

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK
PO BOX 35
EDGARTOWN, MA 02539**

April 14, 2025

I hereby certify the following to be a true and exact copy of the vote passed for Article 76 of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 10, 2025.

ARTICLE 76: Moved that the Town will vote to adopt the following new Subsection at the end of Chapter 131 of the Town Code

131-3. Leaf Blowers.

A. Findings and purpose.

Both gas-powered and electric leaf blowers are used extensively throughout Edgartown. Gas-powered leaf blowers generate excessive sound and pose a serious hazard to public health and quality of life. They are a detriment to tourism and impair the overall quality of life of the Town's landscapers, residents, and visitors. Electric leaf blowers are quieter, emit far less objectionable low-frequency noise, and do not present the same level of risk.

B. Permitted Activity.

1. Starting September 15, 2025, gas-powered and electric leaf blowers shall only be used as follows:
 - a. Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, 7 days a week;
 - b. No use by professional landscapers or businesses on Sundays;
 - c. No use permitted on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas;
 - d. No more than two leaf blowers simultaneously on the same property.
2. Starting September 15, 2025, gas-powered leaf blowers shall only be operated from September 15 through December 15 and from March 15 through May 31. Electric-powered leaf blowers may be operated year-round.
3. Starting on May 31, 2028, gas-powered leaf blowers shall not be used at any property in the Town.
4. Starting on May 31, 2028, electric leaf blowers shall continue to be used as set forth in Section B.1 above, provided that the manufacturer's decibel rating is not more than 65 db.

C. Definition. Leaf blower means any device that uses air to move leaves, grass, and other debris.

D. Responsible Parties.

The following parties are responsible for any violation of this bylaw:

1. the party who employs the person operating the leaf blower; and
2. the party who owns the property where the violation occurs.

E. Administration and Enforcement.

1. The Town shall create and maintain an online application form for service providers to affirm their commitment to comply with the provisions of this Section 131-3. A list of service providers who have so affirmed shall be made available to the public on the Town's website.

2. The provisions of Section 131-2 concerning violations and penalties shall be applicable to violations of this Section 131-3. Violations under this bylaw shall be enforced by the Police Department. Such acts shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter. Penalties shall include: 1st offense: \$100.00, 2nd offense: \$200.00, 3rd offense: \$300.00 and any offense thereafter.

F. Exemptions.

The Town shall not be subject to any restrictions in this Section 131-3 to remediate the impacts of a severe weather event or accident.

G. Severability.

In the event that any provision of this Section 131-3 shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Submitted by the Climate Committee and Energy Committee

NEITHER RECOMMENDED NOR NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved and seconded; thereafter discussion, moved and seconded to change from September 15 to October 15 and December 15 to January 15 voted in favor by a standing vote of 230 yes and 1 no. Further discussion on article and voted IN FAVOR AS AMENDED by a standing vote of 197 YES and 42 NO

Attest:

Karen R. Medeiros
Town Clerk