowers: the Committee supported the concept and concurred that outreach was important. A request was made to inquire about potential state rebates in addition to the proposed City rebate.

For Reusable Foodware: The committee supported the concept and supported learning more to understand the specifics and outreach required.

No public comment was received.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Review and approval of Committee governing language
- Presentation from Fire Chief John Sorensen regarding vehicular speeding and potential traffic mitigation
- Active Transportation Plan Phase II
- Presentation from Fire Chief John Sorensen regarding vehicular speeding and potential traffic mitigation
- Potential Reusable Foodware and Waste Reduction Ordinance
- Potential Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers Ordinance

A future agenda item was added to include a presentation from Napa County on the GHG Inventory that is currently in progress.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Active Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2022 at 5:00 pm, at a location to be determined.

Chair Stanton adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

The next regular Active Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2022 at 5:00 pm, at a location to be determined.

Approved

Attest

Chair

Preya Nixon,
Assistant to the City Manager

DRAFT



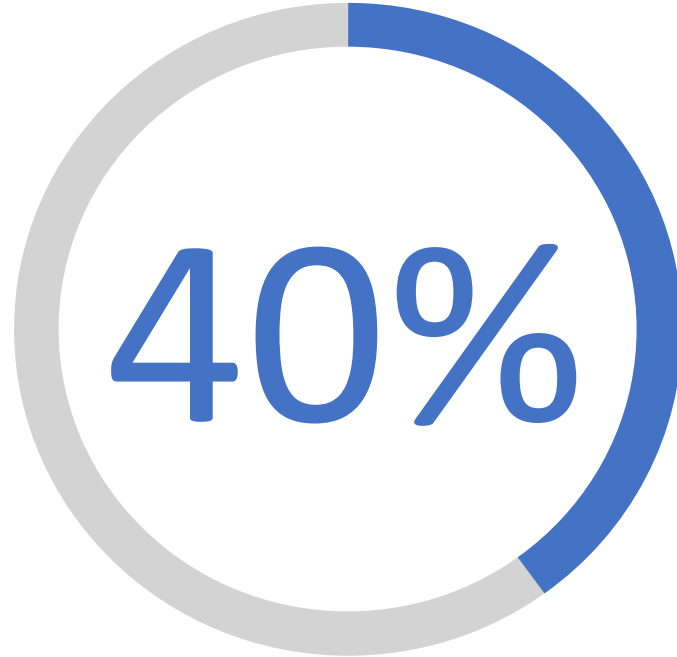
Next Steps for the Regeneration Napa Climate Challenge!



