

# Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program Guidance Document

Updated April 27, 2026



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## Introduction

The Office of Energy Resources (OER) is incentivizing Rhode Island businesses, nonprofits and public entities to transition to electric leaf blower equipment statewide.

The electric leaf blower rebate program aims to encourage the use electric leaf blowers to service Rhode Islanders across the state. By offering rebates tailored to electric leaf blower equipment, the program seeks to boost the adoption of electric equipment, reduce air pollutants from the landscaping sector, and align with the [Act on Climate](#). The General Assembly appropriated \$250,000 of general revenue funds to OER to implement and administer this program.

OER is the lead state agency for energy policy and programs with a mission to lead the state toward a clean, affordable, reliable, and equitable energy future. OER develops policies and programs that respond to the state's evolving energy needs while advancing environmental sustainability, energy security, and a vibrant clean energy economy. OER is committed to working with public- and private-sector stakeholders to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to cost-effective, resilient, and sustainable energy solutions.

Incentivizing the adoption of electric leaf blowers plays a vital role in Rhode Island's efforts to combat climate change and meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets outlined in the [2021 Act on Climate](#). Traditional 2-stroke gas and diesel engines typically found in leaf blowers are known to be very inefficient and emit a large variety of air pollutants. These pollutants include nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, unburnt hydrocarbons, and other pollutants. Studies have found that operating a gas-powered commercial leaf blower for one hour emits the same amount of smog-producing pollutants as driving a new light-duty passenger car about 1100 miles – that's the same distance as driving from Providence to St. Louis, Missouri, a 17-hour ride<sup>1</sup>.

The electric leaf blower rebate offers numerous benefits for businesses, residents, and the environment alike. These benefits include:

- **Cost Savings:** Eligible applicants can receive \$1,500.00 or 75% (whichever is less) of the cost of an electric leaf blower and related batteries. Additionally, eligible applicants located in municipalities with the highest asthma rates can receive an additional \$250.00.
- **Noise Pollution:** Electric leaf blowers are quieter than traditional combustion engine leaf blowers, and therefore create less noise pollution.
- **Health Impact:** Switching to electric leaf blowers helps reduce air pollutants that can lead to numerous adverse health effects like asthma, cardiovascular diseases, and other respiratory diseases.
- **Environmental Impact:** Traditional leaf blowers emit a large variety of air pollutants including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and unburnt hydrocarbons that contribute to climate change and smog.

This rebate program is funded with a limited \$250,000 allocation. Funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and rebates are not guaranteed. To maximize your chance of receiving a rebate, it is *critical to submit your application and all required documentation **immediately after purchasing eligible equipment.***

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/fact-sheets/sore-small-engine-fact-sheet>

### **Key Dates and Requirements:**

- **Eligible Purchases:** Only purchases made on or after the program guidance updated date of April 27, 2026, qualify for rebates.
- **Application Deadline:** The online application portal will close at 11:59 PM on June 16, 2026. All applications and required documentation must be submitted by this date to be eligible for reimbursement—*no exceptions will be made.*

**Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to act promptly to secure funding, as this program operates on a limited budget.**

OER will provide updates on available funding throughout the program period; however, OER is *not responsible* if applications cannot be processed before the program’s deadline of June 16, 2026, if funds are exhausted prior to that date. We strongly encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible to improve their chances of securing a rebate while funds remain available.

For detailed information on incentives, eligibility criteria, and application instructions, please refer to this Program Guidance Document. This document may be updated periodically to clarify program requirements and improve effectiveness. Updates will be posted on the program website at [electrifylawns.ri.gov](http://electrifylawns.ri.gov).

## Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible to receive a rebate under the Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program:

- ***Residents are not eligible for this program.***

### **Businesses**

- Registered and in good standing with the Rhode Island Secretary of State. Applicants must provide their RI Secretary of State Business Registration number.
- If not registered with the Rhode Island Secretary of State, the business must be operating as one of the following: Sole Proprietorship, Partnership (LP or LLP), C Corporation, S Corporation, B Corporation, Cooperative, or Limited Liability Company (LLC).
- Applicants must provide one of the following as proof of business operation:
  - IRS Schedule C (Form 1040)
  - IRS Form 1065
  - IRS Form 990
  - IRS Determination Letter

### **Government Entities**

- Rhode Island government entities are eligible, including but not limited to:
  1. Fire districts
  2. Municipalities
  3. Public schools and school districts

