

## Report to Civic Works Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Civic Works Committee

**From:** Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC  
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

**Subject:** Update and Next Steps for Gasoline Powered Lawn and Garden Equipment

**Date:** May 22, 2024

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to gasoline-powered landscaping equipment:

- a) The following report **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes;
- b) Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to design and implement an awareness campaign for households and lawncare service providers that focuses on better lawn and garden practices to help the environment and take climate action for implementation in February to April 2025; and
- c) Civic Administration **BE APPROVED** to pursue a multi-municipality project to complete the remaining work in London on emerging best practices, applicable legislation and jurisdiction, costs and benefits, potential incentive programs, and other factors regarding gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment, including a funding submission to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund.

## Executive Summary

The Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was approved in April 2022. CEAP contains two actions with respect to gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment (focused on households and landscaping companies) and larger properties such as those administered by the City (parks, roadsides, facility grounds, Agency, Boards and Commissions, etc.).

In 2023, verbal updates were provided at Civic Works Committee with respect to progress including the anticipation of further updates in late 2023 or early 2024. With respect to City of London operations, only preliminary activities have occurred at this time such as a review of equipment inventory, general needs for works yards, and mobile units to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

### Update

There is limited technical information available on the contribution of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment to greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario or Canada.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) report, *National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment* (2015), has some pertinent details. If it is assumed the emissions per person is the same in London as the US, it is estimated that this works out to about one per cent of London's per capita greenhouse gas emissions. The amount associated with gasoline-powered leaf blowers would be a small portion of this amount.

During City staff jurisdictional review of Canadian municipalities, it became clear that limited information is available on reducing, restricting, or phasing out fossil fuel consuming lawn and garden equipment in the residential marketplace. Details outside of Ontario are also limited with only some operational experience. Very little information is available on costs, compliance, and enforcement. Some municipalities have chosen to focus on internal operations as a better environmental and climate change investment.

Limited information is available at this time for internal operations. Recent updates are provided for Mississauga, Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario; Montreal (several boroughs), Quebec; and Oak Bay and Vancouver, British Columbia.

City of London staff approached the Clean Air Partnership (CAP) about creating a multi-municipality working group to address many of the uncertainties including development of education and outreach materials for residents and establishing pathways to work with the landscape industry to make the necessary adjustments towards reducing the use of fossil fuel in this sector. At time of writing, Hamilton, Oakville and Ottawa are interested in working with London. Landscape Ontario has also expressed interest in working with the City of London on an education and outreach campaign for both residents as well as landscaping contractors.

CAP has indicated a willingness to prepare an application for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Funds (GMF) to cover 50 per cent of the costs of a project that will benefit the participants and ultimately be made available for other communities in Canada.

### Next Steps

The table below highlights the 5 steps leading to a report to Committee and Council in late spring 2025 including the tentative timing based on an FCM-GMF application.

Steps	Timing (tentative)	Summary of Key Activities
1	June and July 2024	Complete application to FCM-GMF.
2	August 2024 to February 2025	Design an awareness campaign that focuses on better lawn and garden practices to help the environment and take climate action for launch in early 2025.
3	October 2024 to April 2025	Undertake multi-municipality project to complete the remaining work in London.
4	February to April 2025	Launch London multi-phase awareness campaign (as noted in Step 2).
5	December 2024 to November 2025	Undertake internal review of the City's use of fossil fuel landscaping and maintenance equipment for parks, other public property and gardens, including an action plan for the continued electrification of equipment.
6	May to June 2025	Submit report to Committee and Council on the next steps for reducing, restricting, or phasing out fossil fuel consuming lawn and garden equipment.

### Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Municipal Council continues to recognize the need for a more sustainable and resilient city in the development of its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan for the City of London. Specifically, London's efforts in reducing fossil fuel use address the following areas of focus:

- Wellbeing and Safety
- Climate Action and Sustainable Growth

On April 12, 2022, Municipal Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan which includes actions in two areas:

- Area of Focus 2 – Taking Action Now (Household Actions) - Zero Emission Vehicles and Equipment (Timeline: 2022 - 2024)
- Area of Focus 7 – Demonstrating Leadership in Municipal Processes and Collaborations - Revising City of London Fleet Vehicle and Equipment Procurement Plans (Timeline: 2023-2025)

## Analysis

### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Public Submissions Regarding Gasoline-Powered Lawn and Garden Equipment

Between April 2022 and September 2023, the City received written submissions from over 35 individual Londoners detailing concerns over the noise and air pollution generated by gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Most concerns related specifically to the nuisance impacts of the noise from leaf blowers, especially from those Londoners working from home in residential neighbourhoods where lawncare was being undertaken during typical work hours on weekdays. Similar concerns were also raised through community engagement activities and submissions received by staff to inform the creation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan from 2020 through 2022.

#### 1.2 London's Climate Emergency Action Plan

Municipal Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in April 2022. In February 2024, Municipal Council approved budget to move a number of items forward in the CEAP; however many were not approved at that time. The resulting impact is that a number of items will be moving at an adjusted pace and will be subject to ongoing prioritization to both optimize actions that address climate change while addressing financial and human resource constraints. CEAP contains the following actions with respect to gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment and larger properties such as parks and recreation facilities.

Area of Focus 2 – Taking Action Now (Household Actions) and the following action:

3. Zero Emission Vehicles and Equipment (Timeline: 2022 - 2024)
  - b. Review and provide options to reduce, restrict, or phase out fossil fuel consuming equipment (e.g., lawnmowers, trimmers, leaf blowers) by completing a study of emerging best practices, applicable legislation and jurisdiction, costs and benefits, potential incentive programs, and other factors (report back in 2023)

**Status of Work** - In 2023, verbal updates were provided at Civic Works Committee with respect to progress including the anticipation of further updates in late 2023 or early 2024. Work in many areas is underway, with updates provided in this report including a timetable for next steps.

Area of Focus 7 – Demonstrating Leadership in Municipal Processes and Collaborations includes the following action:

8. Revising City of London Fleet Vehicle and Equipment Procurement Plans (Timeline: 2023-2025)
  - a. Develop procurement processes (report back in 2023), consistent with the Procurement of Goods and Service Policy, that ensure all fleet procurements fully examine alternatives and opportunities to reduce and/or eliminate fossil fuel use in City fleet, taking into account key operational factors such as product availability and performance, service levels, infrastructure and power supply requirements, financial feasibility and budgetary limitations, including:
    - vi. Requiring all new City of London hand-held, portable, and light-duty off-road equipment procured to be electric or other zero emission equipment as of 2025

**Status of Work** - At present, initial steps have been taken, including a review of commercial landscaping products, a review of existing handheld electric devices, and the submission of an initial business case during 2024-2027 Multi-year Budget concerning upgrades to charging infrastructure at a single operational yard. Additional operational evaluations are necessary to determine the feasibility for municipal applications. This work will be able to start in April 2025 and will require one year based on current resources. As part of the review, an action plan will be established for the continued electrification of handheld equipment.

### 1.3 Environmental Impact of Gasoline-Powered Lawn and Garden Equipment

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) produced a report, *National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment (2015)*, that looked at the contribution of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment to air pollutant emissions as well as carbon dioxide emissions. The USEPA estimated that the contribution of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment to greenhouse gas emissions overall was small – 0.3 per cent of national emissions (20.4 million tonnes/year in 2011), which works out to 0.065 tonnes/person.

If it is assumed the emissions per person of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment is the same in London as the US, it is estimated that this works out to about one per cent of London's per capita greenhouse gas emissions. The amount associated with gasoline-powered leaf blowers would be a small portion of this amount, given that leaf blowers are generally only used during the cleanup portion of yard maintenance and for several weeks in the fall whereas lawnmowers and grass/weed trimmers are used regularly throughout the lawn maintenance season (May through October).

Note that emissions from gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment are currently included in London's estimates of transportation emissions, since these estimates are based on the retail sales of gasoline in London. Without a significant level of effort, creating a local estimate of emissions for gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment numbers is not possible.

