

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Brooke Abercrombie  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Gas Powered Blowers

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Hi -

I was delighted to read that the City Council is likely to prohibit the use of gas powered blowers. THANK YOU. Not only are they loud and annoying for neighbors, they are potentially harmful to the hearing of the people operating the machines if they have not been given proper hearing protection.

Thank you,

Brooke Abercrombie

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Maureen Crow  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 12:59 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Public comment/gas-powered leaf blower ban - Nay

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I'm writing to urge the council **not to ban gas-powered leaf blowers** - yet. Current technology for electric leaf blowers lags demand. Today's models don't have enough power to be effective and their batteries only last through one yard. Believe me, we've tried.

Banning gas-powered leaf blowers in my opinion would place an **unnecessary hardship on hard-working gardeners** - almost all of whom are solo businesspeople working for modest wages. It's magical thinking in 2022 to believe homeowners are going to start raking. And clients won't want their fees doubled for the extra time it takes to rake.

Additionally, my guess is the majority of complaints come from apartment-dwellers, rather than homeowners who have their own yards blown. People are so crabby - esp during Covid - don't pander to them because it never ends. I work-from-home, but I deal.

We value our beautiful neighborhoods in Pasadena and they're beautiful thanks to the **army of gardeners** who maintain them. I urge you to table this matter a few years until the tech for electric blowers has improved.

Thank you council members for the challenging and often thankless work you do under difficult circumstances!

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Maureen Crow

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Topher Mathers  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 3:27 PM  
**To:** Rivas, Jessica; PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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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 each and every day, I urge you to support the adoption of a local, zero-emission, leaf blower policy.

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

According to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB), leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California in 2021. 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 encourage residents to support local biodiversity by limiting the use of blowers to 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 communities across California in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, zero emission 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.

As a local resident I urge you to:

1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers,
2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and
3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,  
Topher Mathers (District 5, tenant)

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Claire Zeng  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 4:07 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and
3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Claire Zeng  
District 7 resident

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Banaf Rahimi  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 8:52 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse; Rivas, Jose; Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John J.; Williams, Felicia  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Banaf Rahimi



## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Jamie Cho  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2022 11:26 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #10 CONSIDERATION OF PROHIBITING 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 environment and the quality of the air we breathe every day, I urge you to support prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines. Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, reduce biodiversity loss, and address air pollution in our community all of which threaten our lives.

In addition to prohibiting gas-powered leaf blowing machines, I urge you to consider the alternatives to leaf blowing machines of any kind. Leaves can be used as mulch which has many benefits such as:

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- Water and energy conservation;
- 
- 
- 
- Provision of plant nutrients and habitat for insects (which then fosters sustainable food chain/ecosystem);
- 
- 
- Carbon sequestration;
- 
- 
- 
- Money savings;
- 
- 
- Erosion reduction.
- 

These benefits have been listed in many articles and research studies as well as the [CalRecycle website](#). [USA Today](#) reported on October 24, 2021, that "According to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in 2018, landfills received approximately 10.5

million tons of yard trimmings, which includes leaves...leaves and other organic matter sent to landfills can break down and form methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change...The more we can keep that organic material out of the landfill, the better."

It seems that leaving the leaves and letting them naturally compost has much more environmental, ecological, health, and financial benefits. I urge you to consider the alternatives that are more beneficial for people and the environment rather than opting for leaf blowers as a solution to the leaf "problems". Some of the alternatives I would like to suggest are:

- 
- 
- Community-scale
- composting (CA state CalRecycle's
- Community
- Composting for Green Spaces Grant program says it is "one approach to preventing landfill disposal
- of compostable organic materials. It has the potential to reduce waste generation while benefiting the earth by returning nutrients to the soil...also engage and enhance your community or a local school with a fun educational experience."
- 
- 
- 
- Incentivize landowners and business owners for sweeping and composting the leaves surrounding their buildings/businesses.
- 
- 
- 
- Encourage the use of lawnmowers instead of leaf blowers.
- 
- 
- 
- Let the leaves naturally compost as much as possible.
- 

I sincerely hope and urge our city of Pasadena to be a leader in combating the climate crisis, reducing biodiversity loss, and addressing air pollution. It is not easy, but it is a commitment worth making for countless benefits that will not only benefit us today but for the generations to come.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to:

- 1.
- 2.
3. **Prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines;**
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. **Explore and implement all the possible environmentally beneficial alternatives to using leaf-blowers.**

8.

Thank you very much for your commitment to making this wonderful city a better place for us all.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Cho

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Elizabeth Brady  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 10:09 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** gas powered leaf blowers

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As a long time resident of the South Lake area of Pasadena, I'm thrilled that the banning of these machines is being considered for Pasadena. The noise pollution in our neighborhood is very high everydaay except Sunday. I understand the gardeners wan to make their jobs easier but it is unnerving and deafening. Perhaps there are electric blowers to replace them. Please, please, please banned the gas blowers in Pasadena!

