

Direct all City bureaus to transition from gas-powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers

If you wish to speak to Council, please print your name, address and email

Name (PRINT)	Address and Zip Code (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ Alan Flint	7997 Wake Rd. NE Hillboro	info@pascage.com
✓ Mary Peveto	Neighbors for Clean Air	mary@wlabshourair.org
✓ MICHAEL HALL	2826 NE 29 TH AVE, PORTLAND	MICHAELHALL1976@GMAIL.COM
✓ STAN PENKIN	1075 NW NORTHrup St	ON FILE
✓ Michael Wallace	922 NW 11 TH AVE, PORTLAND	mbw497@gmail.com
✓ Jess Tyler	8025 SE Woodstock Blvd	jess Tyler 90@gmail.com
✓ MARY	SIPE	
✓ Bob Selling	STUM	bs@thearc.org
✓ Daniel Luke ^{LUKE}	homeless	whatdauno@gmail.com

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Martin, Jordan
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 11:34 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for 12/4 Resolution.
Attachments: City Resolution Commissioner Fish.docx

Hi Council Clerk Staff,

I wanted to make sure you received the above testimony for city council.

Thanks!

Jordan Martin
Constituent Services Specialist

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

(why I list my pronouns)



1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 340
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503.823.4120
Jordan.martin@portlandoregon.gov
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/wheeler/>
[twitter](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#)

OFFICE OF MAYOR
TED WHEELER

From: Kellie Barnes <kellieb@easystreet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 5:26 PM
To: Wheeler, Mayor <MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Testimony for 12/4 Resolution.

Dear Mayor Wheeler,

Please find attached testimony for the Resolution tomorrow introduced by Commissioner Fish.

Thank you,

Kellie Barnes MOMT, MPT

www.corehealingpt.com

971-404-6146

December 4, 2019

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Thank you for proposing the Resolution to transition Portland City Bureaus from use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers to battery operated alternatives. This resolution is important for a few reasons.

1. 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers create noise pollution at a level that is not optimal for human health.
2. Many workers who use 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers have increased risk of adverse health conditions due to exposure to carbon emissions, particulates, and noise.
3. There are better, more cost-effective alternatives that protect human health and the overall health of the environment.

I also believe that establishment of a workgroup is an important step to identify solutions that will support small businesses as they transition towards more productive alternatives during phase II of this initiative.

Gas powered leaf blowers create noise pollution at a level that is not optimal for human health.

Health data indicates that noise pollution plays a role in many adverse health conditions including high blood pressure, increased risk of atrial fibrillation, and increased stress. As a physical therapist specializing in treating clients with neurological injury and concussions I am well aware that many clients that have sustained concussions, and those with PTSD, have increased headaches, increased cranial pressure due to venous lymphatic congestion, and an increase in sympathetic nervous system activation due to elevation of noise. For a person with a mild concussion, the level of noise generated from a 2-cycle gas leaf blower can be the cause of headaches, cranial pressure, reduced concentration, and reduced memory and recall. Many clients who sustain concussions and those that have PTSD, have to wear noise reduction appliances when in public to minimize the adverse influence noise has on healing of the brain. This includes the noise from 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers.

Transitioning from 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers will improve the health of all citizens due to the reduction in noise pollution.

Many workers who use 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers have increased risk of adverse health conditions due to exposure to carbon emissions, particulates, and noise.

The use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers increases the amount and exposure of particulates to workers and neighbors. These may include mycotoxins in the form of mold spores, (common in outdoor garden and yard environments and a source of illness for some people) debris, and rodent waste. As the speed of leaf blowers increase and residential windows are open, the risk

of indoor mold exposure increases. This is an adverse health condition as some mold spores increase the risk of indoor home mold neurotoxins. While this may not seem like a high risk, about 15% of my clients that I treat for neurological conditions have allergies to mold, and neurotoxins from mold present in their home. All of these indoor mold findings, first originated from outdoor common molds. OPEI recommends dampening an outdoor yard environment before use of a 2-cycle gas powered leaf blower, but this is not a consistent practice. This risk increases in the fall season when leaf blowers are used for controlling leaves that are full of mold spores.

