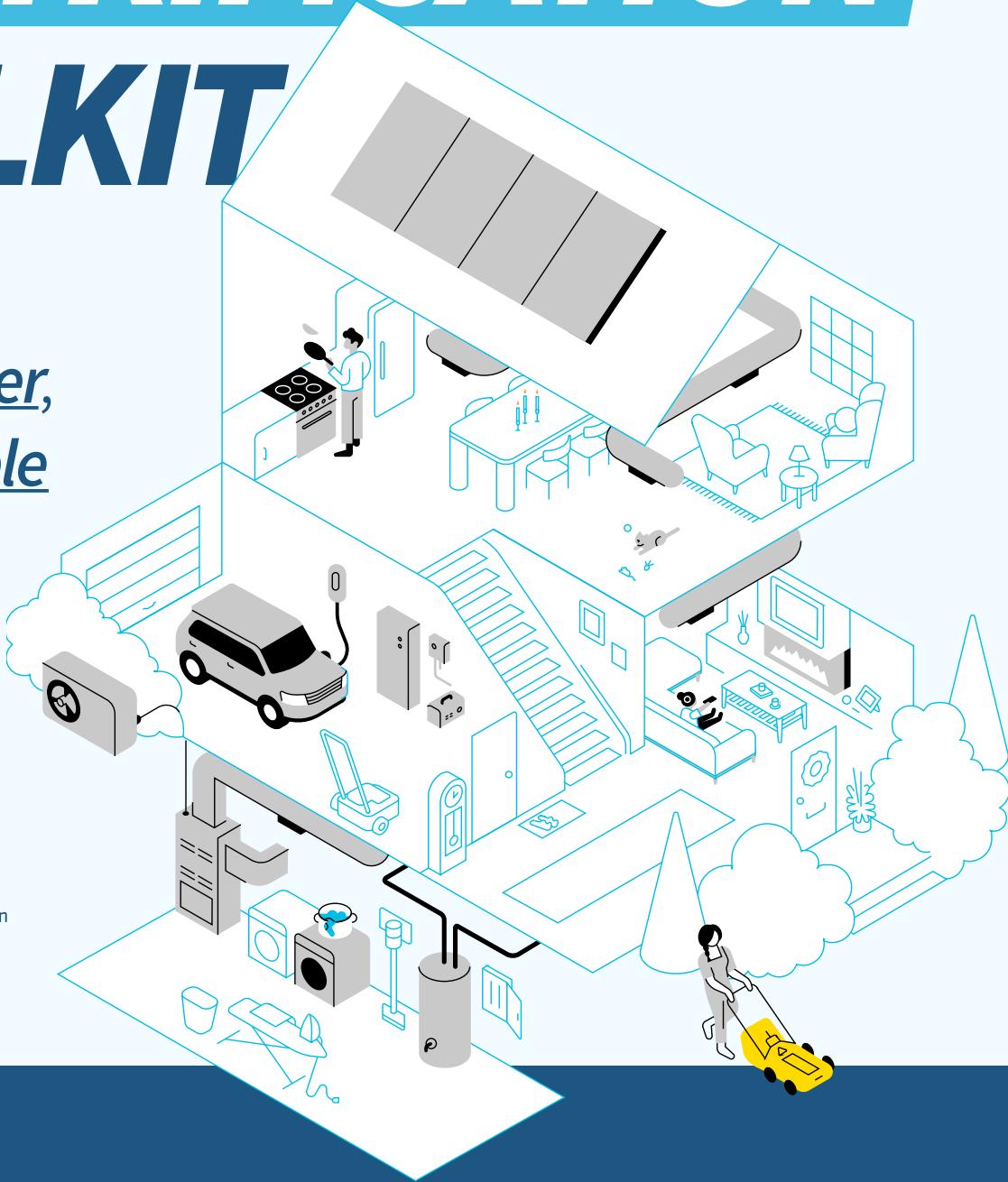


# CANADA'S HOME ELECTRIFICATION TOOLKIT

Your guide to a  
**cleaner, smarter,**  
**more affordable**  
home



Building  
Decarbonization  
**Alliance**  
pour la décarbonation  
des bâtiments



**ELECTRIFY YOUR:**  
**OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT**

# Outdoor Equipment at a glance

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## COST

Upfront costs:  
**\$\$\$-\$\$\$**

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## IMPLEMENTATION

Easy

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## EQUIPMENT LIFESPAN

5-10 years (5 years for batteries)

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## EMISSIONS REDUCTION IMPACT

Low to medium

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## RENTERS

Electric BBQs may be a good option for balconies

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## BONUS

Quieter and pollution-free operation

### For more information

- [Fact sheet on protecting hearing during yard maintenance](#)
- [Article on lawn care hazards to health and the environment](#)
- [Report on the health and environmental case for electric lawn care](#)