#### Criteria Air Contaminant and Hazardous Air Pollutant Emissions

The USEPA report noted above focusses more on criteria air contaminants (smog-forming pollutants) and hazardous air pollutants as the main concern from gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment use. The report notes the following:

- Regarding criteria air contaminants, All Nonroad sources account for 17% of all volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, 12% of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions, 29% of carbon monoxide emissions, 25% of benzene emissions, and 5% fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).
- Gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment is a contributor and noticeable Nonroad source, accounting for nearly 13% of All Nonroad Emissions of fine particulate matter.
- Small engines used for commercial lawn maintenance equipment account for more than 40% of VOC emissions and one-half of fine particulate matter emissions from gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment. Close to 90% of fine particulate matter emissions from commercial lawn maintenance equipment come from two-stroke engines.
- Regarding hazardous air pollutants, within All Nonroad Emissions and Gasoline Nonroad Emissions, gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment accounts for nearly one-third or more of benzene emissions.

As noted by City of Toronto staff in their June 21, 2023 staff report, in 2019, Public Health Ontario (PHO) conducted a literature review looking at possible exposures from the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and similar equipment in residential settings, and how the use of this equipment is regulated in other Canadian jurisdictions. That review found that gas-powered lawn and garden equipment is a source of non-road emissions such as carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds. Studies on fugitive dust emissions show that electric leaf blowers and gas-powered leaf blowers generate similar levels of particulate matter.

In 2021, Toronto Public Health concluded that the dust and air pollution resulting from the use of small engines (leaf blowers) constitutes a nuisance that can be addressed through municipal bylaws but not a public health harm that the Health Protection and Promotion Act would address.

In 2023, Toronto Public Health further looked at literature that considered emissions and potential health impacts from gas-powered leaf blowers and related two-stroke engine lawn and garden equipment. The results were similar to those of the 2019 PHO review findings in that this equipment type is a source of emissions, and that operators may be exposed to elevated levels of noise and some pollutants. The review found that household ownership of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment in Toronto, including leaf blowers, has been trending downwards from 2013-2021 according to data from Statistics Canada.

### **Noise Emissions**

The noise emitted from some gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment can be harmful to operators and can also disturb neighbours and wildlife. Specifically, some gas-powered leaf blowers operate at up to 105 decibels (dBA). This is similar to the noise emitted from a table saw. Electric leaf blowers typically operate at 65 dBA and provide the power needed to care for most residential yards. In 2019, the Public Health Ontario (PHO) literature review concluded that the noise generated by gas-powered leaf blowers can be elevated enough to cause hearing damage for operators in certain use scenarios.

Some jurisdictions in Canada have placed restrictions on leaf blower use. Where they exist, limiting noise is the most common reason for doing so. The review did not identify any jurisdictions in Canada where leaf blowers were banned outright.

In 2021, Toronto Public Health concluded that the noise resulting from the use of small engines (leaf blowers) constitutes a nuisance that can be addressed through municipal bylaws but not a public health harm that the Health Protection and Promotion Act would address.

The City of London Sound by-law regulates the use of power equipment including lawnmowers, chain saws, leaf blowers by prohibiting their use between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (9 a.m. on Sundays). There is no quantitative regulation respecting decibel levels clearly audible at points of reception in residential areas. There have been previous complaints of lawn equipment causing noise outside of these timeframes specifically at private golf courses to allow for early tee-off times. City golf courses are exempt from the Sound By-law.

### **1.4 Statistics Canada – Changes in Ownership of Lawn and Garden Equipment**

Based on data from Statistics Canada, Households and the Environment Survey, there is a gradual market shift in Ontario away from gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment, in particular for leaf blowers and gas trimmers as shown in the table below for household ownership of lawn care and landscaping equipment. Details since 2021 are not available at this time.