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

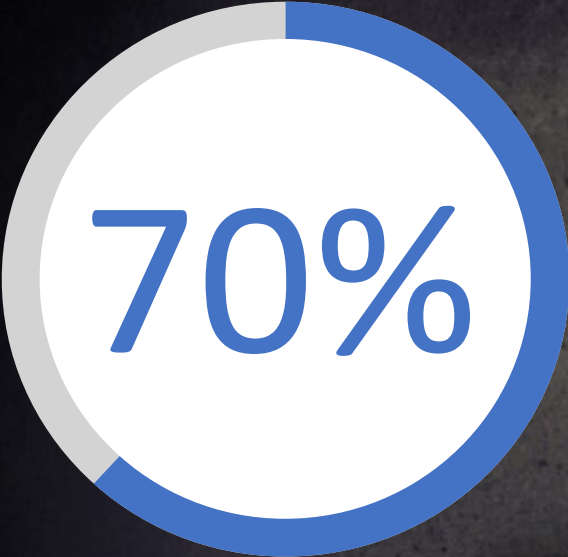


U.S. Emissions



5 basic household activities

**Feel a personal
responsibility to
act on climate
change!**



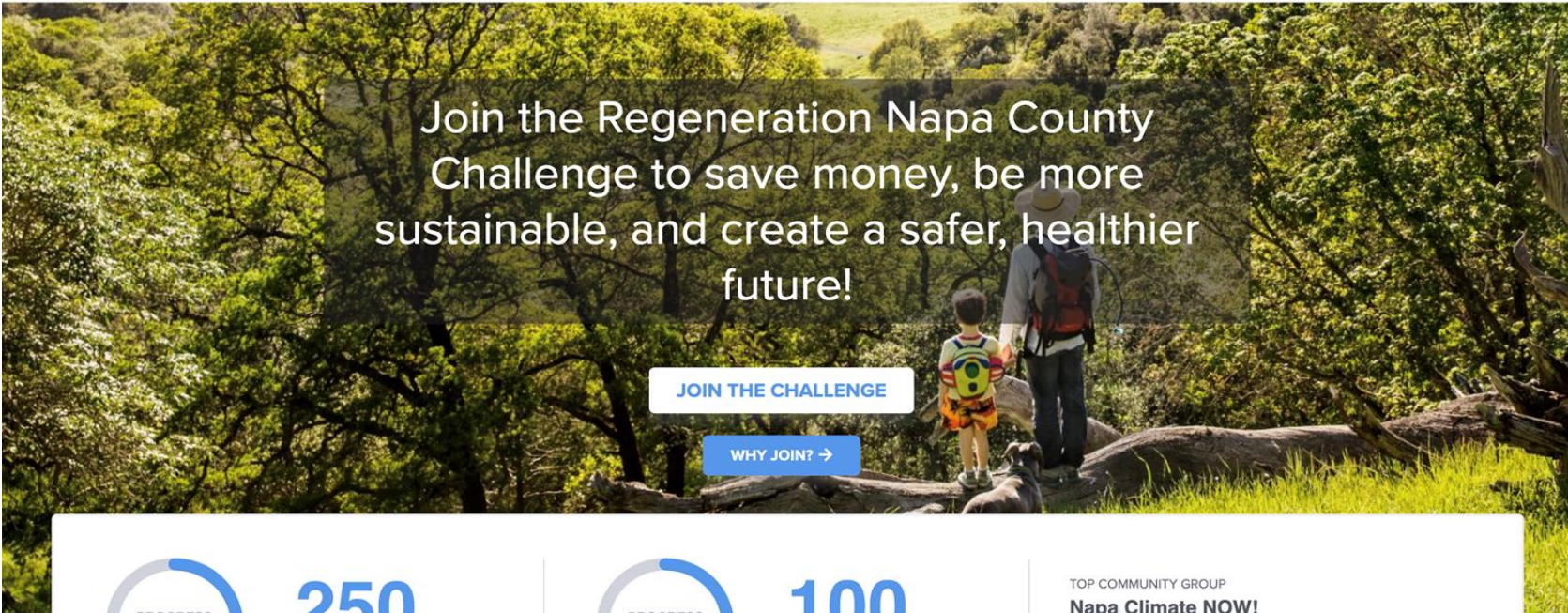
70%



We Have Solutions



Household Actions = Big Impact

A photograph of a hiker and a child standing on a log in a lush green forest. The hiker is wearing a hat and a backpack, and the child is wearing a colorful backpack. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is filled with dense green trees and foliage.

Join the Regeneration Napa County
Challenge to save money, be more
sustainable, and create a safer, healthier
future!

[JOIN THE CHALLENGE](#)[WHY JOIN? →](#)

250

HOUSEHOLDS BY DECEMBER 2021
PARTICIPATION GOAL



100

TONS OF CO₂ BY DECEMBER
2021 REDUCTION GOAL

TOP COMMUNITY GROUP
Napa Climate NOW!

TOP TEAM
Napa Sierra Club Exec Committee



- One stop shop for climate action, sustainability, water conservation, and emergency preparedness.
- Provides residents the opportunity to help achieve sustainability goals.
- Tool for groups and teams to work together. Many simple and effective opportunities for “climate action challenges.”
- Ability to aggregate impact with teams, cities, and with the region.



