

My name is George Voutes. I am a Barrington resident and would like to make the following resolution proposal:

- Allocate \$25,000 for Barrington residents who purchase battery or electric (corded) powered leaf blowers or string trimmers. These two equipment types are often cited as the most disruptive lawn and landscaping machines on our Barrington community quality of life, due to their archaic 2-stroke gasoline engine design.
- Barrington residents would receive a rebate from the Town of up to \$250 (one rebate per household) with proof of purchase of a new battery or electric (corded) powered leaf blower or string trimmer.
- The allocation of rebates would be on a first come first served basis. Meaning, once the \$25,000 budget has been allocated to Barrington residents meeting the qualified requirements; the program would end.

The rationale behind this proposal is the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Incentivize Barrington residents to transition over to battery or electric (corded) powered leaf blowers and string trimmers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Build momentum in the town to accelerate the transition away from loud and highly polluting gas-powered 2-stroke engine landscaping equipment - and over to quieter / cleaner / healthier machines.

3<sup>rd</sup> Evaluate the program for consideration of future initiatives that reduce the impact of gas-powered lawn and landscaping equipment on Barrington residents, workers, animals, and the natural world.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Philip Hervey

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**From:** Jeffrey Poland <jeffrey\_poland@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** Philip Hervey  
**Subject:** EV Lawn Equipment Rebate (Similar Programs)

Good afternoon, Phil.

Debra mentioned earlier today that you were interested in the logistics of administering the EV lawn equipment rebate as referenced by other jurisdictions with similar scopes/ projects. I researched three government programs that use rebate incentives as a way to influence residential market behavior: *the RI state e-bike rebate*, the *electric lawn mower rebate offered in Concord, MA*, and the *Electrify Everything! Program administered by South Portland, ME*. All three programs use the same or similar administrative eligibility requirements for residential rebates.

Below is a brief description of each program:

### RI e-Bike Program

#### Eligibility:

- **Who?** RI Residents (at least 18 years or older)
- **How?** Online or In-store purchase of eligible e-bikes
- **Where?** Must be purchased from *businesses located within RI* (small business, or large retailer)
- **When?** Purchase date must be *on or after program launch* (*rebates do not qualify for retroactive purchases*) AND applicants must apply for rebate within 180 days/ 6 months of e-bike purchase date
- **How much?** Standard Rebate: \$400 per rebate (2) per household; \$1000 per rebate (2) per household for Income-Qualified Rebates \*\*\* ***rebates apply only to purchase price, which does not include RI taxes, or shipping fees to the retail store*** \*\*\*

#### Application Process:

- Purchase e-bike **before** applying for rebate
- Apply for rebate *within 180 days of date listed on sales receipt* and prior to expenditure of fund
- Include photo/ scan of sales receipt
- Provide proof of age and RI residency
- Provide *e-bike serial number, make, and model*
- **MUST** pledge to maintain ownership and operation of e-bike for at least one year after purchase, barring physical limitations
- Applicants will be notified of their application status by email
- If approved, OER will award single payment by check within 4-6 weeks from the date of final approval
- \*\*\* *Income-Qualified requires enrollment in one of the following programs: WAP, LIHEAP, SNAP, RI Works, SSP, Medicaid/ Medicare, Sec. 8.* \*\*\*
- Rebate recipients independently select and purchase their own devices and assume all liability

#### Required Documentation:

- Rebate Application
- RI Driver's License, or RI State Issued ID
- Sales receipt **must include:** *purchase date, purchase price, proof that RI sales tax was applied during the transaction*
- Copy of the manufacturers or retail store document that includes: **serial number, make, and model**
- Copy of **W9 Form**
- For Income-Qualified Applications: all documents listed above, AND copy of State or Federal Low-Income program participation document OR complete self-attestation form of income

*Applications are submitted through an online portal and are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. All required items can be uploaded as photos, saved screenshots, or PDFs*

<https://drive.ri.gov/erika-niedowski-memorial-electric-bicycle-rebate-program>

### **Electric Lawn Mower Rebate — Concord, MA**

#### Eligibility:

- **Who?** Concord residents
- **How?** Purchase of *new* EV equipment AND *trade-in of gas powered equipment* with municipal facilities
- **Where?** Must be purchased for *residential* use in Concord
- **When?** Purchase date must be *on or after program launch* (*rebates do not qualify for retroactive purchases*) AND applicants must *apply for rebate within 90 days/ 3 months of purchase date*
- **How much?** \$100 rebate per household, distributed as electric bill credit

#### Application Process:

- Residents must purchase **new** lawn equipment before applying for rebate
- Apply for rebate *within 90 days of purchase*
- Include photo/ scan of sales receipt
- Residents **must** *trade-in gas-powered equipment with municipal facilities*
  - Equipment **must** *be emptied of fuel, oil, and anti-freeze beforehand*
  - Trade-in **must** *be scheduled with municipality beforehand*
  - Residents **must** fill out, print, and sign "Trade-In Form" to bring to scheduled appointment
  - *Trade-In Form* **must** be approved
  - Approved Trade-In Form must be included with online rebate application
- PDF soft copies of receipts and Trade-In Form included with online rebate application via online process thru municipal website
  - *Paperwork can be brought to municipality for staff to scan*

#### Required Documentation:

- Sales receipt or invoice, including: *date of purchase, purchase amount*
- *Signed* Trade-In Form

<https://concordma.gov/3123/Electric-Lawn-Mowers>

### Electrify Everything! Rebate Program — South Portland, ME

#### Eligibility:

- **Who?** South Portland residents with a household income up to 100% of Area Median Income
- **How?** Purchase of new EV lawn equipment
- **Where?** Must be purchased for residential use in South Portland
- **When?** Purchase date must be *on or after program launch*
- **How much?** \$50-300, depending on the type of equipment

#### Application Process:

- Purchase **new** lawn equipment
- Fill out application
- Provide sales receipt, *including purchase date and price*
- Fill out **W9 Form** online or in person
- Bring application and all required documentation to municipality to submit application
- Applicant will hear back from municipality within 2 weeks about status of application/ rebate

#### Required Documentation:

- Rebate Application
- W-9 Proof of Efficiency Maine rebates
- Receipts, including purchase date and price
- Photo ID
- Proof of residency

<https://www.southportland.org/departments/sustainability-office/buildings-energy/electrify/>

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Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to be of assistance!

All the best,

**Jeffrey Poland**

*2023 URI Energy Fellow*

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