



CLEAN, QUIET, POWERFUL: SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY'S JOURNEY TO A BATTERY FLEET

TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AND NOISE WHILE MAINTAINING PRODUCTIVITY ACROSS 200+ ACRES, SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SWITCHED MOST OF ITS FLEET FROM GAS TO BATTERY-POWERED TOOLS—AND HASN'T LOOKED BACK.

CHALLENGE

Maintaining one of California's most beautiful campuses comes with certain challenges, such as managing occasional noise concerns, fuel costs, and the need to reduce emissions. Gas equipment is powerful, but it requires maintenance that causes downtime and adds expense. Transitioning to battery-powered tools increases efficiency and supports the university's environmental goals and concerns regarding noise and emissions. Although some crew members were initially skeptical about making the switch, the shift was ultimately embraced due to the sustainability and operational improvement battery-powered tools offer.

SOLUTION

Santa Clara's transition to battery-power started with an equipment grant that allowed the facilities team to test several brands. While there were a few early challenges with some of the competing systems, ECHO quickly emerged as the preferred brand based on reliability, power, ergonomics and technical support.

Before long, ECHO's 56V battery lineup was fully integrated into Santa Clara's daily operations. Hedge trimmers, pole saws and handheld blowers replaced most two-stroke units in the residential and dormitory zones across campus. Training focused on battery management and charge cycling, helping the crew adapt their workflow.



BENEFITS & RESULTS

FUEL REDUCTION

Reduced fleet fuel use by nearly 90%.

MAINTENANCE SAVINGS

Eliminated engine maintenance time and costs on hand-held units.

NOISE REDUCTION

Noticeably quieter operation near classrooms and residential environments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Reduced emissions reinforce campus-wide environmental goals.



"At first, the crew thought they all liked gas equipment better. It was what they knew. But they adapted quickly after seeing how ECHO tools perform... less maintenance, quieter and less downtime. ECHO tools are reliable and easy to work with."

Brad Weight | Santa Clara University, Small Engine and Irrigation Tech