

Martinez, Ruben

From: Duncan Sinclair <
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2021 11:24 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Rivas, Jessica
Subject: GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWING MACHINES

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council, As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy. Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community. In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry. Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only. Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs. Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Now is the time to: 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment, 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step. Thank you for your commitment to clean air and quiet streets,

Duncan Sinclair
E Mountain St, Pasadena

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Julie Parker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2021 1:50 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Gas powered leaf blowers

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Dear Pasadena City Council Members:

Again, I urge you to choose option #1 of Item 10 on the agenda: prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowers by ordinance. A plethora of models, battery-operated, are available now, and other cities and states are phasing out these gas-guzzling, noisy but convenient machines. Let Pasadena be a leader, not a follower, of other cities in efforts to become environmentally 'sustainable.' The public is talking about developing a grading system for all our local communities to encourage a little competition towards becoming fossil-fuel free. Pasadena would not like to earn a grade of D or F if surrounding towns were given A's and B's for their reduction of fossil fuels via regulations and ordinances.

Sincerely,
Julie Parker, pressuring unincorporated areas like Altadena to do the same.

Altadena, CA 91001

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Wen Lee <
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2021 3:30 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Support for electric yard equipment

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

I am a Pasadena resident and I care deeply about climate change and air pollution.

I have heard that you are considering a local ordinance on yard equipment. I strongly support phasing out gas-powered yard equipment (e.g. leaf blowers) and to financially support small business owners in making this transition.

Perhaps you can look to South Pasadena as an example. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air and less noise pollution,
Wen Lee

ve.

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Virginia Paca <n>
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2021 4:35 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Eric Jensen
Subject: Leaf Blower ordinance

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I am in favor of the strictest leaf blower ordinance that you can pass. An hour of leaf blowing is equal to the air pollution generated by an auto trip from Pasadena to Texas. For more information visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/banks.pdf>

I live on a tree-lined street and watch my neighbors take hours to blow every single leaf off their lawns and driveways. I have two heritage trees, an oak and a hackberry and have never used a leaf blower on my property. A rake seems to work just fine and I'm happy to leave the leaf litter under the trees to keep them healthy. As soon as I hear the blowers start, up I close all of my windows and turn on my air filter to keep the air pollution out of my house. I do not go outside when they are in use. They pollute the air, they are very noisy, and they remove the topsoil and organic matter from the soil.

Please remove or reduce this health hazard from my neighborhood.

Thank you,
Virginia Paca, active voter.

--

Virginia Paca, Architect

Pasadena, CA 91104

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Paul Wennberg <ju>
Sent: Saturday, October 02, 2021 10:45 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Williams, Felicia
Subject: Comment for item 10. on 4 Oct 2021 City council meeting (CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTION RELATED TO GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWING MACHINES)

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Date: 2 Oct. 2021

To: Pasadena City Council

From: Paul Wennberg

As a resident of Pasadena District 2 and an air quality specialist working at Caltech for more than 20 years, I encourage the City Council to aggressively act on reducing / eliminating the use of 2-cycle small engines in our city.

Consistent with AQMD's estimates, recent air chemistry measurements at Caltech suggest that these small engines - overwhelmingly used for lawn care - contribute almost as much of the organic emissions that drive air pollution chemistry as the entire mobile fleet (all cars and trucks). Their contribution has been growing over time as the mobile fleet has been cleaned up. (Although the amount of fuel used in these small engines is much less than the gasoline and diesel used in our cars and trucks because these engines release a large fraction of the fuel unburnt they have a vastly disproportionate impact on our air quality.)

In recognition of the impact these small engines have on air quality, AB1346 (awaiting action by our governor), would effectively ban the sale of 2-cycle 'off road' engines. Even if enacted, however, we will still have to contend with the large number of existing equipment in the basin. By following South Pasadena's lead in banning their use, Pasadena could help drive the retirement of such engines in Los Angeles County. My employer is on board - Caltech completely transitioned to battery electric lawn equipment in the past few years and the benefits on noise reduction alone have been widely noticed on campus.