The use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers does not promote a safe work environment for many people that may not have additional economic or work opportunities. Often these employees do not have the freedom of choice to use another product such as a battery-operated leaf blower, or a rake to protect their health.

Organizations such as OPEI recommend guidelines of use for 2-cycle gas operated leaf blowers, but often it appears workers are subject to using such tools without protective eye wear, clothing, or masks. Occasionally one may see workers with ear protection to reduce noise, but this is not consistent, and such precautions do not protect neighbors working from home, walking their dog, or biking through a neighborhood.

There are better, more cost-effective alternatives that protect human health and the overall health of the environment.

Many companies are already making the transition to electric leaf blowers as battery technology improves, as the owners see the benefit for the health of their employees, and as a way to generate new discerning customers. Many customers now seek green alternatives that support the health of their community members and the environment.

Transition from 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers to battery operated leaf blowers improves human health, promotes safety for workers, and improves air quality. Please support this resolution.

Support of this resolution is a positive start towards transitioning the City Bureaus from use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers. Establishment of a work group to consider potential sources of funds to minimize the cost of transition for small businesses is critical to the transition's success. The Portland Clean Energy Fund may be one source of revenue to assist small businesses, particularly those operated and owned by members of communities of color. I believe that the creation of such a work group would allow close assessment of this particular topic and has the ability to identify any unintended consequences that place these businesses in undue hardship.

Sincerely,

Kellie Barnes MOMT, MPT

McClymont, Keelan

From: Lisa Abramovic <lisamina@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 2:34 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: No Gas Leaf Blowers

Dr. Comm. Fish,

I strongly urge you to ban gas leaf blowers in Portland. Studies show the extreme amount of pollution they emit which endangers the health and well-being of people and animals. They also do great damage to our already challenged environment. And of course, the loud roar from the machines not only damages the hearing of those in the vicinity without ear protection, but they are highly irritating.

Thank you,

Lisa Abramovic

McClymont, Keelan

From: denise smitherman <d.smitherman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blowers

Please vote to change from gas powered leaf blowers to electric ones. I am a daily bike commuter and have had to breath in toxic fumes while biking.

Thanks,
Denise Smitherman

From: Amy Hall <amy@thriving-creative.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please support a ban on gas-powered blowers!

Dear Committee,

Gas-powered blowers are not a necessity and are harming our citizens. We need to be reducing air pollutants and carbon emissions as much as possible.

Thank you,
Amy Hall

NE Portland

From: Mary Peveto <mary@whatsinourair.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blower resolution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my support for the City Resolution to transition all bureaus from gas powered leaf blowers to readily available electric and battery operated models.

In the ten years since Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Portland Air Toxics Solutions project brought to the light the ubiquitous and complex problem of urban air quality, very few explicit actions have been taken to address the dangerous levels of air contaminants in Portland. Interesting to note within the context of today's discussion, lawn equipment was singled out as a source category which contributed significant levels of toxic pollution in our region.

It has become increasingly clear to me, in that same period of time, that waiting on our state government to solve our local air quality problems is not practicable. It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

I am very heartened to see the City take this action to reduce local air pollution. I hope it is but one of many initiatives led by the city to improve the health and well being of Portland residents and make all our neighborhoods places where our children and most vulnerable populations can live joyfully and thrive.

Thank you.

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Mary Peveto
Neighbors for Clean Air
[NCA featured in 1% for Planet list of 13 non-profits working on pollution solutions.](#)
[Watch the video to learn more about our work to reduce diesel pollution.](#)
503-705-0481
Twitter: pdxair
Facebook: [facebook.com/neighborsforcleanair](https://www.facebook.com/neighborsforcleanair)
www.whatsinourair.org

From: Tersa Soto <teresakeishisoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Item 1123 on the 12/4 agenda

I support Commissioner Fish's proposed resolution to require all city bureaus to transition from the use of gas-powered leaf blowers to electric and/ or battery operated leaf blowers.