<b>Equipment Type</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2021</b>
Lawn mowers – electric and/or manual	24%	25%	34%
Grass trimmers – electric	57%	56%	67%
Leaf blowers – electric	68%	67%	76%
Chain saws – electric	23%	25%	37%
Snow blowers – electric	6%	9%	13%

### **1.5 Incentives for Replacement of Gasoline-Powered Lawn and Garden Equipment**

Currently, there are no financial incentives from the federal or Ontario provincial government for the replacement of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment with electric equipment.

Buyback programs for older gasoline lawn movers were available back in the 2000s and early 2010s through the former Mow Down Pollution program operated by the Summerhill Group in partnership with Home Depot. However, this program was discontinued due to lack of funding to sustain this activity.

## **1.6 Actions Undertaken by Other Municipalities**

### **Municipalities Regulating Use by Residents and Local Businesses**

Toronto, Ontario: In July 2023, the City of Toronto adopted the following:

1. Support for a ban on the use of two-stroke small engine equipment in Toronto as a precaution against any adverse impacts to human health and climate.
2. Identify the resources required to develop and implement a ban on two-stroke equipment and any other necessary work that emerges throughout the process and, if adequate resources are funded in the 2024 budget, initiate the work to enact a by-law imposing a ban on two-stroke equipment.
3. Report back by December 31, 2023 on:
  - a. opportunities for clean transition support programs, such as a low-emission equipment lending library; and
  - b. opportunities for partnerships that encourage and incent a transition to low-emission equipment, with community organizations, service providers, equipment manufacturers and/or retailers.
4. Engage residents, businesses and industry stakeholders on implementation of a ban, including provisions to ensure a feasible approach to transitioning towards alternative equipment and practices, considering the diverse needs and challenges of residents and businesses who use two-stroke engines for their own use, commercial operators who provide services using two-stroke engine equipment, and a phased approach to the implementation of a ban based on the ability of user groups to comply.

On November 29, 2023, the City of Toronto's Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) modified the original recommendations from their previous staff report on this matter. In this Toronto Committee meeting, the IEC asked the following of City of Toronto staff:

1. for the Environment and Climate Division to further explore ways to support the public's shift to low-emissions equipment, as part of the broader effort to develop a by-law banning the use of two-stroke equipment and acknowledge that undertaking this work is conditional on allocating the required resources in the 2024 Budget, once it has been deemed adopted.
2. for the Executive Director, Environment and Climate Division to develop a Spring 2024 public awareness campaign aimed at promoting the benefits of zero-emissions landscape equipment and sustainable landscape practices that supports biodiversity and reduces yard waste.

In February 2024, the final City of Toronto budget did not include funding for the work noted above. As a result, City of Toronto staff are now transitioned away from a policy approach towards an outreach and engagement approach. No further details are available at this time.

Vancouver, British Columbia: In January 2022, the City of Vancouver unanimously passed a motion to phase out gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment (including lawn mowers, chainsaws, and hedge trimmers) for personal and commercial use by 2024. As a follow-up, in December 2023, City of Vancouver staff provided in an internal memo to Vancouver City Council that concluded the following:

- The City does not have authority to regulate emissions from landscaping equipment under the Vancouver Charter. The City does have the authority to regulate the use of gas-powered landscaping equipment within the Noise Bylaw.
- Research as well as experience from the Park Board's transition from gas-powered landscaping equipment to electric options has shown that the market is not yet ready for a complete prohibition of gas-powered landscaping equipment.
- Staff are working with Metro Vancouver staff on a potential regional regulatory approach to reduce emissions from small non-road engines, including landscaping equipment.
- Staff will report back to Council once there is more clarity on this approach and Vancouver's role.

Montreal, Quebec: several boroughs within Montreal (e.g., Borough of Cote-des-Neiges, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Outremont, Ville-Marie, Sud-Ouest, Beaconsfield) have either enacted by-laws or are currently considering them for gas-powered leaf blowers.

Oak Bay, British Columbia: In May 2022, the Municipality of Oak Bay (east of Victoria, on Vancouver Island, population 18,000), voted unanimously to ban all gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment by 2026. The municipality is also exploring the use of subsidies for their residents' transition from gas-powered gardening equipment to electric to support the implementation of the ban.