Absent a full ban on their use, there are a number of avenues for the City to promote a transition away from these noise- and air-polluting engines. The City should use its communications office to promote commercial vendors who use only battery operated equipment; the City should make sure that commercial lawn service

companies operating in Pasadena are aware of 2-cycle engine 'buy-back' programs, such as the one currently offered by the AQMD; to the fullest extent possible, the City should prohibit the use of 2-cycle engines in public spaces, including County owned parks and golf courses; the City should add new restrictions on the use of polluting lawn equipment during days with forecasted poor air quality.

The time for action is now. Battery electric substitutes are available at similar upfront costs and are cheaper to operate. Battery electric lawn equipment does not contribute to poor air quality. Use of battery electric lawn equipment will quiet our city and will undoubtedly help reduce neighbor-on-neighbor conflict.

[illegible]

Martinez, Ruben

From: Topher Mathers < >
Sent: Saturday, October 02, 2021 11:28 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Zero emission yard equipment policy

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy.

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Now is the time to:

10/04/2021
Item 10

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,
Topher Mathers

Martinez, Ruben

From: Karina White <karina.white@pasadenacounty.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 02, 2021 12:05 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support for Zero Emission Yard Equipment Policy

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To the Honorable Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a member of Pasadena Audubon, and a long-time resident of the area, I'd like to express my strong support for the Zero Emission Yard Equipment Policy under consideration.

I support this policy because:

- Gas-powered leaf blowers are a huge source of air pollution, per the CA Air Quality Resources Board.
- They are particularly harmful to the laborers who use them to make a living.
- They are destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. This has a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations, which are in steep decline.
- They are loud, smelly, and a general nuisance for those of us living here, and often working at home.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Karina White

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Sam K <I>
Sent: Saturday, October 02, 2021 2:28 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Oct 4 meeting agenda 10

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy.

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Now is the time to:

10/04/2021
Item 10

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Sam Kim

Martinez, Ruben

From: Maureen Crow < >
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 12:34 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Against Leaf Blower Ban

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Dear Pasadena City Councilmembers:

We're 35-year residents/homeowners on Madison Avenue (District 7) and are writing to urge a NO Vote re a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Of the many environmental hazards we face - this one is minor yet it would devastate the income of the hard-working gardeners that serve our communities. Pasadena is known for its beautiful neighborhoods - in large part due to their efforts.

We've investigated and electric blowers have much less power and would take much longer to move the same debris - time unlikely to be compensated by customers. Plus even the best electric blowers need to be recharged every 3-4 hours - impossible for the typical crew who cover 6-8 homes a day.

I think you'll see the vast majority of supporters of the ban are not homeowners. While we're all somewhat affected by the noise, they wouldn't have to worry about figuring out an alternative to gas-powered leaf blowers.

Life cannot be 100% soundless and perfect - even in the Pasadena Bubble. Trying to legislate away the normal parts of living in community is a slippery slope. Is banning sirens and helicopters next? *We can't ban our way back to life in 1940's suburbia.*

If there were a feasible alternative to gas-powered blowers we'd be supporters, but at this time there are not. Perhaps someday? Thank you for considering our position as you formulate a decision.

Maureen Crow
Mark Bevan

ue

Pasadena 91106

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Denise Morse <denise.morse@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 3:39 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Ban Gas-Powered Leaf Blowing Machines

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Please include my correspondence at the October 4, 2021 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 10: Consideration of Direction Related to Gas-Powered Leaf Blowing Machines

Dear Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Council:

My family strongly supports recommendation #1 on the agenda. Please direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

In addition, the current code (9.37.030) prohibits leaf-blowing machine use at any time on Sunday. We would like the City to please consider extending the no use at any time ban to also include Saturday.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Denise & Tim Morse
Pasadena, CA
District 7

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Ione Mieure <
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 4:15 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Ban gas powered leaf blowing machines-please vote yes

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Dear City Council,

I implore you to vote YES and Direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Title 9 (Public Peace, Morals and Welfare) of the Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowing.

