



April 14, 2009

Mower exchange offers \$125 discount on electric models

By Anna Lee
GREATER GREER NEWS

With spring here and a new season of gardens to weed and yards to mow, it might be time to replace that old gas-powered lawn mower that rumbled to life with a splutter of exhaust and head-throbbing noise. But this spring, Upstate consumers have a chance to trade in those old mowers for battery-operated models at the Upstate Lawn Mower Exchange.

From 9 a.m.-noon April 25, Greenville and Spartanburg County residents will get a chance to help reduce noise and air pollution and receive a discount of up to \$125 on a new battery-powered lawn mower when they turn in their old gas mower to the Suber Road Soccer Complex in Greer.

Gas mowers are responsible for 5 percent of the nation's air pollution, and in one hour, a traditional gas mower produces as much pollution as driving a car for 200 miles, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

That's because gas mowers emit high levels of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, pollutants that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a main ingredient of urban smog. Ground-level ozone can increase the risk of heart disease, lung cancer and asthma attacks, said Amy Curran of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Curran said that since the EPA has tightened its ground-level ozone standards last year, DHEC has looked even closer at the activities that add to air pollution.

Switching to an electric mower isn't a "fix-all, answer-all, but it's a step in the right direction," Curran said. "It gives (citizens) something that they can do without really having to change their lifestyle too much."

At the Upstate Lawn Mower Exchange, residents will receive a discount voucher good for one Black & Decker or Neuton electric mower while supplies last. The discount lowers the price on a 19-inch Neuton from \$499 to \$374 and on a 14-inch from \$399 to \$274. Curran, who is organizing five lawn mower exchanges covering 11 counties this year, said the goal is to get gas mowers out of circulation and to properly recycle the gas mowers that are traded in.

The event is sponsored by Duke Energy, Greenville County, Spartanburg County, city of Spartanburg, city of Greer, Blossman Propane Gas, Appalachian Council of Governments, Neuton Lawn Mower Company, Black & Decker, Upstate Forever and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Additional Facts

YOU CAN GO

- What: Greenville/Spartanburg lawn mower exchange
 - When: 9 a.m.-noon April 25
 - Where: Suber Road Soccer Complex, 305 S. Suber Road, Greer
-