# Outdoor Equipment

## Yard Maintenance Equipment

“

**I don't need a gym membership; I have a lawnmower.**

—  
Author unknown

### OPTIONS

#### Corded equipment:

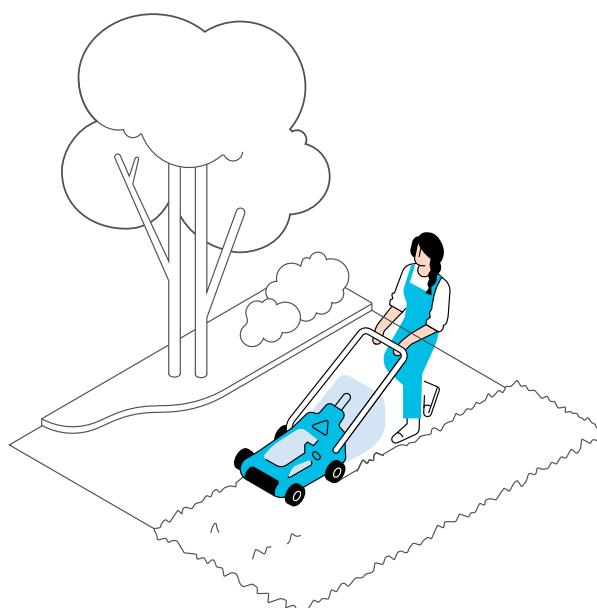
These draw electricity from an outdoor outlet through an extension cord. You can find corded lawnmowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, rototillers and more.

#### Battery powered equipment:

These have removable battery packs that you can charge between use. Look for battery-powered lawnmowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, rototillers and more. Most battery packs are designed so that they can be used in multiple pieces of equipment from the same manufacturer.

Ride-on battery lawnmowers are also available.

If you have a yard, chances are that you own at least a lawnmower, and possibly also a trimmer, leaf blower, hedge trimmer, chainsaw, or rototiller. Gas lawnmowers are used by 75% of Canadian households who cut their own lawns<sup>1</sup>, but they are not always ideal. Gas yard care tools are the noisy, dirty and messy options compared to the electric versions available.



<sup>1</sup> See the jurisdictional scan on p11-12 of City of Toronto. (2023). Two-stroke engine small equipment: steps to pursue a ban. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-237510.pdf>

## OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

### BENEFITS



Electric yard equipment is significantly quieter than their gas counterparts. Ear protection is recommended whenever yard equipment is used, and this is particularly important for gas equipment. Some jurisdictions in Canada already have time-of-use restrictions for some yard equipment due to noise concerns.<sup>2</sup>



Electric yard equipment generates no air pollution, while gas yard equipment has no pollution control and produces noxious fumes including carbon dioxide, fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides and the volatile organic compounds that cause smog. A US study showed that one hour of cutting grass with a commercial lawnmower is equivalent to nearly 500km of driving when it comes to smog-forming pollution.<sup>3</sup>



Electric yard equipment is largely maintenance-free and does not require seasonal fuel changes. Just remember to store your batteries inside during the hottest and coldest weather to prolong their life.



Electric equipment is typically lighter, making it easier to use, maneuver and store.



Electric equipment is also safer to store because there are no flammable liquids involved.



The batteries from battery powered equipment can be used in multiple tools. If you buy from the same manufacturer, you can use the same batteries for all your yard care equipment. Package deals may also be available.

### CHALLENGES

- Corded equipment requires a convenient outdoor outlet, which means a limited range, and can take some getting used to.
- Battery equipment must be charged between use and may not have enough capacity for large yards.
- The batteries used in yard equipment will last longer if stored in a conditioned space, especially during hot and cold weather.
- Electric lawnmowers may not be as powerful as gas equivalents, meaning two passes may be required when the grass is tall or wet.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- There are human-powered options available for most electric yard maintenance equipment. They are cheaper, quieter, easier to maintain, and they give you a free workout at the same time!
- Consider the size and configuration of your yard. If you have a large yard or one with multiple trees that could entangle electric cords, battery options may be preferable.
- Check the battery size and estimated run time to make sure you can cut your entire lawn in one charge.
- Batteries will generally last longer if they are stored partially or fully charged. Overcharging will also shorten a battery's life so unless the manual says otherwise, you should not store it on the charger.
- Batteries will likely fail before the equipment fails. Be sure to recycle the old battery when buying a replacement.

<sup>2</sup> See the jurisdictional scan on p11-12 of City of Toronto. (2023). Two-stroke engine small equipment: steps to pursue a ban. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-237510.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Dutzik, Sokolow, Metzger, Shatz (October 2023). **Lawn Care Goes Electric. Why it's time to switch to a new generation of clean, quiet electric lawn equipment.** Retrieved from [https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Lawn\\_Care\\_Goes\\_Electric\\_Oct23.pdf](https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Lawn_Care_Goes_Electric_Oct23.pdf)

## OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

# Snowblowers

### What would Canada be without snow?

While a fresh snowfall can make everything look sparkly clean, the process of cleaning driveways and sidewalks is far less pleasant. Many homeowners own or would like to own a snowblower to make that work easier.