I am one of the many adults in Portland who are negatively impacted by our poor air quality. I carry an inhaler with me at all times and wear a mask when I am walking around cars. I have stopped breathing twice. If breathing is hard for me, it's much harder for children.

This resolution is an excellent step to draw attention to the city's need to become involved in supporting actions to move our city toward healthy air.

Muchísimas Gracias

Teresa Keishi Soto
12540 SE Powell Blvd. #1
Portland, Oregon 97236
503 933-7675

McClymont, Keelan

From: David Meyer <dmeyer@teleport.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Item # 1123 Leaf Blowers

Thank you for taking this first step toward banning all gasoline-powered leaf blowers in the City of Portland.

We encourage you to ban their use city-wide, public and private use, including landscaping companies.

This would help Portland as a city concerned with climate change, livability, and noise pollution.

The current system of unenforceable noise limits with an understaffed noise complaint response for illegally loud gas-powered leaf blowers is very frustrating! Just ban all gas-powered leaf blowers, please.

Thank you,

Jane Hart Meyer

David Meyer

3550 SW Custer St.

Portland 97219

McClymont, Keelan

From: Sue Souers <ssouers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: leaf blowers

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

Yesterday, as I was walking in my neighborhood in Corbett/Lair Hill, pushing my 4-month old granddaughter in a stroller, a landscaper was using a leaf blower. I needed to cross the street to avoid the fumes and the loud noise.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,

Susan M. Souers

0210 SW Gaines St.
Portland, OR 97239

CC: Mayor Wheeler

Commissioner Hardesty

Commissioner Fritz

Commissioner Eudaly

McClymont, Keelan

From: Lara Pacheco <sheetslg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:16 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Cleaner Air

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you.

Lara Pacheco

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

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[Seed and Thistle Herbal CSA](http://www.seedandthistle.com)
www.seedandthistle.com

water never holds a place and space in our minds...it rolls like the milky layers of sweet speech speeding across mechanized terraces until it is paralyzed by my very own inaction to swallow its magnificence....

From: JFasinfork <JFasinfork@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Wendy Fenner
Subject: Leaf Blower Ordinance: In support

Climate change is the biggest challenge facing our future. There are many massive transitions that need to take place on a societal level, and there are even more changes that are needed on an individual, or small scale level. There is no reason to delay in regards to picking low-hanging fruit, and gas-powered leaf blowers are among the lowest-hanging of all. Leaf blowers pollute with climate-warming gasses, leaf blowers pollute with particulates, and leaf blowers pollute with ear-damaging noise. These terrible devices reduce both health and quality of life.

Please pass the ordinance requiring the city to convert to electric leaf blowers (if they are needed at all); and I hope that will soon be followed by a rule to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers from the City of Portland altogether.

Thank you,
James Fenner
Northeast Portland

From: Michael Wallace <mbw4971@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 1:42 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony; Commissioner Fish
Subject: Leaf Blower Resolution

Commissioner Fish:

I wholeheartedly support your resolution to transition Portland from gas-powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers. Noise pollution harms personal and community health, and gas-powered leaf blowers are an important source of this pollution in Portland.

I am a Community Member-at-Large of the Noise Review Board. I am glad that your resolution will bring this issue into the Portland dialogue, and I look forward to this topic being discussed publicly with a view to improving our individual and collective lives.

Michael Wallace
922 NW 11th Avenue #101

From: Lisa Calef <ljcalef@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: leaf blowing

Mayor Wheeler:

I am writing to offer support for the ordinance brought forward by Commissioner Fish to ban gas powered leaf blowers in Portland. If Portland is going to be serious about addressing carbon levels, as well as unnecessary noise pollution, it must address the lowest hanging fruit: leaf blowers.

