

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AMENDING SANTA CRUZ
MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6.110, SECTION 6.110.070, "PROHIBITION OF GAS-
POWERED LEAF BLOWERS"

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Santa Cruz as follows:

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2022 the City Council adopted the City's Climate Action Plan 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Action Plan 2030 commits the City to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Action Plan 2030 specifically identifies passing a ban on gas-powered small off-road engines, which includes gas-powered leaf blowers, by 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Action Plan 2030, commits the City to exploring and mitigating equity impacts of electrifying and upgrading off-road equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District's (MBARD) Landscape Equipment Exchange Program (LEEP) provides financial assistance in the form of rebates to residents and businesses in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties to replace gasoline-powered landscaping equipment with new zero-emission electric alternatives; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the financial costs associated with switching to electric leaf blowers, the City worked with MBARD to confirm the availability of LEEP rebates for City of Santa Cruz residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2024, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2024-10, establishing a citywide ban on gas-powered leaf blowers with an effective date of January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, recent guidance from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) prohibits the availability of LEEP rebates for residents in cities with enacted bans on gas-powered leaf blowers, restricting access to LEEP rebates for City of Santa Cruz residents beginning on the ordinance effective date of January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the Health in All Policies City Council Committee reviewed the potential impacts of CARB's recent guidance, and recommended postponing the ordinance's effective date to July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, postponing the ordinance effective date to July 1, 2025 will allow the City to conduct additional research on residents' use of gas-powered leaf blowers and their potential need for financial assistance to switch to electric leaf blowers; and

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WHEREAS, postponing the ordinance effective date to July 1, 2025 will provide City of Santa Cruz residents an additional six months to access LEEP rebates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Santa Cruz as follows:

(NOTE: All other portions of this section not included remain in force, unchanged)

Section 1. That Santa Cruz Municipal Code Section 6.110.070, Effective Date, of Chapter 6.110 is amended as follows:

6.110.070 Effective Date

The prohibitions of this chapter shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION this 19th day of November 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Newsome, Brown, Watkins, Brunner, Kalantari-Johnson;
Vice Mayor Golder; Mayor Keeley.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

DISQUALIFIED: None.

APPROVED: _____

Fred Keeley, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Bonnie Bush, City Clerk Administrator

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PASSED FOR FINAL ADOPTION this 10th day of December 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Newsome, Brown, Brunner, Kalantari-Johnson; Vice Mayor Golder; Mayor Keeley.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Watkins.

DISQUALIFIED: None.

APPROVED:


Fred Keeley, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bonnie Bush, City Clerk Administrator

This is to certify that the above and foregoing document is the original of Ordinance No. 2024-20 and that it has been published or posted in accordance with the Charter of the City of Santa Cruz.


Bonnie Bush, City Clerk Administrator