

Iraheta, Alba

From: Katherine Gillespie
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 7:38 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Gas powered leaf blower

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I am writing in favor of the ban on gas powered leaf blowers. They are a recognized environmental polluter, a noise polluter with an acceptable replacement.

Katherine Gillespie

Sent from my iPad

Iraheta, Alba

From: David Naylor
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 11:59 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Correspondence for City Council Meeting 2.28.2022*
Attachments: Blown Away.pdf

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Dear Sir or Madam -

Please find attached correspondence in reference to Agenda item #10 for Monday's meeting (Leaf Blower Hearing), which is a summary of points I wish to make if called upon to speak.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
David Naylor

--

David Naylor

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0623272/>

<http://www.voice123.com/davidnaylor>

323.717.1034 c



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CITY OF PASADENA

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Introduction

I moved to Pasadena in April of 2020, just after the outbreak of the pandemic. I was tired of the outrageously high rents in Los Angeles, as well as the crime and homelessness.

Soon after arriving here, I thought I'd landed in paradise. I didn't see any tents on the streets, or graffiti covered rundown buildings, and was impressed with the clean, safe neighborhoods. What made it even more attractive to me was the number and variety of birds I had never seen in L.A. There were hummingbirds, parrots, and peacocks everywhere!

It was like a breath of fresh air. I was literally "blown away" (!) by how nice the city and neighborhoods were.

And then it started. ...



Paradise Lost

Sadly, the honeymoon was brought to a swift end when I was awoken one morning at 7.30am by the constant, loud noise of a leaf blower being used on the neighboring property. This lasted well over 20 minutes and was deafening....quite an accomplishment for someone who has partial hearing loss in their left ear!

I was hoping it would be just a one off, but unfortunately it was just the beginning of a nightmare. What the *&(^\$?! Even the recently departed dystopian hell of Los Angeles had the sense to ban these objects of torture, surely this can't be?! My heaven had literally turned into hell.

I would watch and was compelled to hear, at least three times a week, the horror of one blower being used to move leaves two doors down to next door, then next door onto our property.

Constant and repetitive violations of current city ordinances stating they could not be used before 8am and for no longer than 15 minutes. They even blew all their debris onto the tenant's cars in the parking lot. I finally had to point out to them and the building owners this was a violation of City Code, but they would occasionally try their luck starting at 7.40am.



Reality Check

A Closer Look at the Data & Damage Caused by Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

Upon determining there was no ban in place for the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Pasadena, I decided to undergo some research into their use, in the hope of having legislation passed by the City to have them outlawed. Here are just a few of my findings.

NOISE POLLUTION

Most cheap or mid-priced gas-powered leaf blowers emit and can expose users to up to **112 dB** while running (a plane taking off generates 105 db).

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recognizes that exposure to sounds over 85 dB causes hearing loss.



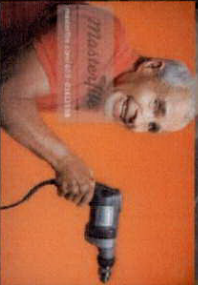
Noise Comparisons



Hair Dryer 60-95db



Heavy Traffic 85db



Electric Drill 95db



The Devil Incarnate 112db



Airplane Taking Off 105db



Car Horn 110db



Screaming Baby 110db



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs) are amazingly polluting—much more polluting than most late-model cars. They burn a mixture of gasoline and oil. Because their two-stroke engines are so **inefficient**, more than 30 percent of that mixture is released unburnt as aerosol. These emissions contain an array of toxic pollutants, known carcinogens, and smog-forming chemicals.
- Research has shown these machines emit 23 times more carbon monoxide and nearly 300 times more non-methane hydrocarbons(toxic chemicals that contribute to ozone pollution)than a 2011 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor.
- Destruction of ecosystems - the German Environment Ministry has stated leaf blowers can be "fatal to insects in the foliage. "There is a risk that small animals are absorbed or blown and thereby damaged," the ministry said in a statement. Noise emissions, pollution and harm to soil biology must also be considered when using leaf blowers, Silvia Bender, a species protection expert for the ministry, told [the Augsburger Allgemeine newspaper](#). Experts say insects make up the majority of creatures that live on land, and provide key benefits to many other species, including humans.