I am a Pearl resident and find leaf blower use to be out of control. Leaf blowers are used by every landscape and property management company to blow loose leaves, as well as dirt and debris, into piles or into shrubbery. This is absolute overkill; it's the equivalent of taking a chainsaw to cut the butter. Leaves are a natural part of Portland beauty. They can be swept and corralled at the end of the season and taken to a mulch pit. They do not need to be moved about with gasoline.

While I applaud the effort of Commissioner Fish to eliminate gas powered blowers, even the battery operated blowers are a noise nuisance. Leaf blowers operate every day of the week, giving residents no relief from their noise. If Portland wants to be serious about livability, it must address these completely unnecessary tools in favor of rakes and brooms. Perhaps a study can be launched to truly determine if leaf blowing is more efficient than sweeping and bagging. I have watched many leaf blower operators stand still for minutes at time trying to get one or two wet leaves to budge off the pavement.

Portland can do so much better. Please help Portland live up to its reputation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Calef
Park Place
Pearl District, Portland

From: Sylvia Allen <sylviaa53@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blowers

For years I've been saying, "Those things ought to be illegal!" I am strongly in support of legislation to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. (In fact, I'd love a ban on all leaf blowers. Get out there and rake them, jeez.)

- Sylvia Allen

From: Marybeth Bielawski-DeLeo <bielawskideleo.marybeth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf Blower Power Transition

As a resident of North Portland I am well aware of the air quality issues the city of Portland faces. In fact if I had been aware of the poor state of the air quality when I relocated to Portland in 2012, I would have chosen to live elsewhere. As I am here, however, I am aware through Neighbors for Clean Air of the uphill climb in progress to tackle diesel truck pollution, the Port of Portland air contamination, and the Daimler Company paint air pollution. Given the magnitude of these battles, it seems a simple solution to improve air quality by requiring a transition from gas-powered leaf blowers to electric and/or battery operated blowers. It would be important from my perspective to require noise reduction apparatus as well.

--

Marybeth Bielawski-DeLeo
Producing Artistic Director
Inukshuk Production Company

McClymont, Keelan

From: Seth Prickett <sethprickett@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please vote to do away with gas powered leaf blowers!

Please vote to do away with gas powered leaf blowers!

Seth Prickett, REALTOR®
Sent from my mobile gadget

McClymont, Keelan

From: Maggie Zadikov <mzadikov@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Item 1123

Dear Nick,

I am writing you for the second time to ask you to endorse the resolution to ban gas-powered leaf blowers from our fair city. Now that the vote is actually happening tomorrow, I am very thrilled to state that request again.

A resident of Portland for over forty years, it is very important to me to live in a clean, quiet and healthy environment - especially as I have a compromised immune system.

Thank you for your service on our behalf.

Respectfully,

Maggie Zadikov
2501 SE Madison St
Portland, Or 97214

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Magdalena Zadikov
2501 SE Madison St.
Portland, OR 97214
503-234-3219 ph/text

“The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live.”
August Rodin

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jina Kim <chickpea@ty-land.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:03 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Ban leaf blowers

I support the ban of leaf blowers - not only are they a noise pollution, there have been numerous research that shows they are health hazards, dispersing matters and polluting our air.

Thank you!
Jina kim

Sent from my iPhone

McClymont, Keelan

From: Bob Grover <Bob.Grover@pacscape.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11:25 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: Adam Flint
Subject: 1123 –Direct all City bureaus to transition from gas-powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers
Attachments: OLCA Position Paper on Use of Gas Powered Backpack Blowers 3.8.19.docx; NALP Backpack Blower Flyers 0118_weblogofinal.pdf

Attached is written testimony regarding potential gas powered blower ban associated with Resolution 1123

Bob Grover, President
PACIFIC LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT
cell 503-793-6104 office 503-648-3900 fax 503-642-2369
bob.grover@pacscape.com www.pacscape.com



Position Paper on Use of Gas Powered Backpack Blowers

The use of gas powered blowers has come under scrutiny. Some are calling for a blanket ban on this equipment, regardless of its power source, while others have called for a ban on gas powered blowers by using battery versions. Many of the arguments for a blower ban are based on emotions, not facts.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, in conjunction with the National Association of Landscape Professionals, has developed the following fact sheet as one tool to assist landscapers in educating their local community leaders, residents, and other stakeholders on the vital role this equipment plays in their communities, misconceptions about its design, and the importance of the people using the equipment.