4. State agencies
5. Federally recognized Tribal governments
6. Other similar public entities

### **Nonprofits**

- Must be registered as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations

## **Equipment Eligibility**

To qualify for a rebate under the Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program, applicants must purchase leaf blowers that meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Electric, battery-powered handheld or backpack leaf blower.
2. Additional batteries purchased for the intended use of powering the leaf blower are eligible to count towards total costs.
  - Limit of two (2) batteries per leaf blower.
  - Proof of battery purchase must be submitted within the initial application and cannot be submitted additionally at a later date.
3. Leaf blowers and batteries must be **purchased new** from a physical retail store located in RI, either online or in-person. *Leaf blowers purchased from private sellers are not eligible.*
  - Online purchases will be considered valid only if made directly through the website of a retail store with a physical location in Rhode Island.

*Lawn mowers, string trimmers, and any other landscape equipment or accessories that are not leaf blowers are **not eligible** for rebates.*

Leaf blowers must be purchased on or after the program guidance was last updated as of April 27, 2026, qualify for rebates. *Rebates are not retroactive to past purchases.*

## **Rebate Amounts**

The rebate amounts for the electric leaf blower rebate program are based on percentages of eligible costs, up to a maximum amount. Please note that the electric leaf blower rebate program will award the recipient whichever amount is less. *Applicants must contribute at least 10% of total cost of equipment.*

### **Standard Rebate:**

**Save \$1,500.00 or 75% (whichever is less)** of the purchase price of an electric leaf blower and two (2) additional related batteries. Each leaf blower rebate is limited to two (2) related batteries, in addition to any batteries that come with the blower.

Applicants may receive a maximum of five (5) rebates over the lifetime of the program. This limit applies per entity, regardless of the number of qualifying purchases made. Any rebates previously received under this program count toward this total. For example, applicants who have already received two (2) rebates may apply for up to three (3) additional rebates.

### **High Asthma Rate Increased Rebate:**

**Save up to an additional \$250.00** of the purchase price of an electric leaf blower and related batteries. Limited to qualified businesses that are located in the following municipalities with the highest rates of asthma-related emergency department visits<sup>2</sup>:

1. Central Falls
2. Pawtucket
3. Providence
4. Westerly
5. Woonsocket

### Required Documents:

Applicants must submit all the applicable documents below with their rebate application to be eligible to receive a rebate from the electric leaf blower rebate program.

- Valid Driver's License, or State Issued ID.
- If registered with the Secretary of State, proof of business registration through the Rhode Island Secretary of State.
- If the business is not registered with the Rhode Island Secretary of State, applicants must provide one of the following documents as proof of business operation:
  - IRS Schedule C (Form 1040)
  - IRS Form 1065
  - IRS Form 990
  - IRS Determination Letter
- Businesses, nonprofits, and public entities that are not professional landscaping businesses **must** provide a letter explaining how leaf blowers are used in their operations. Additional proof may be requested.
- Electric leaf blower sales receipt that includes the purchase date and purchase price.
  - Provide sales receipt that includes the purchase date and purchase price for **all** related batteries, if applicable.
- Copy of the manufacturers or retail store document (or specification sheet) that includes the electric leaf blower's serial number, manufacturer, and model.
- A completed and signed W-9 Form.

***Items can be uploaded as photos, screenshots, or PDFs.***

### Application Process

The Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program uses an online application portal. Here's what to expect when applying:

- 1. Review program & confirm eligibility**
  - Review program requirements including applicant and equipment eligibility requirements.
  - It is the applicant's responsibility to review eligibility prior to purchasing equipment.
- 2. Purchase equipment & prepare documents**
  - Gather proof of age, proof of business, nonprofit, or public entity forms (or IRS forms),

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<sup>2</sup> Municipalities with the highest asthma rates in the state are determined by RIDOH data on Rhode Island Cities/Towns by Rate of asthma-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2022.

