



WHITEPAPER

When should you choose electric as a landscaper?

As a nature enthusiast, you'll 'naturally' make the best choice for both the environment and your health. But electric machines are often more expensive than fuel-powered alternatives. In this document, we highlight all the factors that matter in the decision to go electric and provide you with honest advice.

Introduction

The landscaping profession is wonderful, but also demanding. You create green spaces where people feel at home, where they can relax or come together. At the same time, the work takes a toll on both your body and your business. Margins are under pressure, skilled staff are hard to find, and during peak season the workload can feel endless. Many landscapers find themselves handling administration or paperwork in the evenings on top of their daily tasks.

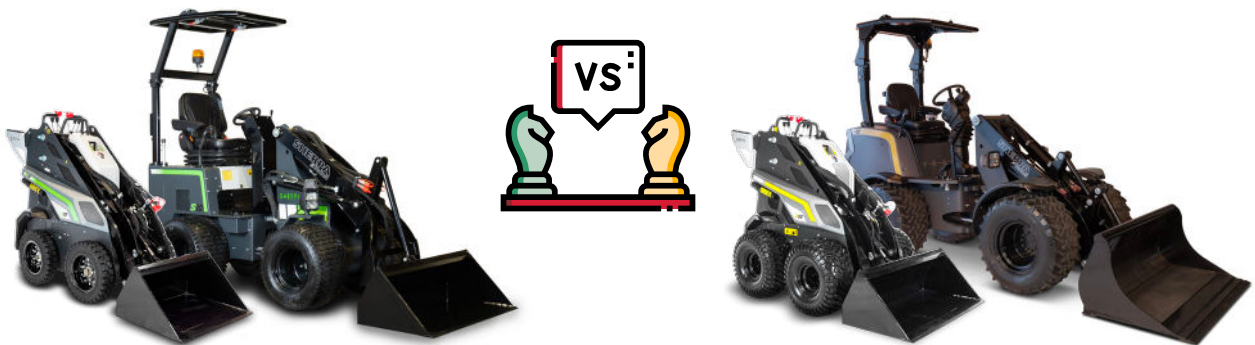
At SHERPA, we understand that reality. Our slogan Lighten the Load is not just about working physically lighter. It's also about working cleaner, quieter, and smarter. In this whitepaper, we guide you through the decision to switch to electric machines. We'll show you the benefits, what to take into account, and—most importantly—when this choice can truly make a difference for you.



A changing profession

The environment in which landscapers work is changing rapidly. Municipalities are setting higher standards for zero-emission operations¹. Local residents are becoming less tolerant of noise and exhaust fumes in their neighborhoods. Care facilities and schools want maintenance work that does not disturb residents or students. And private clients are also increasingly considering sustainability when hiring a professional.

On top of that, many companies are facing a shortage of skilled workers. Doing more work with the same number of hands forces smart choices. Modern machines play an important role in this. They not only make the work physically lighter, but also help to complete projects faster, neater, and with less stress.



Electric vs. fuel

Electric mini loaders are often more expensive to purchase than their fuel-powered counterparts (on average about thirty to thirty-five percent more²). For many landscapers, this is a hurdle. Yet the differences in use and maintenance are significant enough to make the investment worth considering.

A fuel machine requires regular refueling, oil changes, and filter replacements. The engine produces noise and exhaust gases, which can be disruptive in enclosed or sensitive environments. An electric machine, on the other hand, is quiet, clean, and requires far less maintenance³. Charging does take some planning, but in practice it provides a much calmer working experience. No engine noise, no vibrations, no smell of fuel. Just you, your work, and the result.

When to choose electric

The choice for electric is not always self-evident. Still, there are situations where it is the logical way forward. Think of work in residential areas, where residents are disturbed by noise. Or at care facilities, where silence and clean air are essential. Municipal tenders also increasingly demand zero-emission machines.

There is also another factor: principles. Many landscapers are nature lovers at heart. For them, it simply feels better to work with machines that put less strain on the environment. In that case, electric is not only a rational choice, but also one that fits who you are and what you stand for.

Long-term benefits

Those who switch to electric will notice that the benefits add up. Financially, operating costs are lower: electricity is cheaper than fuel and maintenance is simpler and less frequent³. Operationally, you work cleaner, quieter and with more comfort. That is not only pleasant for yourself, but also for your colleagues and the environment in which you work.

In addition, there is government support. Through schemes such as MIA/Vamil and SEBA you can recover part of your investment⁴. These subsidies are intended to help companies make the switch to zero-emission machines more quickly.

And then there is the strategic gain. Companies that position themselves with sustainability and innovation stand out more quickly to customers as well as potential new employees. Modern, clean machines contribute to an attractive image and make it easier to attract young talent⁵.



Keep this in mind

An electric machine requires a different way of planning. Charging has to be integrated into your working day and for heavier, long-term jobs a fuel machine can be more practical. Compare it to electric or hybrid cars. The initial investment is also higher. It is therefore important to calculate in advance how you will use the machine and how quickly you can earn back the investment.



