

A HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENTS in Leaf Blower and Sustainable Landscaping initiatives in Princeton

Prepared by Quiet Princeton April 2021

1997, June Princeton Township votes 3-2 against a GLB ordinance. Town Topics' report on this: <http://quietprinceton.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Princeton-votes-against-LB-Ordinance.pdf>

2012 Sustainable Princeton (SP) founded

2016, Jan Quiet Princeton (QP) established by a group of concerned citizens to address the problems of gas leaf blowers (GLB's)

2016, May QP makes presentation on the multiple issues of GLB's to Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC)

2016 QP contacts 44 landscapers who work in Princeton to invite them to join the Quiet Landscapers (QL) program, not using leaf blowers when so asked

2017, April QP launches its website and includes a list of landscapers in the QL program

2017, Dec QP contacts Princeton University Office of Sustainability but the staff would not talk or meet with QP. "At this time we are not ready to have meetings regarding our next sustainability plan."

2018, Feb QP invites Dr Jamie Banks of Quiet Communities (QC) to Princeton to meet SP and to discuss pollution and noise issues, electric equipment demonstrations, ordinances, etc.

2018 ff Electric lawn mowers and blowers are increasingly available, both for commercial and homeowner use

2019 SP develops a Climate Action Plan for Princeton. QP proposes that lawn maintenance equipment be included. SP decides to do so.

2019, May SP presents Greenfest, an outdoor event, including booths for sustainable landscaping by various groups, including QP and others.

2020 March The Covid-19 pandemic begins

2020, May QC issues its report "COVID-19 and Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers: A Lethal Combination" <http://quietprinceton.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/COVID-19-and-GLB-Report.pdf>

2020, June QP presents the QC report to the Princeton Board of Health and then to the PEC

2020, July Princeton Board of Health and PEC co-sign a letter to local media advising curtailment of GLB's due to the Covid health issue <http://quietprinceton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TT-letter-Board-of-Ed-PEC-Town-Topics.pdf>

2020, July Mayor Lempert of Princeton and SP both issue statements advising curtailment of GLB's due to the Covid health issue <http://quietprinceton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Mayors-Letter-.pdf>

2020, Oct Mayor-elect Freda of Princeton speaks on the need to take action on GLB's at a Princeton Community Democratic Organization meeting

2020, Dec 376 residents of the town signed a petition calling for Princeton to make a GLB ordinance a 2021 priority. It was presented to Princeton Council by Eunice Wong.
 There was a corresponding surge in letters to local media on the topic.

2020, Dec SP obtains a grant of \$55,000 to work with landscapers and the community to adopt healthy landscaping practices. The project is later named "Changing the Landscape: Healthy Yards = Healthy People / Cambiando el Paisaje: Jardines Sanos = Gente Sana"
 SP forms a Steering Committee with membership from key groups to oversee work on the grant

2021, Jan QP sends to PEC a "Skeleton" outline of components that are key features for an ordinance regulating GLB's <http://quietprinceton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/QP-Ordinance-Skeleton-rev-1-2021.pdf>

2021, Jan SP presents a webinar on the Transition to Sustainable Landscaping, with presentations by SP, PEC, QP, and AGZA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2gcr6xt_F8

2021 Both PEC and Princeton Council include "Sustainable Landscaping" as a priority for 2021, including work with landscapers and the community, and ordinance development

2021 PEC and its Princeton Council liaison initiate background work for preparation of an ordinance, and work with CAPERS

2021 SP obtains a \$10,000 grant to provide training workshops on battery-electric lawn maintenance equipment for the Princeton Public Works Dept, the Princeton Recreation Dept, and the Princeton School District

2021, April SP presents an Expo on Sustainable Landscaping, including demonstrations of electric landscaping equipment