- purchase receipt, and equipment details.
  - Draft letter detailing how leaf blowers are used in your operations if you are a business, nonprofit, or public entities that is not a professional landscaping business.
  - Scan or take photos of required documentation so it is ready to upload into your application.
- 3. Start online application**
- Provide applicant information including business, nonprofit, or public entity name, address, and contact information.
  - Be prepared to upload a copy of the applicant's license, and the business, nonprofit, or public entities required tax or related documents at the end of the application.
- 4. Provide purchase details**
- Enter the serial number, manufacturer, model, purchase date, and purchase price of your leaf blower(s) and related batteries.
  - Be prepared to upload a copy of the sales receipt at the end of the application.
- 5. Make program pledges**
- Maintain ownership and operation of the equipment for at least three years.
  - Use the equipment in Rhode Island for commercial purposes.
  - Cover any costs beyond the rebate amount.
- 6. Review and submit**
- Check that all information is accurate.
  - Submit the application electronically through the portal.
- 7. After submission**
- OER may contact you by email for additional information.
  - If approved, you will receive a rebate check within 4–6 weeks of final approval (processing times may vary).
  - Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

## Terms and Conditions

As a condition for receiving a leaf blower rebate, you (the applicant/purchaser) must comply with the requirements below. Eligible applicants must meet requirements that include the following:

### **Rebate Specifics:**

- **Standard Rebate:** \$1,500.00 or 75% (whichever is less) of the purchase price of an electric leaf blower and 2 additional related batteries.
- **High Asthma Rate Increased Rebate:** Save an additional \$250.00 of the purchase price of an electric leaf blower and related batteries.
- To qualify for the high asthma rate increased rebate qualified businesses must be located in these municipalities with the highest rates of asthma-related emergency department visits<sup>3</sup>:
  1. Central Falls
  2. Pawtucket
  3. Providence
  4. Westerly
  5. Woonsocket

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<sup>3</sup> Municipalities with the highest asthma rates in the state are determined by RIDOH data on Rhode Island Cities/Towns by Rate of asthma-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2022.

- Each leaf blower rebate is limited to two (2) related batteries, in addition to any batteries that come with the blower.
- Applicants are limited to five (5) rebates total over the lifetime of the program. ‘Applicant’ refers to a single business entity, defined by entity name, address, ownership, and tax identification number (e.g., TIN). Multiple submissions from the same entity using different contact information or TINs will not be considered separate applicants unless they represent two legally distinct entities.
- Only purchases made on or after the program guidance updated date of April 27, 2026, qualify for rebates.
- The online application portal will close at **11:59 PM on June 16, 2026**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be eligible for a rebate—**no exceptions. Applicants are *strongly encouraged to act promptly to secure funding, as this program operates on a limited budget and is expected to reach capacity quickly.***
- Applicants must maintain ownership and operation of the electric leaf blower for at least 3 years after purchase.
- Applicants must contribute at least 10% of total cost of equipment.

#### **Applicant Requirements:**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible to receive a rebate under the Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program.

- Applicants must meet the applicant eligibility outlined above.
- Applicants must commit to using the equipment for which they receive a rebate primarily within Rhode Island for commercial purposes.
- Applicants must provide all required documentation found in the “Required Documents” section above, including sales receipts, proof of age, and any additional documentation requested by the program administrators.

#### **Equipment Requirements:**

- Equipment must meet the equipment eligibility outlined above.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Applicants must purchase an eligible electric leaf blower **before** applying for the electric leaf blower rebate program.
- Rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, pending available funds.
  - *This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must cover expenses upfront and provide proof of payment for reimbursement.*
- Only purchases made on or after the program guidance updated date of April 27, 2026, qualify for rebates.
- **Applicants are *strongly encouraged to act promptly to secure funding, as this program operates on a limited budget.***
- OER will provide updates on available funding throughout the program period; however, OER is *not responsible* if applications cannot be processed before the program’s deadline of June 16, 2026, if funds are exhausted prior to that date. We strongly encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible to improve their chances of securing a rebate while funds remain available.
- Applicants are responsible for checking all leaf blower related emails and program website

for status updates and requests for additional information or documents required to complete the application.

- Applicants independently select and purchase their equipment and assume all liability.
- Applicants will receive follow-up surveys six (6) and twelve (12) months after receiving their rebate to share feedback on their experience with the new equipment.
- Residents are **not eligible** for rebates under this program.
- Lawn mowers, string trimmers, and any other landscape equipment or accessories that are not leaf blowers are **not eligible** for rebates.
- Learn how to dispose gas-powered leaf blowers at <https://atoz.rirrc.org/items/leaf-blowers>.

**The OER is not liable for any damages or costs associated with the purchase, maintenance, or use of the electric leaf blowers or related batteries. The OER reserves the right to modify or terminate this rebate program at any time. Funding is limited.**