I am a resident of Pasadena and I live in Bungalow Heaven and like many residents, suffer from the daily pollution caused by gas run leaf blowers. Working from home, they are a constant nuisance. At any given time, you can hear them; it seems like there is always one in use. Even if they are being used down the street, the fumes from the blower are carried by the wind and can be smelled a block away.

According to the author of AB 1346 (passed September 2021), operating the best-selling gas-powered commercial leaf blower for one hour emits air pollutants comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry from Los Angeles to Denver. These leaf blowers are considered small engines and smog-forming emissions from small engines will surpass those from passenger vehicles this year.

We must look beyond transportation if we are to achieve the emissions reductions needed to fight climate change and improve air quality and health in our communities. Transitioning to zero-emission equipment will reduce the occurrence of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature death caused by pollution, and help California meet our air quality goals. This is especially critical given that fire seasons are only predicted to worsen as will the quality of our air.

AB 1346 will make funding available to help landscaping businesses transition to zero-emission equipment.

South Pasadena (among many other California cities) unanimously voted to ban gas blowers in August of 2021. The state of California passed a bill to ban their sales. Let's get on board and fight climate change! Supporting the gas blower ban is one more step we can take towards green energy and public health. It really is a no brainer.

Thank you!

Martinez, Ruben

From:
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 7:52 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Council Meeting October 4, 2021 - Item 10

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RE: ITEM 10. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTION RELATED TO GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWING MACHINES

Please direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Title 9 of the Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines within Pasadena.

Pasadena is located in one of the most polluted air basins in the United States as identified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Small off-road engines (SORE) such as those used in gas-powered leaf blowers emit high levels of air pollutants and are predicted to exceed emissions from passenger cars in 2021, the current year.

In August 2021, the City of South Pasadena voted to prohibit gas-powered leaf blowers effective October 2022. In September 2021, AB 1346 (Air pollution: small off-road engines) was passed by both the California State Assembly and Senate. This bill would require the California Air Resources Board to develop and adopt regulations to prohibit the sale of small gas-powered engines, such as those frequently found in lawn and garden equipment.

Leaf blowers are also destructive to the habitat of many insects that live and lay their eggs in leaf litter. The loss of insect populations such as butterflies, beetles, bees and moths also affects bird populations which are in steep decline.

Pasadena City Council has an opportunity to join communities across California in adopting a local policy that will improve air quality and address the decline of important insect and bird species:

- Phase out polluting gas-powered yard equipment and require the use of zero-emission yard equipment;
- Limit the use of leaf blowers to hardscape and require that leaves not be blown off property.

Genette Foster
Pasadena 91106

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Marc Futernick <
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 10:07 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Prohibit gas-powered gardening equipment

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Please strongly consider implementing a prohibition on gas-powered gardening equipment. The toxic emissions are immediately harmful to the operators and all of us. The contribution to climate change also must be considered. As an emergency physician, I see how these environmental hazards are impacting patients today. They will only increase if don't change our ways.

Thanks,
Marc Futernick, MD

Pasadena, CA 91106

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Pilar Reyando <pilar.reyando@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 7:52 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Faze out gas leaf blowers

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy.

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community. In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

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Now is the time to:

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property

3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Pilar Reynaldo

Sent from my iPhone

PRM

Martinez, Ruben

From: Sheila Swift <
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 11:44 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support for a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers

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To City Council,

Hello. Thank you for the important and meaningful work you all do on behalf of us Pasadenans.

I want to voice my support for a ban on gas powered leaf blowers. I believe we have a responsibility to each other and to future generations to take meaningful steps toward reducing our collective carbon emissions. It is also crucial that we continue working toward improving our air quality locally. Banning gas-powered leaf blowers and other gas-powered lawn equipment would bring meaningful change in both areas. Cost-benefit analyses (several have been done and published in newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times) show that, in densely-populated, urban areas like ours, we get a very poor return on gas-powered leaf blowing which is polluting, aerosolizes contaminants, is terrible for wildlife, and shown not to be significantly more efficient than the use of brooms and rakes.