Myth: We don't need blowers

FACT: Blowers are used by landscapers as well as homeowners and many other business owners to clean parking lots and sports stadiums, remove snow, clean gutters, and clear flammable debris from around buildings during fire season.

Business owners want clean parking lots and landscapes, communities want neat and clean parks free of debris that can harbor insects and pests, and homeowners want attractive front yards. Blowers are often the best equipment to achieve those goals.

- According to the California Landscape Contractors Association, it takes about five times longer to clean up a landscape site with a rake or broom than a blower. (1)
- Manually cleaning a site takes longer, which results in higher manpower costs. Those costs are ultimately passed on to the customer – whether that is a homeowner, HOA, or municipal government.
- Using a blower instead of a hose to clean city sidewalks, driveways, and other areas saves potable water.
- Many large-scale projects, like parking lots, stadiums, or playgrounds, simply can't be done by hand in a reasonable amount of time.

Myth: Blowers produce excessive noise.

FACT: Manufacturers have invested millions of dollars and more than 15 years of research into the development of quieter blowers. Many modern blowers are as much as 75 percent quieter than blowers manufactured just a decade ago. (2) Today, landscapers have access to blowers, both gas and electric, that are quieter than considered acceptable in many cities and municipalities.

And when we all use this equipment in a safe and courteous manner, we further reduce the impact on our community and our neighbors.

Safe and courteous use means:

- Being aware and sensitive to our surroundings and time of day and planning our work accordingly.
- Making sure bystanders, including other operators, are at least 50 feet away, and ceasing blowing if we are approached.
- Using reduced-noise blowers in noise-sensitive areas.
- Using the blower at the lowest possible power needed to accomplish the task.
- Avoiding using more than one blower at a time – especially in neighborhoods

Myth: Blowers produce excessive emissions

FACT: Equipment manufacturers have been working with the U.S. EPA and California Air Resources Board for nearly two decades to reduce small engine emissions – the same small engines in blowers. And they have accomplished a lot: Gas-powered small engine emissions have been reduced by as much as 90 percent. (3) That's a number we are proud of. And as landscapers we now have access to battery-powered blowers that have zero exhaust emissions to meet many of our needs.

Myth: Blowers produce excessive dust and debris.

FACT: Studies have shown that a blower, when used properly, generates no more suspended dust and debris than a broom. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in California commissioned a study that concluded daily driving of automobiles generates 100 times more dust than blowers. (4
)

Again, we practice safe and courteous use of our equipment. This means:

- Using the lowest possible throttle speed to get the job done and reduce dust and suspended particles.
- Wetting very dusty areas prior to blowing.
- Checking wind direction and intensity so dust and debris aren't moving toward open windows or doors.
- Starting with the nozzle close to the ground at first – then raise it to a height where it generates the least amount of dust.
- And if the debris is excessively dusty – like construction debris, dry topsoil, or large amounts of gravel – considering using a different tool for that particular job

Myth: A blower ban or restriction is the only way to address the issue.

REALTY: A blower ban is not only a severe and unnecessary remedy, but is also one that is expensive and difficult to enforce. A more reasonable course of action is for landscapers to use the most modern, efficient, and to follow industry best practices for safe and courteous use. As residents, business owners, and employers in our communities, we want to work together with community leaders, homeowners, equipment dealers, and other stakeholders to find common ground and compromise, and to develop ordinances that focus on permissible hours of operation, as well as safe and courteous use of equipment, while allowing us the freedom to choose the best equipment to complete our work.