- Finalize authorization of funds
- Rebrand the platform as desired
- Optional: set up city landing pages for specific cities
- We can onboard city staff to our marketing materials, engagement programs, and connect with community leaders for you!



Patrick Journey

Program Manager

719-217-8439

pjourney@communityclimate.org



Staff Report to the Active
Transportation and Sustainability
Committee
July 6, 2022

Subject: Presentation on the Napa County Climate Challenge website
Prepared By: Preya Nixon, Assistant to the City Manager

BACKGROUND

Patrick Jurney, City Program Manager for Community Climate Solutions will give a presentation on the Napa County Climate Challenge website.

About three years ago, Community Climate Solutions (CCS) facilitated a Bay Area Air Quality Management District grant to Gopal Shanker for a one-year subscription to CCS's platform for use by Napa County residents. The CCS program is a website residents can use to explore actions, find local resources, discover their impact and track progress with a carbon and savings calculator.

The ATSC requested this presentation after public comment was received by Gopal Shanker at the June 1, 2022 meeting.



Staff Report to the Active
Transportation and Sustainability
Committee
July 6, 2022

Subject: Consideration and Feedback Regarding a Draft Ordinance Banning the Use of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

Prepared By: Preya Nixon, Assistant to the City Manager

BACKGROUND

At the June 1, 2022 Regular Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee meeting, the Committee heard a presentation on the potential ban on gas powered leaf blowers. Staff is bringing back a draft Ordinance prepared by the City Attorney and will be presenting it to the committee for feedback and a formal recommendation to the City Council.

Why is this being proposed? The City Council has a 3 Year Adopted Workplan. City Council Goal #6 is to "*support initiatives that respond to and plan for climate change*". Goal 6F is to consider the ban on gas powered leaf blowers. There is a strong connection to sustainability: Restrictions on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will yield multiple environmental benefits. The primary benefit will be a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that result from the combustion of fossil fuels, in this case, gasoline and/or diesel.

In addition, by only allowing electric or battery powered leaf blowers, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in noise levels and a reduction in suspended dust and particulates. Electric and battery-powered blowers generally operate at a lower decibel levels and generate more moderate air speeds.

Staff has met with community members to discuss outreach and is recommending the following action for outreach if the Ordinance is adopted by the City Council: Outreach includes, but is not limited to:

- An outdoor demonstration/workshop with electric/battery powered leaf blowers at a City Park
- Inserts in utility bills
- Targeted mailing to landscaping businesses with active, inactive or partially active business licenses, hotels and HOA's etc...
- Postcards with information on the City's rebate program/educational material-to be handed out by City staff to community groups/posted on community boards
- Having a table at the Farmer's Market and at the Hometown Harvest Festival
- City standard communication outreach: media release, on social media

- Dedicated City website page with easy to read Frequently Asked Questions

Rebate Program: The proposed ordinance directs staff to develop a rebate program for residents or businesses.

At the last ATSC meeting, the Committee requested staff research whether there will be a State rebate program. Staff has learned that the State is developing a voucher program for small businesses for landscaping equipment that would include leaf blowers. This program would be administered through the California Air Resources Board (CARB) under the Clean Off-Road Equipment (CORE) Voucher Incentive Program. This would allow small businesses to directly purchase an electric leaf blower from an authorized seller for up to 70% of the costs including a battery and charger.

Requested Action from the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee:

Staff is requesting feedback and formal recommendation from the Committee on the proposed ordinance and outreach approach.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ST. HELENA AMENDING SECTION 8.24.010 OF CHAPTER 24 TO TITLE 8 OF THE
ST. HELENA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING LEAF BLOWERS**

WHEREAS, the City of St. Helena's Noise Ordinance, specifically subsection (E) of Section 8.24.010 of the St. Helena Municipal Code, regulates the use of leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Helena desires to ban the use of leaf blowers powered by gasoline and diesel.

