

COLUMBUS CURRENTS

Power Up Your Lawn Care with Electric Equipment

By Anne Prince

The landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

Benefits of Electric Equipment

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Battery-powered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gas-powered models.

Many electric mowers offer push-button starts, and because they are lighter, they are easier to maneuver around tight turns. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walk-behind and riding models. And there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Like mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver.

This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools like chainsaws for precise work.

Choose Electric Equipment to Meet Your Needs

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gas-powered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating—this is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass, or hills and dips, torque is a key factor.

Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.

Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires less maintenance, is less expensive to operate and is kinder to the environment.

Get Green for Going Green

Electric tools are quietly redefining the way we approach lawn care. If you're planning to make the switch to electric lawn equipment, visit our website at www.columbusco-op.org/rebates to explore available rebates.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Scholarships Awarded

The Columbus Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees has awarded scholarships to the following students for the 2024-2025 school year. Scholarship applicants must be an active member or an immediate family member of an active member. Scholarships are renewable for up to four years.

*Brye Baptiste
Isabel Caballero
Jasmine Y. Caballero
Lucero Caballero
Carlos Camunez
Yessly Camunez
Keegan Dennis
Kaylee Essary
Kohan Evans
Cadence Green
Adrian Hernandez*

*Brisaida Hernandez
David Hurt
James Hurt
Triano Jasso
Landin Keeler
Jazmine Ledezma
Evaristo Mariscal
Edelweiss Molinar
Emily Montes
Gemma Montes
Addy Offutt*

*Jazmine Otero
Helena Ramirez
Diego Renteria
Joanna Rodriguez
Melody Ruebush
Trinity Ruebush
Maria I. Saenz
Calleigh Sweetser
Danli Valdez
Truman Williams
Parker Winkler*

The employees and the Board of Trustees of Columbus Electric Cooperative extend their best wishes to each student for a successful school year and all their future endeavors. Together we support the dreams of students and build better communities.



Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 23rd. They reviewed and approved the financial and operational reports for the month of March. They also listened to reports related to the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association.



Benefits of Electric Equipment

- Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions
- No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil
- Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment
- Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools

Considerations Before Going Electric

- Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
- Consider the size of your property and battery run time
- Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties
- Electric equipment is pricier up front

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)

www.columbusco-op.org