



The New York State Turfgrass Association is the premier green industry association in New York State representing the turfgrass industry through the development and support of educational programs, research projects, professional development and the advocacy for sound policy and environmental stewardship. There are just over 3.4 million acres of turfgrass in NYS and our industry employs over 43,000 people at a payroll of more than \$465 million. Advocacy and support for the protection of turfgrass in parks, athletic fields, golf courses and home lawns are vital for the success of our industry.

Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund

Founded in 2006, the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund has successfully funded over \$2,000,000 in turf research, education, best management practices and professional outreach in New York State. Last year NYSTA received \$175,000 in funding and in 2024-2025 we are requesting the following:

A line item of \$200,000 be appropriated for the New York Greengrass Association in the 2024-2025 budget for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund. This funding will continue to help support:

- New York Greengrass Association Outreach
- Green Industry Educational Webinars
- Professional Promotion Through Research and Education
- Environmental Stewardship Education
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) for NYS Golf Courses- Continued Implementation and education of Facility BMPs
- Workforce Development via NYS Apprenticeship Program- Phase III

Greater Investment into the Technology and Development of Renewable Energy Powered Equipment by NYS for Landscape Use

- We are supportive of efforts being made in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
 - Golf courses, park spaces and natural grass fields serve for leisure activities played on a living, breathing entity enjoyed by millions of NY residents.
 - We are continually striving to balance between the inputs needed for healthy turf and environmental sustainability and conservation of these spaces.

- There is increasing pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of equipment that can be powered by renewable energy.
- We support these efforts and there are numerous examples throughout the green industry in NYS where this equipment is slowly being incorporated.
- However, there are still many obstacles to overcome before a large-scale transition takes place.
 - The technology and infrastructure to support large scale, commercial use of battery powered lawn and landscape equipment is currently inadequate.
 - Facilities need significant resources to upgrade their electrical infrastructure to support safe battery storage and charging.
 - The cost difference between gas and battery powered equipment is a major obstacle for commercial users as it is 2-4 times more for battery power.
- We support federal and state funding for the research and development of battery and electric equipment.
- We support working with legislators on a road map to incorporation and transition.
- *We oppose S02132/A02133 (Liu/Dinowitz) prohibiting the use of gas-powered lawn and leaf blower from May 1st - September 30th.*
- *We oppose A705 (Carroll) proposing to ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers by 2025.*

For Further Discussion,

Contact Information Is Available Here For All Meeting Attendees

