



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Expands 2020 Landscaping Ordinance

In Effort to Reduce Community Carbon Footprint, Council Moves to Make Electric Chainsaws the New Norm

OJAI, CA (June 26, 2022) Two years ago, Ojai passed a ban on gas powered landscaping equipment in residential areas, such as non-riding lawn mowers, leaf blower, pole saws and trimmers in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In April of this year, the Council revisited the law, adding unpermitted gas powered chainsaw use to the list. The change will take effect on July 14, 2022, with a 60-day transition period. Gas units can still be permitted for large projects or emergency use.

According to the EPA, off-road gasoline-powered equipment emits approximately 242 million tons of pollutants annually, just as much as cars and homes. Ojai led the way as one of the first cities to take this significant step limiting their use, and electric landscaping has now become the norm in the city.

Since 2020, the State and numerous cities have followed suit, citing the significant contribution to climate change, air and noise pollution, and the growing availability of electric options.

Permits will be available from the City allowing gas chainsaw use when battery operated alternatives are not adequate.

More information on this ordinance update is available at ojai.ca.gov/code-compliance/

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