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Brady Woods

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Claire Zeng  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 12:31 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 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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As a local resident I urge you to:

1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers,
2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and
3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Claire Zeng  
District 7 resident

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Denise Morse  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 12:55 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Ban Gas Powered Leaf-Blowing Machines - 2/28/2022

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Please include this correspondence at the February 28, 2022 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 10: Consideration of Prohibiting Gas-Powered Leaf Blowing Machines

Dear Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Council:

My family and I strongly support the Municipal Services Committee's recommendation that the City Attorney please immediately prepare an ordinance amending Pasadena Municipal Code - Title 9, Chapter 9.37 to include a citywide ban of all gas powered leaf-blowing machines and that the person authorizing the use of the leaf-blower be ticketed and responsible for all violations and penalties.

Thank you very much in helping to make Pasadena a healthier and quieter city.

Sincerely,  
Denise & Tim Morse  
Pasadena, CA  
District 7

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Jonathan Edwards  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 1:35 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jessica  
**Subject:** #10 - YES on a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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I enjoy sleeping in, with the windows open. Ah, relaxation!

But living in an apartment complex in Downtown Pasadena means that we're surrounded on all sides by other HOAs and apartment complexes, each with its own maintenance schedule on a different day. That means that at our complex on Monday, Thursday, & Saturday morning (and a few other afternoons) we gotta scramble to close the windows before the dust & exhaust gets blown inside, and our work (or sleep haha) is interrupted by the roar of those single-stroke gas engines. Oy!

I appreciate neatness, but on the other hand, are a few leaves such a bad thing?

I urge you to support the adoption of a local, zero-emission, leaf blower policy.

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, and address air **& NOISE** pollution in our community.

According to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB), leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emitted more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California in 2021. 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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As a local resident I urge you to:

1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers,

2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and
3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

**JONATHAN EDEWARDS**



## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Michael Polka  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 3:06 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Regards,  
Mike Polka

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** ROBERT GILLESPIE  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 3:32 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Please band leaf blowers

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We have purchased an electric leaf blower. We have peace and quiet for the first time.  
Bob Gillespie long time resident

Sent from my iPhone

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 3:38 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 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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*As a local resident I urge you to:*

- 1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers,*
- 2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and*
- 3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.*

*Thank you for your commitment to clean air, Janis Forgetta*

02/28/2022  
Item 10

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Loc Tran  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Loc Tran

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** jan van diver  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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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 each and every day, I urge you to support the adoption of a local, zero-emission, leaf blower policy.

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

According to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB), leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California in 2021. 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 encourage residents to support local biodiversity by limiting the use of blowers to 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 communities across California in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, zero emission 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.

As a local resident I urge you to:

1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers, 2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and 3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

RECEIVED

2022 FEB 28 AM 8:57

CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PASADENA



day one



February 27, 2022

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

**RE: SUPPORT | Zero-Emission, Climate-Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena**

Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

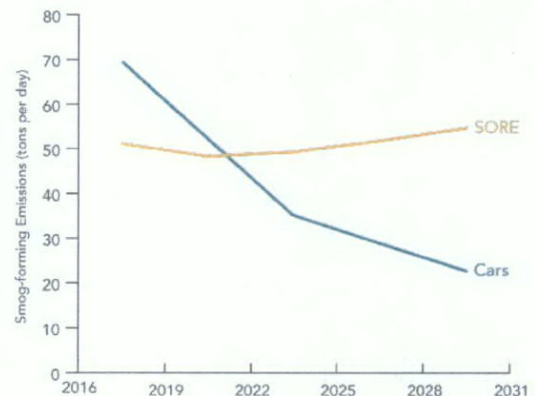


As community-based organizations and stakeholders committed to improving health, sustainability, and quality of life in Pasadena, we appreciate the City's efforts to implement its adopted Climate Action Plan. However, **more direct action is needed in the short term in order to combat the climate crisis, 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 adopted 2021-22 CA state budget included \$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 the South Pasadena City Council passed 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 was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8th. AB 1346 will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024.

**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** (e.g., electric-powered; hand yard sweepers, etc.)
- 3. limits the use of electric 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,

**Rev. Tera Klein**

Pastor

Throop Unitarian Universalist Church

**Greg Apodaca**

CEO

Community 2.0

**Sylvia Holmes**

Water Harvester

[www.bioswale.org](http://www.bioswale.org)

Transition Pasadena/Transition US

**Cheryl Auger**

President  
BAN SUP

**Christy Zamani**

Executive Director  
Day One

**Michelle Matthews**

Executive Director  
Arlington Garden in Pasadena

**Martha Y. Zavala**

President  
League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

**Lois Brunet**

Program Director  
Pasadena Audubon

**David Diaz, MPH**

Executive Director  
Active San Gabriel Valley

**Claire Robinson**

Executive Director  
Amigos de los Rios

**Wes Reutimann**

Co-organizer, Pasadena resident, District 6  
Pasadena Environmental Advocates (PEAs)

**Jonathan Levy**

Zero Waste Consultant  
Zero Waste Guy

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 7:08 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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As a local resident I urge you to:

1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers, 2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and 3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Therese Brummel  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 9:28 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 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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I urge you to:

1. Adopt a local policy to phase out gas leaf blowers, 2. Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape, and 3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air, Therese Brummel