Another major concern with gas leaf blowers is the noise pollution they generate. The current ordinances with regard to decibel levels and operation times are not enforced and are, in my experience, ineffectual. Electric blowers are less powerful and therefore less noisy which could help address this issue as well.

Finally I want to add that I think we as a city will need to make some kind of financial assistance or buy-back program available for maintenance crews so they don't bear the burden of the transition from gas to electric/solar lawn equipment alone.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard,

Sheila Swift
Bungalow Heaven

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Andrews Reath <
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 3:05 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Leaf blower ordinance

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I urge the Council to pass an ordinance banning gas powered leaf blowers within Pasadena.

For many residents, gas leaf blowers are the bane of our existence. They harm the environment and the soil. They are sources of air pollution, noise pollution and dust pollution. I'll focus on the last two. If different crews are working in your neighborhood on the same day, the noise can be constant. It is common to see a gardener running a blower at full strength and doing nothing other than raising a large cloud of dust. Because of the dust, the outside of our houses are filthy as well as our cars. Battery powered blowers might only mitigate the dust, but they would resolve the air pollution and noise pollution.

I also urge the Council to start a program that would subsidize the purchase of high quality battery blowers by gardeners, to reduce the burden on them of a ban.

Andrews Reath
Pasadena, CA 91104

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Carla StRomain < >
Sent: Saturday, October 02, 2021 3:56 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Dyson, Darla
Subject: Public Comment for 10/4/21 City Council Meeting - Agenda Item #10 - Leaf Blowers

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To Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

Please consider this input regarding Agenda Item #10, a possible ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.

I am in favor of a new prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers. Elimination of gas-powered blowers is a sensible step now that electric and battery-powered blowers are widely available, emit no gas fumes, and make hardly any sound. However, I do not support a prohibition of leaf blowing altogether.

Some commenters want to eliminate leaf blowing completely. In addition to concerns of fumes and noise, they complain of dust and other airborne crud blown onto their property. The attachments to this agenda item cite complaint history from 2010-2021. Of those complaints, only 3% were about matter blown onto another property.

It seems well established that complete elimination of leaf blowing would meaningfully increase the cost of landscaping to the City of Pasadena and to residential and commercial property owners. As a senior citizen, I am not inclined to pay extra to completely eliminate leaf blowing or set out with broom and rake myself when there are so few complaints about matter blown on another property. Thus, my support is for the gas-powered blowing ban but not a complete ban.

Somewhere I read of a possible effective date for change of October 2022, which seems quite fair to allow time for education and equipment upgrade. If Council decides to proceed with eliminating gas-powered blowers, please clarify if the permissible times of day and duration of leaf blowing set forth in Chapter 9.37 would remain for electric or battery-powered blowers. Please also clarify whether sections 9.37.040 and .050, which require annual inspection and certification of the blowers by the Health Department, would continue to apply to electric and battery-powered blowers.

Thank you,
Carla St. Romain

Pasadena CA 91104

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Daniel Yoder <dyoder@pasadenacity.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2021 4:08 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - #10 (prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines within Pasadena)

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For Pasadena City Council Meeting OCTOBER 4, 202

Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy.