Sources

1. *California Landscape Contractors Association: <http://www.clca.org/leaf-blowers/index.php>*
2. *City of Long Beach Memorandum, January 10, 2017, Kelly Colopy, "Early leaf blowers averaged about 78 decibels, with some machines measuring even louder.... Many new blowers are at or below 65 decibels. For every six-decibel reduction, sound intensity is actually reduced by 50 percent. That means many of today's units are four times quieter than older blowers."*
3. *U.S. EPA Regulatory Impact Analysis and Regulatory Support Document, (Phase 1) Control of Air Pollution; Emissions Standard for New Non-Road Spark-Ignited Engines at or Below 19 kW, May 1995 "All of the prototype engines meet their respective standards. The actual percentage reductions in emissions ranged from 1 to 94 % for HC and 10 to 82 % for CO"; U.S. EPA Final Regulatory Impact Analysis, Phase 2 Final Rule: Emission Standards for New Nonroad Handheld Spark-Ignition Engines At or Below 19 kW, March 2000; U.S. EPA 2018 Small Spark-Ignited Engine Certification Database.*
4. *More fuss than dust, leaf blowers not big polluters, study says. Mark Grossi (technical contributions by Fitz, D.), Fresno Bee, February 23, 2006 "The first dust study ever done on leaf blowers portrays them as an insignificant polluter in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the nation's dirtiest air basins. ... Daily air dust-up tons per day: Agriculture 91.33, Paved Roads 62.66, Construction 14.09, Leaf Blowers 0.52."*

Backpack Blower Safe and Responsible Operation Pledge

It is imperative that our company employees always perform their job tasks in a safe, courteous and responsible manner. Employees are properly trained on all equipment and are provided with the proper personal safety equipment. Our company is an environmentally responsible company as we make every effort to be good stewards of the landscape and the environment.

- Our company regularly reviews proper operational and safety procedures. We demonstrate our commitment to these procedures through regular training programs, tailgate meetings, and other encounters. Employees have reviewed operational procedures and been trained on the proper operation of backpack blower equipment.
- Our company uses only equipment compliant with United States Environmental Protection Agency (and the Air Resources Board in California) small spark-ignited engine emission regulations.
- Our company reviews local ordinances in our operating areas to assure equipment is operated in accordance with those ordinances.
- Employees inspect equipment before each use to insure all parts are in working order. By doing so we ensure that equipment remains compliant with applicable safety standards, noise ordinances and emission regulations.
- Employees wear appropriate work clothing, work shoes or boots, no loose-fitting clothes. Employees also wear eye and ear protection when operating equipment.
- Employees are trained to be aware of their surroundings, i.e. other people, children, pets, cars and to operate equipment appropriately.
- Employees are trained to operate blowers at their lowest possible throttle speed for the specific task. Employees are trained to use noise reducing nozzle attachments.
- Our employees make every effort to be good stewards of the landscape, the community and the environment. Thus, as newer safer and more efficient equipment becomes available, our company strives to provide our employees with the best possible, safest equipment for operation.

Company: _____



Promesa de Operación Responsable y Segura de Sopladores de Mochila

Es esencial que los empleados de empresa siempre realicen su trabajo de una manera segura, respetuosa y responsable. Los empleados están debidamente capacitados en todo el equipo y se les proporciona el equipo de seguridad personal adecuado. Empresa es una empresa ambientalmente responsable y hace todo lo posible para mejorar el medio ambiente al mantener las propiedades de nuestros clientes.