NOW, THEREFORE, The City Council of the City of St. Helena does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1: Amendment.

Subsection (E) of Section 8.24.010 of the St. Helena Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (new language is underlined, deletions are in ~~strikeout~~):

"8.24.010 Unnecessary noises generally.

E. Leaf Blowers.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any ~~gas-powered~~ leaf blower ~~other than a gas-powered leaf blower that bears a manufacturer's label indicating a noise level designation not exceeding sixty-five (65) dB(A) at a distance of fifty (50) feet utilizing American National Standard Institute ("ANSI") B175.2 methodology. All such leaf blowers shall be operated with all mufflers, full extension tubes, shrouds and sound-attenuating devices supplied by the manufacturer for that leaf blower and shall be maintained in sound operating condition. This paragraph shall not apply to electric leaf blowers. unless it is powered by electricity or battery;~~

a. In compliance with Chapter 8.24 of this code;

b. Without the use of a generator with a gasoline or diesel engine; and

c. In a manner that does not result in leaves, dirt, debris, or other materials being blown or deposited on any other parcel, land, lot, or public right-of-way/property other than the parcel, land, lot, or public

right-of-way/property on which the leaf blower is being used or operated.

2. The operation of lawful ~~gas~~-battery-powered and electric leaf blowers on all streets and parcels within the city, except for those areas designated in subsection (E)(3) of this section, shall be allowed between nine a.m. and four p.m. Monday through Friday, between ten a.m. and three p.m. on Saturdays, and between ten a.m. and twelve p.m. on Sundays.
3. The operation of lawful ~~gas~~-battery-powered and electric leaf blowers on all parcels on Main Street between Pine Street and Grayson Avenue shall be allowed between five a.m. and three p.m. Monday through Friday, between ten a.m. and three p.m. on Saturdays, and between ten a.m. and twelve p.m. on Sundays.
4. It shall be unlawful to operate ~~gas~~-battery-powered and electric leaf blowers on federal and local holidays.
5. The operation of ~~gas~~-battery-powered and electric leaf blowers shall be exempt from the permit requirement of subsection A of this section.
6. A violation of any provision of this section shall be subject to the enforcement procedures under Chapter 1.12 of this code in addition to any other enforcement remedies available under law and this code. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Chapter 1.12, for purposes of enforcement of this chapter under Chapter 1.12, a "responsible person" shall only include a person who uses or operates, or a property owner or business that permits the use or operation of, a leaf blower in violation of this chapter."

Section 2: Severability.

If any section, subsection, phrase, or clause of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council would have passed this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 3: CEQA.

This ordinance was assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines (the Guidelines), and the environmental regulations of the City. The City Council hereby finds that this ordinance is exempt from review under CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that the provisions contained herein would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

Section 4: Rebate Program/Public Education.

City staff shall develop a rebate program for those persons or businesses purchasing a leaf blower powered by electricity or battery to comply with this ordinance. The rebate program shall be reviewed and approved by City ~~Town~~ Council prior to implementation. City staff shall also establish a public education campaign regarding this ordinance, including notice to likely leaf blower users or operators of its provisions, means of compliance, and penalties for noncompliance, prior to its effective date.

Section 5: Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect January 1, 2023 after its final adoption, and a summary of this ordinance shall be published once with the names of the members of the Council voting for and against the ordinance in the St. Helena Star, a newspaper of general circulation published in the City of St. Helena.

THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE was introduced at a regular meeting of the St. Helena City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2022, and was adopted at a regular meeting of the St. Helena City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2022, by the following vote:

Mayor Ellsworth:	_____
Vice Mayor Dohring:	_____
Councilmember Chouteau:	_____
Councilmember Hardy:	_____
Councilmember Hall:	_____

APPROVED:

Geoff Ellsworth, Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF ST. HELENA

Cindy Tzaopoulos, City Clerk

I, CINDY TZAFPOULOS, CITY CLERK of the City of St. Helena, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was regularly introduced and placed upon its first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council on the ____ day of ____, 2022. That thereafter said Ordinance was duly adopted and passed at a regular meeting of the City Council on the ____ day of ____, 2022, by the following vote:

Mayor Ellsworth: _____

Vice Mayor Dohring: _____

Councilmember Chouteau: _____

Councilmember Hardy: _____

Councilmember Hall: _____

DRAFT

From: [Clare Barr](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] regarding the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 8:10:42 AM

To the members of the ATSC,

I am in full support of the ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers. The arguments for why this is a good and necessary thing are numerous, and have been presented in detail. Please do the right thing for our community and make this change to our ordinance asap.

Thank you,
Clare Barr

ELLEN KIEVAL
1230 EDWARDS STREET
SAINT HELENA, CA 94574

July 4, 2022

Dear honorable members of the ATSC,

Ban gas-powered leaf blowers! They are unhealthy for both the users and the people around them.

Ban gas-powered leaf blowers! Their inefficient engines generate air pollution in the form of carbon monoxide, noxious gasoline fumes and particulate matter that is harmful to our respiratory systems

Ban gas-powered leaf blowers! The noise they produce can lead to serious auditory problems, including permanent hearing loss, according to the CDC. The 65dB limit in the current St. Helena ordinance is rarely enforced and routinely violated, and some being used are much louder.

Ban gas-powered leaf blowers! They can still be heard over long distances (even half a mile away), negatively affecting many homes and business in their vicinity. Noise increases our stress levels, even if it's in the background. Noisy environments can cause both mental and physical health complications, contributing to tinnitus, hypertension, disturbed sleep and a general feeling of malaise.

Ban gas-powered leaf blowers! There are better, more efficient, environmentally friendly alternatives to their use.

It's time to ban gas-powered leaf blowers—period!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Kieval".

Ellen Kieval

From: [Kellie Carlin](#)
To: [Preya Nixon](#)
Subject: [External] gas powered leaf blowers: amendment to ordinance
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 3:41:49 PM

- > We heartily support the draft amendment set forth to ban the use of all gas-powered leaf blowers in the City of St. Helena and hope the City Council votes to adopt this amendment.
- > Our neighboring towns/cities have already passed similar ordinances and it is time St. Helena steps up to remove these noisy polluting machines from our neighborhoods.
- > Thank you to all the like-minded people who have worked so hard to get this on the City Council agenda.
And, in advance, thank you for your vote. We will all appreciate the quieting of our town, the commitment to cleaner air, and the reduction in fossil fuel use for healthier residents and a healthier planet.
- >
- > Steve and Kellie Carlin
- > 2261 Boysen Lane
- > St. Helena, CA

From: [Susan McWilliams](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Leaf Blower ordinance
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 5:15:24 PM

Thank you for considering this, joining other Napa Valley communities who have enacted an ordinance. We are one of the very few houses on our street that does not hire gardeners with leaf blowers. Scarcely a day goes by without a “gardener” blowing a cloud of dust into the air, forcing us to immediately shut windows and doors and retreat inside to escape the noise and contaminants. The noise these leaf blowers make destroys the quiet of the neighborhood, but beyond that, the dust they generate is a real problem. I must wash the windows of my street-parked car each time I prepare to drive, since the thick dust hampers clear vision. The windows of our house are dusty, our house is dusty and I have to wash outdoor furniture each time we use it. This all takes water, a scarce commodity in drought-stricken California. These blowers deprive residents of the quiet enjoyment of their own yards, their fumes drift into neighboring yards and they require neighbors to use precious water in their aftermath. Banning them might not end the dust, but should reduce the noise.

A gas-powered leaf blower ban is a step in the right direction, but I’d also like to see a reprieve from these annoyances on Sunday – at least. How about curtailing the hours of use to 10 – 3 Monday through Saturday? Surely five hours a day, six days a week is enough.

Thank you.

Susan McWilliams
37-year resident