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

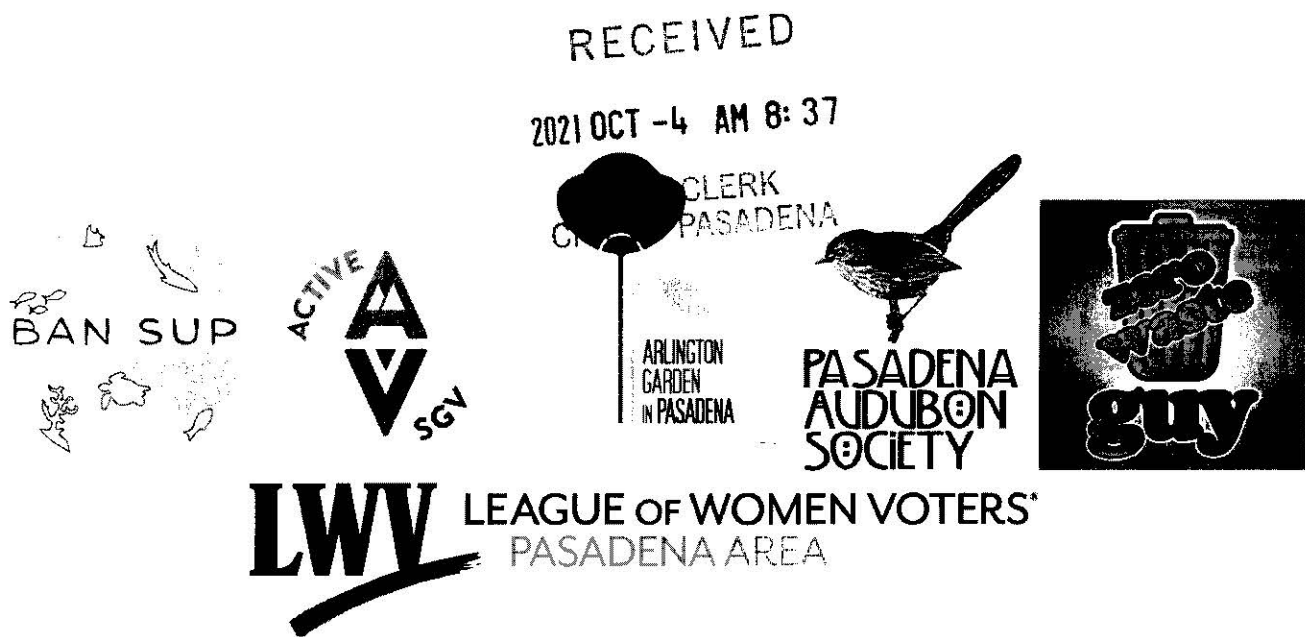
Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Now is the time to: 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment, 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,
Daniel Yoder



October 3, 2021

Pasadena City Council
175 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: SUPPORT | Clean, Climate-Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As community-based organizations and stakeholders committed to improving health, sustainability, and quality of life in Pasadena, we appreciate the City's efforts to implement its adopted Climate Action Plan. However, **more direct action is needed in the short term in order to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community, including a strong local policy on the use of small off-road engines (SOREs).**

Pasadena lies within an extreme non-attainment zone for air quality per US EPA; in other words, we live in one of the most polluted air basins in the United States. **Small off-road engines (SORE) emit high levels of air pollutants** -- including nitrogen oxides (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), and particulate matter (PM) -- **and are predicted to surpass emissions from light-duty passenger cars in 2021.** According to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB), engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry. This level of pollution disproportionately impacts the health and safety of lower-income workers who use the largely unregulated, polluting gas models for hours on any given work day.

The need for additional controls

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted emissions standards for small engines in 1990 and was the first agency in the world to control emissions from these engines. Due to the regulations put in place by CARB, small engines are 40-80% cleaner today than they were before the program began. In the early 2020s, however, total smog-forming emissions from small engines are projected to exceed those from passenger cars in the South Coast Air Basin because passenger car emissions will continue to decrease. By 2031, small engine emissions will be more than twice those from passenger cars.

