



EQUITABLE GAS LEAF BLOWER PHASE-OUT

Portland City Council
March 6, 2024

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THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**



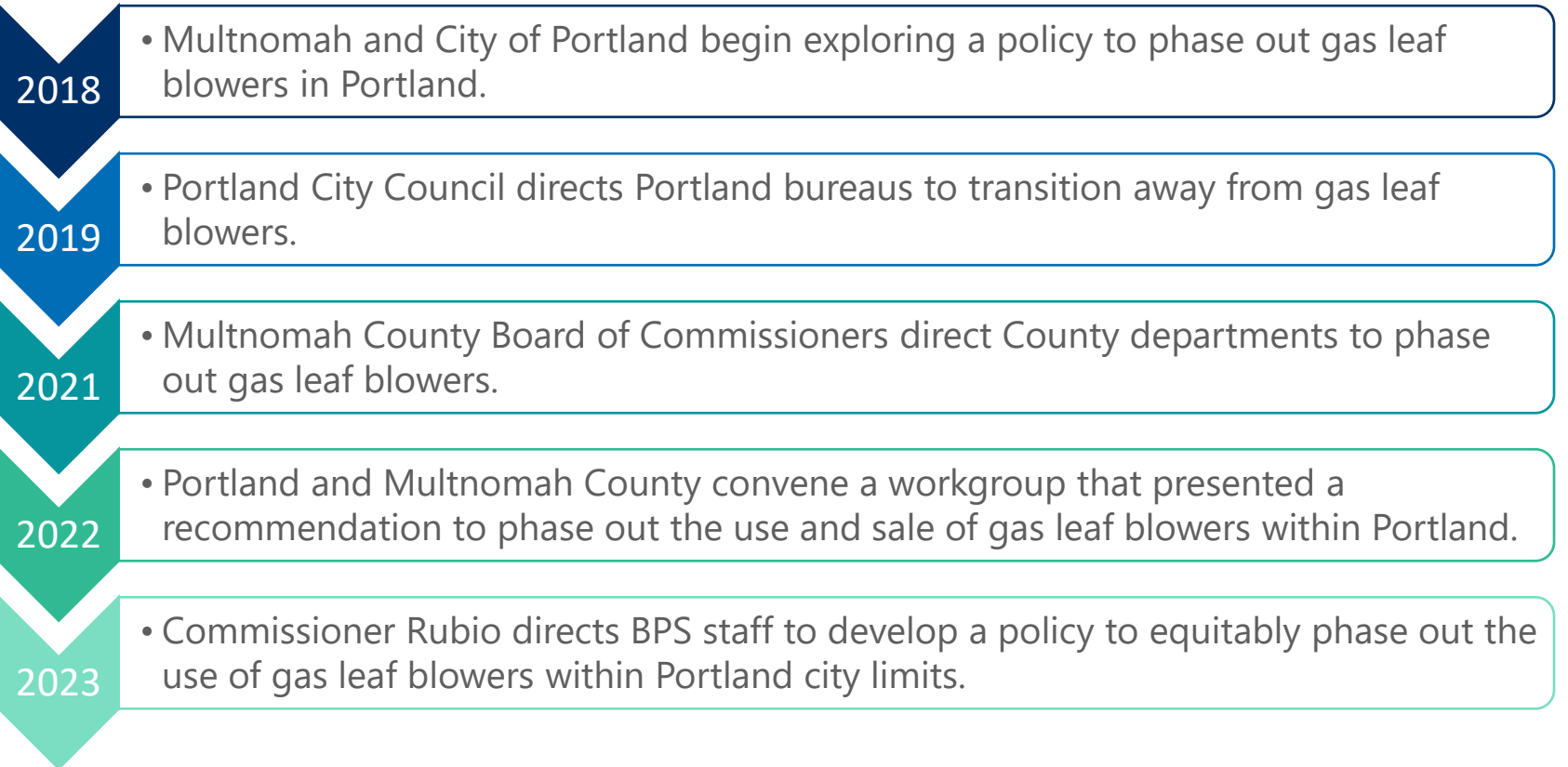
Agenda

- Background
- Policy Key Points
- Multnomah County's Role
- Public Comment Summary
- Next Steps
- Q&A
- Invited Testimony



Background

Goal: Improve public health and quality of life in Portland for residents and landscape workers.