And many more referenced in the link below.



Problem Solved?

There are alternatives!

Elon Musk announced last year that he was going to release a silent leaf blower. The announcement on Twitter went viral, racking up some 211,000 likes — more than double his infamous “funding secured” tweet. His fans rejoiced, envisioning a world of silent yard maintenance, but a year later and a totally silent leaf blower hasn’t yet materialized, however there are numerous electric or battery-powered models available on the market as viable alternatives upon prohibiting the use of polluting gas-powered models.



Conclusion

The statewide ban on sales doesn't take effect until 2024, and it will take time to be effective.

In the meantime –

An Ordinance mandating a Citywide ban **MUST be passed.**

And of equal importance, ENFORCEMENT must be maintained, unlike Los Angeles.

It is time to hit the “mute” button on these menacing machines once and for all!



Reference Links

"Leaf blowers fatal to declining insects" BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50431827>

"Noisy leaf blowers disturb peace and everyone within earshot" | Miami Herald

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article152515714.html>

"Leaf blowers are not only annoying but also bad for you (and the environment)"

<https://www.zmescience.com/science/leaf-blowers-health-noise-hazards/>

"The War on Leaf Blowers: Why Some Communities Are Up in Arms Over the Loud Lawn Tools"

<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/the-war-on-leaf-blowers/>

"Negative Effects Of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Go Beyond The Noise" - 27 East

<https://www.27east.com/home-garden/negative-effects-of-gas-powered-leaf-blowers-go-beyond-the-noise-1775751>

"Why Are Leaf Blowers So Loud?"

<https://soundproofcentral.com/why-are-leaf-blowers-so-loud/>

"Here are 10 reasons why these environmental offenders should be banned."

<https://www.change.org/p/help-us-end-the-san-carlos-leaf-blower-nightmare>



Iraheta, Alba

From: Anthony Manousos
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 8:16 AM
To: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Williams, Felicia; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John J.; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Ban electric leaf blowers!

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Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I am very happy to hear that the City Council is considering banning gas-powered leaf blowers. As I write this letter, my gardeners are using the electric leaf blower that I purchased. It's so much quieter and less polluting than the gas-guzzling kind that I am sure my neighbors are grateful.

I was glad to hear that Council member Masuda has bought an electric leaf blower. The one that Jill and I bought one wasn't very expensive. Less than \$100.

We know that banning motorized leaf blowers is definitely feasible since over 100 cities have banned or restricted them, including South Pasadena.

We power our electric leaf blower with electricity from our solar panels.

I don't think it would be prohibitively expensive to require electric leaf blowers, which are much quieter and much less polluting than motorized ones.

I liked the suggestion of Council members Kennedy and Wilson to help subsidize gardeners to mitigate the cost of transitioning to electric blowers.

I'm glad to hear openness to banning motorized leaf blowers from our city. Thank you for taking this proposal seriously.

Respectfully,

Anthony Manousos

Iraheta, Alba

From: Mark C
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:49 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 ban gas powered leaf blowers

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Dear Pasadena City Council,

I am writing to urge our city to ban gas powered leaf blowers. The damage this equipment does to our air and to our people is massively overlooked. Gas powered blowers create more cancer causing pollution than cars do, which is just inexplicable in the times we live in. I personally have not been able to open my windows on a Saturday morning in over 10 years due to my neighbor's yard workers and their gas exhaust and fumes coming right into my house. I have small children who can't go outside to play whenever my surrounding neighbor's yard workers come and flood my yard with gasoline fumes. And the deafening noise gas powered blowers make is the definition of disturbing the peace. It has absolutely affected my family's quality of life. And I feel terrible for the yard workers who inhale the exhaust of this equipment all day- they are at severe risk of developing lung and other cancers. A move to electric equipment will save lives. The effect this polluting equipment has on climate change just makes their continued use inexcusable, especially in light of the fact that electric and battery powered equipment are now so effective and so readily available.