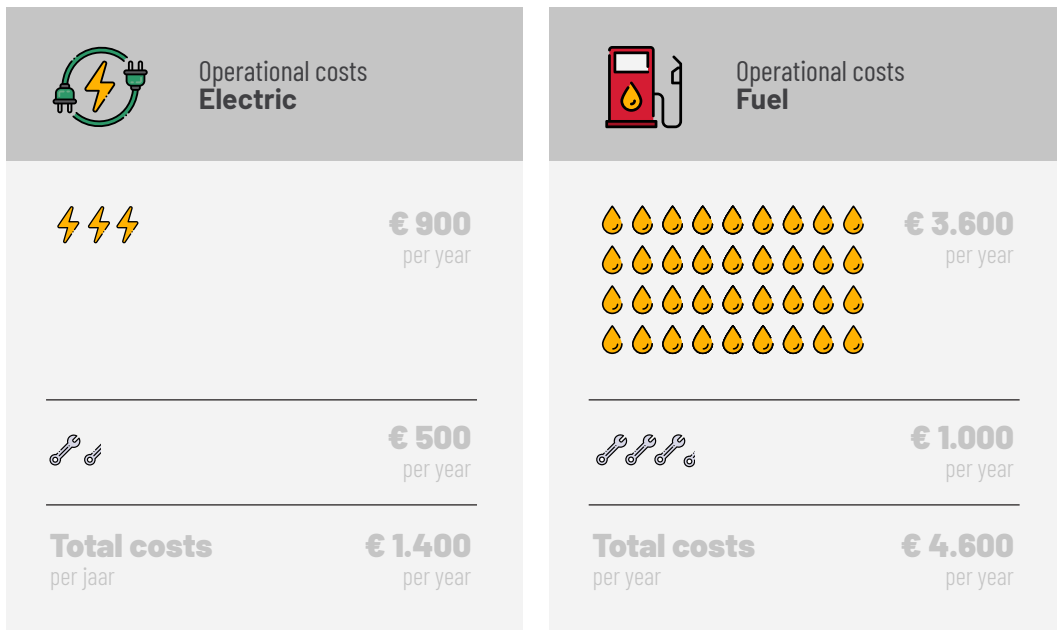
An example calculation:

Take the example of a landscaper who uses his mini loader about six hundred hours a year. This is based on average practical data⁶.

- With a fuel machine, he consumes about three litres of diesel per hour. At current prices this amounts to around 3,600 euros per year. Maintenance costs him another thousand euros, a total of 4,600 euros.
- With an electric version, the costs are much lower. Electricity consumption comes to about 900 euros per year and maintenance around 500 euros. Total: 1,400 euros.

That means an annual saving of 3,200 euros. With a price difference of ten thousand euros, the machine pays for itself in just over three years. After that, it works not only more quietly and more cleanly, but also more cost-effectively. On the next page you will find this calculation set out in an infographic.

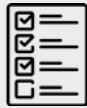
Infographic with the calculation example



In practice

The benefits may sound abstract, but in practice they make a big difference. Think of a care facility where you can start work early in the morning without disturbing residents. An office environment where people need to concentrate, without noise that distracts. Or a residential area where you can simply keep working, without neighbors complaining about noise or the smell of fuel. These are the moments when you realize that working electrically brings more than just savings. It brings peace, trust and appreciation. For yourself, your team and your clients.

Step-by-step plan



Step 1 – Map out your work

How many operating hours does your current machine average per year? Do you mainly work in residential areas, schools or care facilities, or more often on remote sites and larger projects?



Step 2 – Calculate your current costs

Noteer wat je jaarlijks kwijt bent aan brandstof en onderhoud van je huidige machine. Dit geeft je een basis om te vergelijken.



Step 3 – Look at the requirements of your clients and tenders

Ask yourself: am I already encountering situations where silence or zero-emission work is required? Do I expect this to happen more often in the coming years?



Step 4 – Consider your image and staff

How important is it for you to position your company as sustainable and innovative? And how much do you value your employees working with modern, clean and easy-to-use machines?



Step 5 – Do the math

Compare your current fuel and maintenance costs with the operating costs of an electric machine (using our example calculation or a tool if you like). Put the additional purchase price next to it and calculate how quickly you can recover the investment (see also our whitepaper TCO/ROI calculation).



Step 6 – Make your choice

If you see that the investment pays off within a few years and it fits the way you work, then going electric is a logical step. If you are unsure, you can also start with your first electric machine for specific projects, or perhaps rent one before buying.

Conclusion

Electric machines are not the best solution in every case. But if silence, zero-emission work, sustainability and appearance are important, then it is the step that will move your company forward. The higher investment pays for itself; financially, but certainly also in comfort, image and future readiness.

At SHERPA, we stand beside you in that choice. We help you find the right machine and are happy to let you experience what working lighter, quieter and cleaner looks like in practice. Because ultimately it is not just about moving soil or materials, but also about making your working day lighter.

For the full picture

Do you want to experience for yourself how electric work can strengthen your business? Request a demo with an electric SHERPA, calculate how quickly you can recover the investment, or let us help you choose the machine that best fits your projects.



Learn more

Feel free to contact Daan Kling, Sales & Technical Support at SHERPA Mini-loaders.

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References

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