Ask: Phase out the use of gasoline leaf blowers to reduce public health impacts.



Engagement Overview

- Nonprofit organizations/advocates
- Landscaping industry
- Large property owners
- Other public sector



Policy Key Points

 **January 1, 2026:** gas leaf blowers prohibited January-September

 **January 1, 2028:** gas leaf blowers prohibited year round

 Exceptions allowed for inclement weather, as determined:

- Citywide by BPS Director
- For Parks facilities by Parks Bureau Director
- At individual properties by Code Enforcement Officer



Policy Key Points (continued)



Violations apply only to property owners, not contractors or property managers



Owners may apply for extension to upgrade electrical upgrades



BPS will recommend any code amendments by September 30, 2028



Implementation managed by Multnomah County



Multnomah County's Role

- Partner in policy development, stakeholder engagement, and implementation planning
- Intergovernmental agreement

Enforcement

- First violation will receive a warning; second, third, fourth, and subsequent violations may receive penalties of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 respectively

Incentives

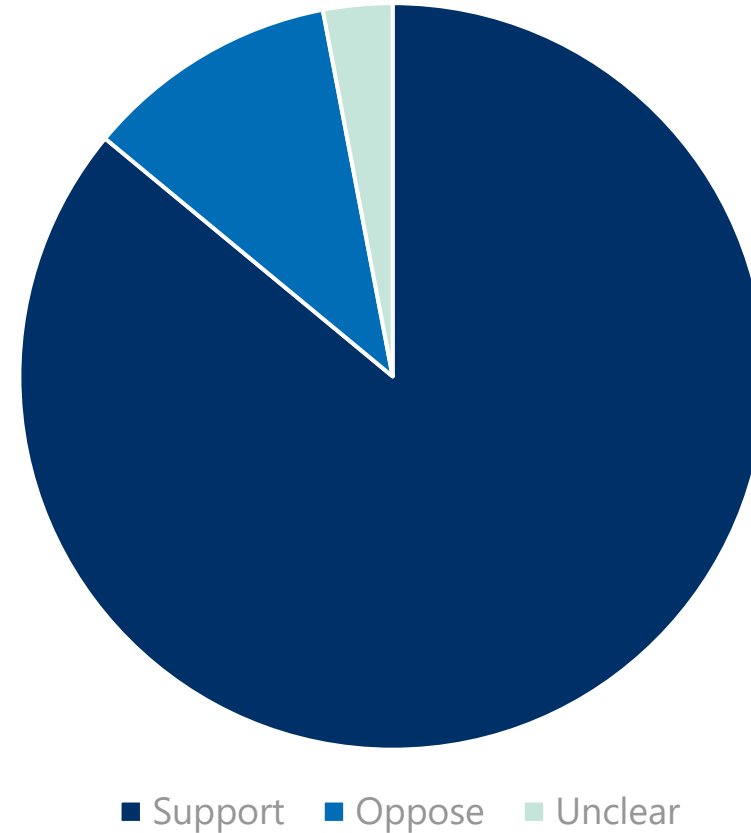
- Eligible businesses will receive a rebate for replacement electric equipment

Outreach and education

- Public information, social media, and in-person demo events will begin by July 2024

Public Comment Summary

- 786 comments submitted
 - 86% support
 - 11% oppose
 - 3% unclear





Public Comment – Supportive

- Start phase-out earlier (42%)
- Start full ban earlier (32%)
- Shorten or eliminate wet leaf season (26%)
- Strengthen enforcement (24%)





Photo courtesy of City of Lake Oswego

Public Comment – Opposed

- Too expensive (8%)
- Need more time (4%)
- Environmental concerns – battery mining, disposal, electricity use (2%)
- Safety and equity (<1%)



Next Steps



March 6, 2024

City Council
Hearing



July 1, 2024

Multnomah
County begins
implementation



Jan. 1, 2026

Partial-year ban
goes into effect



Jan. 1, 2028

Full-year ban
goes into effect



Sept. 30, 2028

Deadline for
BPS to
recommend
code
amendments



Questions

Multnomah County Remarks

John Wasiutynski

Director, Office of Sustainability

Invited Testimony

- Michael Hall, Quiet Clean PDX
- Mauricio Flores, Oregon Landscape Contractors Association
- Michael Harrison, Oregon Health and Science University



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