

Martinez, Ruben

From: Lisa McDaniel <lisa.mcdaniel@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 9:55 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Gas leaf blower 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:

- 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, Lisa McDaniel

Sent from my iPhone

Martinez, Ruben

From: Mark Hunter <[\[redacted\]](#)>
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 10:01 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Comment on City Council agenda item 10

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I strongly urge the Council to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that prohibits use of internal-combustion leafblowers. These poisonous, obnoxious machines provide landscape companies some extra profit at the cost of the lungs of their workers and the lungs and ears of every resident in the city. It's past time for Pasadena to put an end to gas-powered leafblowers, as over 30 other California cities have already done.

Thank you,

Mark Hunter

La Canada, CA 91011

(but I spend most of my spare time and spare money in Pasadena)

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Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Lois Brunet <
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 10:11 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jessica
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

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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.

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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,

Lois Brunet
Program Director, Pasadena Audubon

Our Mission: "To bring the excitement of birds to our community through birding, education and the conservation of bird habitats"

Martinez, Ruben

From: :
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 10:22 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Williams, Felicia; Madison, Steve; Kennedy, John J.; Hampton, Tyron
Subject: Item# 10: Ban motorized leaf blowers

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council members,

I am happy to hear that the City Council is considering banning gas-powered leaf blowers and urge you to do so. Over 100 cities have banned or restricted motorized leaf blowers, and for good reason. (See <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/the-war-on-leaf-blowers/>)

As I write this, I can hear the ear-piercing noise of leaf blowers and smell the acrid smoke in my neighborhood. I know that what I am smelling and hearing is bad for my health.

A 2011 study showed that a leaf blower **emits nearly 300 times the amount of air pollutants** as a pickup truck. ... In addition to air pollution, ozone is created when heat and sunlight react with nitrogen oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) that are emitted from combustion engines, including lawn equipment.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, exhaust from gas-powered leaf blowers contains hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides — components of smog — plus carbon monoxide and particulate matter, all of which are known to **harm people's health**.

The noise from leaf blowers can cause permanent hearing damage or other hearing issues such as tinnitus after just 2 hours of hearing a blower's 65 to 80 decibels at 50 feet away. In densely settled communities, most people are usually much closer to leaf blowers than 50 feet.

It will cost a little more to use electric leaf blowers but the benefits outweigh the costs. I have purchased an electric leaf blower for less than \$100 and tell my gardeners to use it. It's much quieter than the motorized kind and because we have solar panels, it doesn't pollute the air.

Please ban motorized leaf blowers from our city. Spare our lungs and our ears from these infernal engines.

Sincerely,

Anthony Manousos

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Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: deno kidde <->
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 10:32 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: No gas blowers

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I would like to band gas lawn blowers for following reasons:

Pollution gases

Allergy pollens being blown into the air

Noise pollution

They blow dirt and leaves into the air when leaves should be used for mulch.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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Martinez, Ruben


From: Leandra Woods <1
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 11:28 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jessica
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Martinez, Ruben

From: 
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 11:37 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: agenda item comment

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I would like to express my support for banning gas-powered leaf blowers within the city (item 10). These devices pose a health hazard to anyone who comes in proximity to them and they are also a noise nuisance. Electric blowers are much safer and just as efficient.

Thank you,
Michael Moreau

Pasadena 91104

Sent from my iPhone

10/04/2021
Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Una Lee Jost <
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 12:26 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Masuda, Gene
Subject: 2021-10-04 Pasadena City Council Meeting - Public Comment - Agenda Item #10

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Dear Pasadena Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers:

Greetings. I'm Una Lee Jost, long-time resident of Pasadena in District 4, local school advocate, and PUSD parent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on Agenda Item #10.

With increasing severity of wildfires, droughts, and other consequences impacting society and ecosystems, the environment and climate change is a key concern for many PUSD students and families.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released August 9 concluded the climate situation is even more dire than projected earlier, and that some trends are now irreversible.

(<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ipcc.ch%2F2021%2F08%2F09%2F06%2Fwg1-20210809-pr&data=04%7C01%7Crumartinez%40cityofpasadena.net%7C0930b3c1ba28453b8c0a08d9876ccba6%7C82d9fc002c664402a28fc6bcdc32e491%7C1%7C0%7C637689724235991128%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljojV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwWwILCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=GU%2F9lAt2g8yRogoPdwmE4nA9r8QUX3GI6t65dg8%2BfIY%3D&reserved=0>)

Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to even 2°C will be beyond reach.

However, the report shows human actions still have potential to determine the future course of climate, and that stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO2 emissions.

In light of the dire climate situation, I urge the Council, for the sake of PUSD students and future generations, to utilize all resources at your disposal to follow the IPCC recommendations, including directing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the use within Pasadena of gas-powered leaf blowing machines, a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions.

