

Ben Burdick & Ashley Counsellor

DCSEU Commercial and Residential Leaf Blower Rebates



DC
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
UTILITY

What is the DC Sustainable Energy Utility?



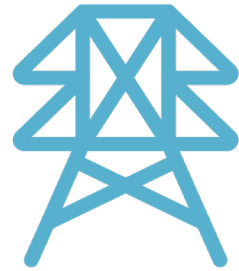
- ▶ Clean & Affordable Energy Act (2008)
- ▶ Ratepayer-funded, privately operated
- ▶ Performance-based contract to DOEE operated by VEIC
- ▶ Reduce energy consumption, emissions; increase renewable generation
- ▶ Focus on equity and local economic development

DCSEU Goals



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Combined
Source
Energy Savings,
MMBtu



Reduce GHG
emissions,
MTCO₂e



Green
Jobs



Local Economic
Development



Low-Income
Spending



Renewables
with EE



Deep Energy
Retrofits



Program Development

- ▶ DCSEU operated by VEIC
 - VEIC has helped develop lawn equipment rebates across multiple jurisdictions
 - New contract period starting October 1, 2021, with GHG emissions reduction benchmark
- ▶ Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act 2018
 - Primary: Noise
 - Secondary: Emissions, Health/Safety
 - Effective January 1, 2022
 - \$500 fines
- ▶ Market Research
 - Gas leaf blower emissions
 - Cost to operate gas vs. electric
 - 35% of lawn care/landscaping contractors are Latino

"The hydrocarbon emissions from a half-hour of yard work with the two-stroke leaf blower are about the same as a 3,900-mile drive from Texas to Alaska in a (Ford) Raptor."
-Edmunds

Turn Over A New Leaf: Commercial & Residential Leaf Blower Rebates

- ▶ Launch: November 2021
- ▶ Commercial
 - Get **\$75 Off** Electric Leaf Blowers
 - For businesses licensed in the District
 - Limit to five products per business, per fiscal year
- ▶ Residential
 - Get **\$50 Off** Electric Leaf Blowers
 - For District Residents
 - Limit one product per utility account per fiscal year

DCSEU.com/ElectricLawnCare





Funding & Impact

- ▶ Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF) funded by a surcharge on ratepayers' electricity & natural gas bills
- ▶ Rebate Funding Goal FY 2022
 - 200 residential
 - 100-150 commercial
- ▶ Impact
 - ~175 MTCO₂e emissions reduced annually

Challenges & Lessons Learned



- Most lawn care businesses not located in the District
- Market/product skepticism
- Upfront costs for businesses (batteries, Backpack systems, system/manufacturer buy-in)



- Proper disposal (removed from circulation)
- Coordinated outreach about the ban and ways to transition



- Stakeholder collaboration (DCRA, DPW, DOEE, DSLBD)



Opportunities to Collaborate

- ▶ Cross-jurisdiction
- ▶ Disposal/exchange events
- ▶ Outreach, education, training opportunities
 - American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA)



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