



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

The Township Urban Forestry Program continues to go green. In our latest step to curb our pollution output, the Township Urban Forestry Program has recently purchased a variety of battery powered hand tools to aid in the maintenance of our urban forest.

The Forestry Program has traditionally employed gas powered tools including; chainsaws, leaf blowers and power pruners. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment (GLGE) represented nearly 4% of all emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and 12% of All Emissions of Carbon Monoxide. These emissions are particularly concerning as occupation exposure to exhaust by the operator can cause acute health effects and occupational diseases over time.

The technology and performance of the new generation electric implements has finally improved to meet the needs of the tree care industry. Our recent purchase has proven that the tools perform as well as their gasoline powered counterparts of the same size.



The batteries required to power these tools require routine charging. To continue with our commitment, the Township is currently purchasing Green-e certified green energy consisting of 100% wind and solar energy. In addition, the solar array above our LEED Gold Certified Public Works building provides supplemental power. While working in the field our new aerial lift truck has been outfitted with an inverter to support with on demand charging.

The average mix of energy sources supplying the United States include: fossil fuels (60.2%), nuclear (18.2%), and renewables including wind and solar (21.5%). Anything we can do to increase our use

of renewable energy is a benefit. In addition, any opportunity to improve tree workers work environment and long term exposure to exhaust hydrocarbon is a benefit as well.



Storm Damage Response in Songbird Sanctuary

The Township will continue to look forward to an evolving green energy equipment industry and will attempt to incorporate viable pieces to our vehicle and equipment inventory as they improve.