In fact, according to the California Air Resources Board:

- a commercial gas-powered leaf blower emits the same pollutants as a 2016 Toyota Camry on an 1100-mile drive (approximately the distance from LA to Denver); and
- leaf blowers and other small engines are the number one source of air pollution in California as of 2020.

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arb.ca.gov%2Fmsprog%2Foffroad%2Fsores%2Fsm_en_fs.pdf&data=04%7C01%7Crumartinez%40cityofpasadena.net%7C0930b3c1ba28453b8c0a08d9876ccba6%7C82d9fc002c664402a28fc6bcdc32e491%7C1%7C0%7C637689724235991128%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljojV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwWwILCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=GU%2F9lAt2g8yRogoPdwmE4nA9r8QUX3GI6t65dg8%2BfIY%3D&reserved=0)

WljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=NAboS1uFjhGIAQZIW
OohW3e%2B9fe4kQMcyHLVnDksYeg%3D&reserved=0)

Over 200 US cities including South Pasadena and Claremont have already adopted measures banning or restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, with South Pasadena providing the following rationale on its website:

"The ban is in response to a growing concern of gas-powered leaf blowers contributing to the detriment of public health, quality of life, and the environment.

The toxic pollutants from gas-powered leaf blowers are known to cause health issues including dizziness, asthma attacks, headaches, and heart and lung disease for both operators and bystanders.

The powerful noise when operating gas-powered leaf blowers causes hearing loss and diminishes the quality of life in the City.

The emissions from gas-powered leaf blowers, including the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, contribute to air pollution and climate change."

(<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.southpasadenaca.gov%2Fgovernment%2Fdepartments%2Fpublic-works%2Fenvironmental-programs%2Fwaste-reduction%2Fgas-powered-leaf-blowers-ban&data=04%7C01%7Crumartinez%40cityofpasadena.net%7C0930b3c1ba28453b8c0a08d9876ccba6%7C82d9fc002c664402a28fc6bcd32e491%7C1%7C0%7C637689724235991128%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=WUpTWDyNAFwT4uzjh1GmSN%2BMGawdArLRFdsirJwLeyw%3D&reserved=0>)

For the sake of the climate and health of PUSD children and future generations, I urge the Council to do likewise and immediately ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines to help achieve the urgent goal of net zero CO2 emissions.

Thank you.



RECEIVED

2021 OCT -4 PM 3:35

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San Marino Sierra Madre South Pasadena

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

October 4, 2021

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

**CLEAN, CLIMATE-FRIENDLY YARD EQUIPMENT
POLICY FOR PASADENA**

Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area supports more direct action 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).

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 this year. 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.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join others across the state in acting locally to accelerate the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. We 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
4. requires that leaves not be blown off the property.

The League of Women Voters encourages the City of Pasadena to take a leadership role in the San Gabriel Valley to initiate and maintain momentum for climate-smart actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Zavala
President
League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization
65 S. Grand Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91105-1602
T 626-798-0965 • E-mail: office@lww-pa.org • Website: lww-pa.org

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Item 10

Martinez, Ruben

From: Therese Brummel · 1>
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 2:30 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jessica
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a 42 year 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 a zero emission yard equipment policy.

Pasadena must 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 ripple 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.

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Now is the time to:

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- 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 thank you for your service to the citizens of Pasadena.
Therese Brummel D2

Martinez, Ruben

From: Peter Braun <
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 3:14 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Request from Peter Braun, Pasadena resident re: Agenda 10 on City Council today / re: Leaf Blowers

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To whom it may concern:

I am a 40 year resident of Pasadena. Regarding Agenda Item #10 for the October 4 Pasadena City Council Meeting, I am writing regarding the agenda item entitled " Consideration of Direct Relationship to Gas - Powered Leaf Blowing Machines."

My family recommends that the Pasadena City Council bans gas powered leaf blowers and only use electric and battery powered blowers. I recommend that the City Council direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for such a ban. I also support consideration for no leaf blowing on Saturdays and Sundays.

Thank you.

Peter Braun

Pasadena, CA. 91105.

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Eric Potter <eric_potter@me.com>
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 4:58 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Phasing out gas powered leaf blowers

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1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,

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- 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,

Eric Potter
729 N Michigan Ave
Pasadena CA 91104

Martinez, Ruben

From: Morty Mittenthal <
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2021 5:34 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Gas Leaf Blowers...

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I understand that a new law phasing out GAS leaf blowers will be voted on soon. I strongly support that effort. Electric leaf blowers are available and better for our City's environment. It's time that Pasadena joined other CA cities that have banned gas leaf blowers. And please don't make the phase out term be toooooo long!

Thanks,

Morty Mittenthal

91106

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