This is a chance for Pasadena to be seen as showing real leadership on an issue so vital to climate change and public health, and would help other cities see the wisdom of banning unnecessary and polluting gas powered yard equipment, improving the health of every single one of us.

Thank you
Mark Cessna

Iraheta, Alba

From:
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:52 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 - Support for Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy in Pasadena

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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 emitted 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 adopted 2021 CA state budget included \$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.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air.

VOTE YES ITEM 10. CONSIDERATION OF PROHIBITING GAS-POWERED LEAF-BLOWING MACHINES

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the actions proposed in the agenda report are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA

only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and

(2) Direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Title 9 (Public Peace, Morals and Welfare), Chapter 9.37 (Leaf-Blowing Machines) of the Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the

use of gas-powered leaf-blowing machines within Pasadena and related amendments.

Genette Foster
Pasadena 91106

Iraheta, Alba

From: Pilar Reynaldo
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:34 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; 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,

Sent from my iPhone
PRM

Iraheta, Alba

From: Karli Morin
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:52 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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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,

Iraheta, Alba

From: Jeremy Marusek
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:59 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Williams, Felicia; Wilson, Andy; Kennedy, John J.
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,
Jeremy Marusek

Iraheta, Alba

From: Joy W
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:45 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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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a neighbor to the north of Pasadena in Altadena 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.

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As your neighboring 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,

The CHA CHA Committee

Altadena  ZENN

"Zero Emission, No Noise"

--

Joy Walters
CHA CHA Facilitator/Host
525 Wapello St., Altadena, CA

Iraheta, Alba

From: Raquel Quiroz
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:13 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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Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Sent from my iPhone

Iraheta, Alba

From: Deborah Spector <... n>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 2:04 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 10 - I Support a Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy for Pasadena

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3. Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

02/28/2022
Item 10

Iraheta, Alba

From: Kristin Chew Reutimann
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 3:03 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 long time Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, as well as the environmental footprint made for my children's future, I urge you to support the adoption of a local, zero-emission, leaf blower policy. Pasadena needs to make bigger strides to combat the climate crisis and address air pollution in our community.

I can't tell you the number of times I am either out on a jog, or walking in the neighborhood with my children, and have to abruptly detour on account of encountering a gas leaf blower in path. What I can tell you is my family wants to be able to enjoy clean air, nature and the beauty Pasadena holds.

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 and taking positive steps forward make Pasadena a greener city for our children's future.

Sincerely,

Kristin Reutimann

Iraheta, Alba

From: Olga Stangl < >
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 3:34 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Leaf Blower Issue/ February 28th

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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,
Olga & Michael Stangl

Pasadena, CA
District 7

Iraheta, Alba

From: Jennifer Ho
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 4:11 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Rivas, Jessica
Subject: 2/28 City Council Meeting - Agenda Item 10 (Zero-Emission Leaf Blower Policy)

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council:

Growing up in Pasadena I developed asthma and respiratory conditions despite no family history. I can literally smell the pollution in the air when I go outside. As someone who cares deeply about delivering positive health outcomes to our community, **I urge you to support the adoption of a local, zero-emission, leaf blower policy.**

By moving to clean leaf blower policy, Pasadena can achieve:

- Reduction of biodiversity loss
- Reduction of harmful air pollutants in the community
- Delivery of positive health outcomes for the community

Pasadena has an opportunity to join communities across California in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, zero emission yard equipment. On September 1, 2021, 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.

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 time and consideration. I look forward to discussing this important topic in providing clean air for all residents.

Sincerely,
Jennifer H.

02/28/2022
Item 10