

Reducing emissions from small gas-powered equipment



Developing a regional strategy to transition from small gas-powered equipment to emission-free alternatives

Small gas-powered equipment (such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and pressure washers) plays a vital role in regional industries and maintaining public spaces. This equipment releases a significant amount of emissions – including fine particles and nitrogen oxides – which are harmful when inhaled.

Emission-free equipment (typically electric) is growing in popularity, availability, and performance. Metro Vancouver is developing a regional strategy to accelerate the transition from small gas-powered equipment to emission-free alternatives to protect air quality and community health.

Accelerating the transition to emission-free equipment

There is a range of actions that can accelerate the transition from small gas-powered equipment to emission-free alternatives, such as:

- **Promoting cleaner technologies:** Encouraging the adoption of emission-free equipment through education campaigns.
- **Supporting best practices:** Providing information on the use and maintenance of emission-free equipment, case studies on fleet transitions, and convening equipment users.
- **Considering policy changes:** Exploring requirements and incentives that support the transition to emission-free options.

Transitioning from small gas-powered equipment to emission-free alternatives is an important step in reducing air pollution and protecting public health. A regional strategy aims to accelerate this transition and protect community health and the environment.

Why go emission-free?

The main drivers for this transition are the measurable environmental and health impacts of using gas-powered equipment.


- **Significant impact:** Small gas-powered equipment produces about half as much health-harming emissions as the nearly 1.5 million cars and pick-up trucks in the region.
- **Air pollution:** Gas-powered equipment releases emissions containing volatile organic compounds (VOC), fine particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen oxides (NOx), as well as carbon monoxide (CO). These contribute to health issues, including respiratory and cardiovascular problems. This equipment also releases carbon dioxide (CO2), a greenhouse gas.
- **Benefits of emission-free alternatives:** Electric equipment produces zero direct emissions, which improves air quality and reduces health risks for the community. Emission-free equipment is typically quieter, and has an added benefit of reducing noise pollution.



Engaging equipment users and others to develop the strategy

Input from small gas-powered equipment users and other interested parties is key to developing an effective strategy with realistic timelines. Metro Vancouver is engaging equipment users, other governments including First Nations, member jurisdictions, health agencies, manufacturers and vendors, and others to listen to perspectives, interests, and ideas for how to effectively transition to emission-free equipment.

To learn more about this initiative and provide input to the strategy:

Take the survey	Email the project team	Visit the project website
	AQBylaw@metrovancover.org	metrovancover.org and search 'small equipment'

Timeline to develop the strategy

Metro Vancouver is taking a staged approach to developing the strategy to ensure it reflects the needs and interests of industry and communities.

2023	2024	2025
Conduct background research and gather information Gather information from equipment users and other audiences. Research impact of small gas powered equipment.	Work to develop a strategy Research availability of emission-free alternatives. Engage with equipment users and other audiences. Start to develop a draft strategy.	Share a proposed strategy, and refine with further input Take a proposed strategy to decision makers for consideration. Continue to work with interested audiences.

Stay informed

Receive project updates and notifications about upcoming engagement events and other opportunities to provide your input. If you would like to be invited to join an industry roundtable, or to contact staff directly about the strategy, email AQBylaw@metrovancover.org or call 604-432-6200.

For info on Metro Vancouver's air quality programs, visit metrovancover.org. Search "Air Quality and Climate Action Services"



Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.