### **Municipalities Phasing Out Small Engines in Municipal Operations**

The National Capital Commission (NCC), located in Ottawa, Ontario: In November 2021, the NCC announced that they are banning the use of gas-powered tools in their operations in effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The NCC became the first jurisdiction in Canada to enact such an overall ban on these type tools. This ban took effect on April 1, 2023.

Ottawa, Ontario: followed the work of the NCC in November 2021, the City of Ottawa introducing a motion to phase out the use of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment in municipal operations. This past summer, the City of Ottawa had piloted the use of electric equipment for scheduled maintenance under the Parks and Forestry division as well as the Roads and Parking Services division. The City of Ottawa has issued a tender for the supply and delivery of various battery-powered landscape equipment, including string trimmers, handheld blowers, pruning chainsaws, and hedge trimmers. The City of Ottawa also encouraged contractors to use electric equipment in their bids for summer contracts.

Mississauga, Ontario: The City of Mississauga is running a pilot project involving a complete operational crew with battery-operated equipment only to inform the transition of all parks and forestry operations' small equipment to battery-powered units.

Toronto, Ontario: The City of Toronto has requested staff to develop a plan and feasibility assessment on transitioning municipal operations from gas-powered to electric tools by 2025. No more details are available at this time.

### **1.7 Options to Regulate under the *Municipal Act, 2001***

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, allows municipalities to enact by-laws for the following:

- Section 10 allows the passing of by-laws respecting “Economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality, including respecting climate change”
- Section 129 allows for the “prohibit and regulate with respect to noise, vibration, odour, dust and outdoor illumination, including indoor lighting that can be seen outdoors”.

With regards to regulating all gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment under Section 10, relying on greenhouse gas emissions alone for justification may not be seen as sufficient given the relatively small contribution of this equipment to community-scale greenhouse gas emissions. However, the inclusion of criteria air contaminants (e.g., VOC, fine particulate matter) and hazardous air pollutants (e.g., benzene) should provide sufficient justification to regulate gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment under Section 10.

As noted above, the London regulates noise from lawn equipment base on the time of day and day of week via the Sound By-law.

## **2.0 Discussion and Considerations**

### **2.1 Regulating Gasoline-Powered Lawn and Garden Equipment**

For gasoline-powered leaf blowers, noise emissions are very likely sufficient for regulating their use under s.129 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* under an amendment to the existing Sound By-law (PW-12).

Relying on greenhouse gas emissions alone may not be a strong basis for any municipal by-law under s.10 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* given the relatively small contribution (estimated about one per cent) of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment to community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. However, the inclusion of criteria air contaminants (e.g., VOC, fine particulate matter) and hazardous air pollutants (e.g., benzene) should provide sufficient justification to regulate gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.

### **2.2 Proposed Multi-municipality Project**

During City staff jurisdictional review, it became clear that limited information is available on reducing, restricting, or phasing out fossil fuel consuming lawn and garden equipment in Ontario in the residential marketplace. Details outside of Ontario are also limited with only some operational experience. Very little information is available on costs, compliance, and enforcement.

Some municipalities have chosen to focus on internal operations as a better environmental and climate change investment. Limited information is available in this area of practice at this time.

The City of London approached the Clean Air Partnership (CAP), an environmental organization launched in 2000 and designed to advance the implementation of actions to foster low-carbon, resilient communities, about creating a multi-municipality working group to address many of the uncertainties including development of education and outreach materials for residents and establishing pathways to work with the landscape industry to make the necessary adjustments towards reducing the use of fossil fuel in this sector. CAP is also the administrator for the Clean Air Council, a network of 41 municipalities and health units from across Ontario, of which London is a member.

At time of writing, Hamilton, Oakville and Ottawa are interested in working with London. Landscape Ontario, an organization with 3,000 members of landscape and horticulture professionals, has also expressed interest in working with the City of London on an education and outreach campaign for both residents as well as landscaping contractors.

