

TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENTS in Leaf Blower and Sustainable Landscaping Initiatives in Princeton

Almost 25 years of developments, leading up to the 2021 leaf blower ordinance
Prepared by Quiet Princeton October 2021

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

2012 **Sustainable Princeton** (sustainableprinceton.org) (**SP**) founded

2016, Jan **Quiet Princeton** (quietprinceton.org) (**QP**) established by a group of concerned citizens to address the problems of GLB's. Anthony Lunn and Phyllis Teitelbaum are co-founders.

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

2016 QP contacts 44 landscapers who work in Princeton to invite them to join the **Quiet Landscapers (QL)** program, which entails agreeing not to use leaf blowers when a customer requests this.

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

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

2018, Feb QP invites Dr Jamie Banks of **Quiet Communities** (quietcommunities.org) (**QC**) to Princeton to meet Christine Symington of SP and to discuss pollution and noise issues, electric equipment demonstrations, a training workshop, ordinances, etc.

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

2019, May SP presents Greenfest, an outdoor event, with exhibits about sustainable landscaping by various groups, including QP.

2020 March The Covid-19 pandemic begins. Princeton residents begin working at home. Princeton children begin having school on-line at home. People notice GLB noise and emissions more than before.

- 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 to the PEC.
- 2020, July Princeton Board of Health and PEC co-sign a letter to local media advising curtailment of GLB use 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 use 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 Princeton sign a petition calling for Princeton to make a GLB ordinance a priority in 2021. The petition is presented to Princeton Council by QP leader Eunice Wong.
- 2020, Dec There is a surge in letters to local media about the harms of GLB's.
- 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"
- 2021, Jan 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 should be key features in 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 the [American Green Zone Alliance \(agza.net\) \(AGZA\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2gcr6xt_F8) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2gcr6xt_F8
- 2021, Jan Both PEC and Princeton Council include "Sustainable Landscaping" as a priority for 2021. Sustainable Landscaping includes work with landscapers and the community, and ordinance development.

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, Feb-June SP holds a series of meetings with landscapers, seeking their input on changes to permitted use of GLB's. SP obtains the landscapers' suggestions for restrictions on GLB's that they "can live with".

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

2021, May PEC votes to propose an ordinance to Princeton Council that would restrict use of GLB's. The proposed ordinance incorporates the landscapers' suggestions.

2021, June PEC presents its proposed ordinance to Council. SP, QP, and Unidad Latina en Action make presentations to Council about sustainable landscaping, GLB's, and social justice.

2021, July Princeton Council member Eve Niedergang holds a Public Meeting for the community. The proposed ordinance is presented, the public's comments are solicited, and questions from the public are answered.

2021, Aug SP presents an all-day training workshop by QC and AGZA. Landscapers from private landscaping companies, the Princeton Public Works Dept, the Princeton Recreation Dept, and the Princeton School District attend.

2021, Sept Princeton Council member Eve Niedergang leads the development and drafting of a revised noise ordinance/leaf blower ordinance that would ban use of GLB's in summer and winter. It includes provisions for landscaper registration and for other gas-powered and electric-powered lawn maintenance equipment.

2021, Oct 11 Princeton Council votes unanimously to introduce the revised noise ordinance/leaf blower ordinance.

2021, Oct 25 Molly Jones of SP announces the launch of a Transition Fund to assist small and medium-sized Princeton landscapers with the cost of purchasing electric leaf blowers. QP announces that it will match up to \$2,500 of donations by QP supporters to the Transition Fund.

2021, Oct 25 Princeton Council votes unanimously to approve the revised noise ordinance/leaf blower ordinance.

2021, Oct 26 The hours limitations in the leaf blower ordinance go into effect.

2022, Jan 1 The date restrictions in the leaf blower ordinance go into effect.