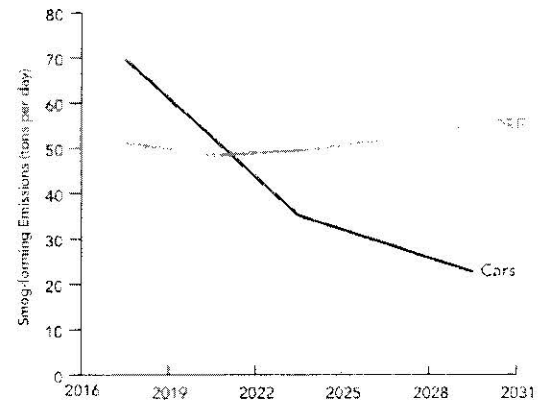


Chart illustrating projected rise in SORE emissions and reduction in vehicle emissions.

Source: CA Air Resources Board

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. In addition to phasing out dirty gas blowers, Pasadena should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity. A local policy should limit the use of all leaf blowers to hardscapes only, and require that fallen leaves which are a crucial part of the foodweb not be blown off the property.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment.

Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition. The Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive Program exchanges older, polluting gasoline- or diesel-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment for new zero emission, battery electric commercial grade equipment. The program allows participants to select from a variety of available makes and models of commercial-grade equipment, including handheld trimmers, chainsaws, pruners, backpack and handheld blowers and ride-on, stand-on, walk-behind and robotic lawn mowers. The 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join others across the state in acting locally to accelerate the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. The City's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The undersigned urge the Pasadena City Council to join communities across California in adopting a local policy that:

1. phases out polluting gas yard equipment,
2. requires the use of zero emission yard equipment,
3. limits the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and requires that leaves not be blown off the property, and
4. supports local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

David Diaz, MPH

Executive Director

Active San Gabriel Valley

Cheryl Auger

President

BAN SUP

Paloma Avila

Programs and Development Manager

Arlington Garden in Pasadena

Lois Brunet

Program Director

Pasadena Audubon

Jonathan Levy

Zero Waste Consultant

Zero Waste Guy

Martha Y. Zavala

President

League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

Martinez, Ruben

From: Misch Anderson < >
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 5:54 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Today's 10/4 Council Mtg: Agenda Item #10 - Leaf Blowers

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a person who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy.

Pasadena needs to do more--and has the means to do more-- to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity today to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment.

On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Now is the time to:

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Please show Pasadena's commitment to clean air.

Sincerely,

Misch Anderson

Martinez, Ruben

From: Banaf Rahimi <'>
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 7:42 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose

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Now is the time to:

10/04/2021

Item 10

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Banaf Rahimi

Martinez, Ruben

From: Katherine Gillespie
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 8:08 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Leaf blowers

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Please include my correspondence at the October 4, 2021 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 10: Consideration of Direction Related to Gas-Powered Leaf Blowing Machines

Dear Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Council:

My family strongly supports recommendation #1 on the agenda. Please direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

In addition, the current code (9.37.030) prohibits leaf-blowing machine use at any time on Sunday. We would like the City to please consider extending the no use at any time ban to also include Saturday.

The noise of these machines pollutes our neighborhood daily and is so invasive we cannot sit on our patio. My husband has ear plugs to allow him in nap in the afternoon. We have bought our gardener an electric blower which is very effective.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Katherine Gillespie

Sent from my iPad

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From:
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 8:13 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Leaf blowers

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I got my gardner an electric leaf blower. The gas blowers need to be banned. Bob Gillespie 1

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Jeff Trafican <_>
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 9:06 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Fw: Leaf Blowers - 10/4 City Council Meeting

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Dear Representative,

Please include the comments listed below as part of the record for the October 4 City Council meeting.

Regards,
Jeff

Jeff Trafican

Pasadena, CA 91106

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jeff Trafican <
To: vgordo@cityofpasadena.net <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>; smadison@cityofpasadena.net <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>; John Kennedy <johnjkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>; Andy Wilson <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>; Tyron Hampton <thampton@cityofpasadena.net>; Felicia Williams <fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net>; Jose Rivas <jrivas@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021, 09:03:12 AM PDT
Subject: Leaf Blowers - 10/4 City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy. Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community. In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

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Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Jeff Trafican
Pasadena, CA