**Electric snowblowers** may be the answer. In general, these are lighter, quieter, smaller, and easier to maintain, but less powerful than their gas-powered counterparts. Electric snowblowers come in corded and battery versions where the battery can often be used in other compatible electric yard equipment.

If you mostly deal with light snow and small areas, a **power snow shovel** or a **single stage electric snowblower** may be the way to go.

If you regularly clear deep or wet snow, then you should be looking for a **higher end two-stage battery electric snowblower**.



# Pool Heaters

If you have a pool, then you will want to enjoy it for as much of the year as you can. That is why you may want to add a pool heater.

**Solar water heaters combined with an insulated pool cover** are popular because they are the simplest, lowest-cost option but they are dependent on good sun exposure, and it can take time for them to raise the temperature of the water.

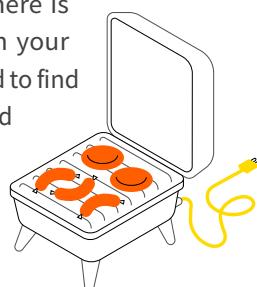
**Electric resistance pool heaters** are easy to install and are a good option for smaller pools.

If you are willing to spend more, consider a **heat pump pool heater** that can move heat into your pool incredibly efficiently, and works well right down to air temperatures of 10°C (50°F).

# BBQ

Even barbeques can be electrified. Not only are they good for households looking for a safer cooking experience, but they are also ideal for balconies where conventional barbecues may not be allowed.

**Electric barbecues** provide more precise temperature control, can be safely used indoors, and require very little maintenance. In most provinces, cooking with an electric BBQ will also reduce your G H G emissions. First, check that there is a convenient outlet to plug in your barbecue, and then shop around to find a unit that suits your needs. Wood burning pellets are available to give your cooking that authentic BBQ flavour.



**Electric snow shovel:**

Cathy invested in an electric snow shovel just before a heavy snowstorm in Kitchener, Ontario last winter.

She found it a huge improvement over using a shovel and a great alternative to the heavy gas-powered snowblowers that she couldn't maneuver on her own.

As a bonus, the battery-powered snow shovel fits in her front hall closet, has no cord to run over, and has no smelly gas to mix and store.



“

**Clearing snow with my electric snow shovel is easy-peasy!**

—  
Cathy

This section is part of the [Canada's Home Electrification Toolkit](#). The Toolkit provides clear, concise, and up-to-date information on space heating, cooking, fireplaces, home batteries and backup options, and other household equipment. It also includes tips for renters, strategies for avoiding potentially costly electrical panel upgrades, and case studies from satisfied homeowners.

**ADDITIONAL SECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD BELOW:**

- [Space Heating](#)
- [Electric Thermal Storage](#)
- [Water Heaters](#)
- [Cooking](#)
- [Dryers](#)
- [Fireplaces](#)
- [EV Chargers](#)
- [Home Batteries and Backup Generators](#)
- [Solar Power](#)
- [Avoiding an Electrical Panel Upgrade](#)
- [Energy Management Systems](#)
- [Options for Renters](#)
- [Electrification Incentives](#)
- [Amplifying the Impact Through Conversations](#)
- [Ways Community Groups Can Help](#)
- [Appendices](#)

Symbols and terms in this publication:

Upfront or operating cost (no incentives applied)

Symbol	Description
\$	Up to \$99
\$\$	\$100-\$999
\$\$\$	\$1,000-\$9,999
\$\$\$\$	\$10,000 and above

Implementation

Term	Description
Easy	Can be implemented by yourself if no electrical upgrade is required
Medium	Can be implemented by someone with DIY skills
Difficult	Generally requires a qualified electrician or other contractor

Emissions reduction potential (onsite emissions reductions using Canadian averages)

Term	Description
Low	1-9 kg CO <sub>2</sub> per year
Medium	10-99 kg CO <sub>2</sub> per year
High	100-999 kg CO <sub>2</sub> per year
Very high	>1,000 kg CO <sub>2</sub> per year

When comparing electric to gas equipment on upfront costs, operating costs and emissions

Symbol	Description
=	Values differ by 10% or less
▽	Electric version is 10-50% lower
▼	Electric version is more than 50% lower
△	Electric version is 10-100% higher
▲	Electric version is more than 100% higher



## CREDITS AND COPYRIGHT

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Visit [buildingdecarbonization.ca/canadas-home-electrification-toolkit](https://buildingdecarbonization.ca/canadas-home-electrification-toolkit) for digital downloads, updates, and other information about home electrification.

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