CAP has indicated a willingness to prepare an application for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Funds (GMF) to cover 50 per cent of the costs of a project that will benefit the participants and ultimately be made available for other communities in Canada. This proposed project would include lawn and garden equipment used in three settings: household use; commercial lawncare and landscaping businesses, and municipal services (e.g., parks, roadsides and garden operations). Further details on the proposed scope of work are still under development.



To complement the multi-municipality project, an internal City team dealing with climate matters already exists and a subset will further this matter and include staff from:

- Climate Change, Environment & Waste Management
- Financial Services (including Procurement and Supply)
- Financial Planning and Business Support
- Fleet and Facilities
- Municipal Compliance
- Parks and Forestry (Parks Operations)
- Transportation and Mobility (Road Operations)

### 3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

An amount of \$10,000 has been allocated from existing approved budgets to be used for this proposed project. City staff will work with CAP and the other participating municipalities on the logistics of an application to FCM-GMF.

Further financial implications associated with the transition away from gasoline powered lawn equipment (e.g. municipal equipment replacement costs, potential incentives, etc.) will need to be assessed as part of the review of the City's use of this equipment and the development of the broader action plan for this phase out.

### 4.0 Next Steps

To undertake the necessary work in London with existing resources and budgets, requires an adjustment to the schedule of activities.

There is one key addition to help bridge the gap until further details are available; that is the design and implementation of an awareness campaign focused on the environmental benefits and climate actions to improve the care of properties outside home and buildings. This work will help combine a number of existing initiatives as part of CEAP and related environmental stewardship practices. A comprehensive campaign allows existing budgets to be more aligned and extends the reach.

The table below highlights the 5 steps leading to a report to Civic Works Committee and/or Community and Protective Services Committee in late spring 2025 (tentative timing based on FCM-GMF application).

Steps	Timing (tentative)	Key Activities
1	June and July 2024	Complete application to FCM-GMF.
2	August 2024 to February 2025	Design an awareness campaign that focuses on better lawn and garden practices to help the environment and take climate action for launch in early 2025. Target audience is households and lawn care companies in London. This campaign will include more than fossil fuel lawncare equipment, such as landscaping for climate resilience, improving soil carbon sequestration in landscaping, and supporting biodiversity.
3	October 2024 to April 2025	Undertake multi-municipality project to complete the remaining work in London on developing outreach and engagement materials for households, businesses, and landscape businesses to encourage phase out of small gas engine equipment and summarizing emerging best practices, applicable legislation and jurisdiction, costs and benefits, potential incentive programs, and other factors.
4	February to April 2025	Launch London multi-phase awareness campaign (as noted in Step 2).

Steps	Timing (tentative)	Key Activities
5	December 2024 to November 2025	Undertake internal review of the City's use of fossil fuel landscaping and maintenance equipment for parks, other public property and gardens considering key operational factors such as product availability and performance for commercial applications, maintaining service levels, infrastructure and charging requirements, financial feasibility and budgetary limitations.
6	May to June 2025	Submit report to Committee and Council on the next steps for reducing, restricting, or phasing out fossil fuel consuming lawn and garden equipment for household use and lawn care companies.

## Conclusion

This report provides both an update of information available on to gasoline-powered landscaping equipment and recommended next steps with respect to environmental and climate change matters.

Limited information is available on reducing, restricting, or phasing out fossil fuel consuming lawn and garden equipment in Ontario in the residential marketplace. Details outside of Ontario are also limited. The desired information on costs, compliance, enforcement, and related matters is not readily available.

Some municipalities have chosen to focus on internal municipal operations as a better environmental and climate change investment. Limited information is available in this area of practice at this time.

The next steps include:

- The design and implementation of an awareness campaign that focuses on better lawn and garden practices to help the environment and take climate action starting in February 2025; and
- Pursuing a multi-municipality project to complete the remaining work in London on emerging best practices, applicable legislation and jurisdiction, costs and benefits, potential incentive programs, and other factors regarding gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment, including a funding submission to the FCM-GMF.

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