- Nuestra empresa revisa regularmente los procedimientos adecuados de operación y de seguridad. Demostramos nuestro compromiso con estos procedimientos a través de programas de entrenamiento regulares y reuniones espontaneas en los sitios de trabajo entre otros. Los empleados han revisado los procedimientos de operación y han sido entrenados en el funcionamiento adecuado del soplador de mochila.
- Nuestra empresa solamente usa los equipos que cumplen con las regulaciones establecidas por la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos y por la "Air Resources Board" del estado de California.
- Nuestra empresa revisa los códigos locales en nuestras áreas de operación y aseguramos que operamos equipo de acuerdo con esos códigos.
- Nuestros empleados inspeccionan el equipo antes de cada uso para asegurar que todas las piezas estén en buen estado. Al hacerlo, nos aseguramos de que el equipo sigue cumpliendo con las normas de seguridad, los códigos de ruido y las regulaciones de emisiones.
- Nuestros empleados usan ropa de trabajo apropiada con zapatos de trabajo o botas y no usan ropa suelta. Los empleados también usan protección para los ojos y los oídos al operar el equipo.
- Nuestros empleados son entrenados para ser conscientes de sus alrededores, es decir de otras personas, niños, mascotas, automóviles y para operar todo el equipo apropiadamente.
- Nuestros empleados están entrenados para operar los sopladores de mochila a la mínima velocidad necesaria para lograr el trabajo. Nuestros empleados están entrenados en el uso de accesorios como la boquilla reductora de ruido.
- Nuestros empleados hacen todo lo posible para mejorar el medio ambiente. Por lo tanto, a medida que haya la disponibilidad de equipos más seguros y eficientes, nuestra empresa se esforzara por ofrecerle a nuestros empleados el mejor y más seguro equipo disponible.

Empresa: _____



Tips for Backpack Blower Safe and Courteous Operation

- Require every employee to review the safe operation portion of the manufacturer's manual
- Visually inspect all equipment before use to ensure it is in safe working condition.
- Check the condition of the muffler, air intakes and air filter to make sure they are in good condition.
- Make sure starter ropes and handles are not frayed or broken and starter handle is secure.
- Check fuel level before you start the engine to avoid fueling while the engine is hot.
- Always fuel on the ground. Never fuel while smoking and never fuel inside a truck or on the truck bed.
- Make sure any fueling overspill is wiped dry before use.
- If using battery powered equipment, make sure batteries are charged and always inspect for damage.
- Be sure the switch is in the off position before connecting the battery pack.
- Adjust shoulder straps to reduce back strain.
- Always wear safety glasses and ear protection.
- Wear appropriate work clothes and work shoes or boots.
- Be aware of bystanders, both people and pets. Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Always operate blowers with firm footing.
- Survey the area you are cleaning before operating the blower. Look for hazards such as broken glass or rocks.
- Be aware of wind direction and dust.
- Use lowest possible throttle speed. This reduces noise and give the operator more control.
- Never blow leaves and debris into the street or onto neighboring property.
- Use the full lower extensions to control sound and minimize dust.
- Limit the number of blowers in use on small residential sites to reduce noise.
- Do not operate blower from a moving vehicle.
- Maintain a safe working distance from other workers on the job site at least 30 feet.
- Never leave a blower running while unattended.
- Stop the engine when inspecting, repairing or cleaning the blower.
- Be aware of local ordinances that may regulate the operation of leaf blowers or other equipment. Hours of operation may be limited.
- Always work carefully. You need to be safe, courteous and responsible.
- When finished, always secured the blower properly in the truck or trailer.



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
**LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONALS**



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
INSTITUTE

McClymont, Keelan

From: Stephanie McBride <stephmcbride50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: YES on Fish's resolution (item 1123)

Hi

As a member of Neighbors for Clean Air and on behalf of all Portlanders, I urge you promote your bill to transition from gas-powered to electric/battery operated leaf blowers. What a great idea!

Thanks, Stephanie McBride

City Council

Wednesday, 12/4, 2pm

Vote on Leaf Blower Resolution

Directs all City bureaus to transition from gas-powered to electric and/or battery operated leaf blowers

McClymont, Keelan

From: Donovan Rundle <donovanrundle@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 9:13 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: [User Approved] Leaf Blowers

I am 95 % blind now and I cannot convey to a sighted person how shocking it is to have one of these horrible inventions start up nearby. Most operators are somewhat considerate, but not all. God, the stink!

Do you know the history of these machines? They were designed to blow chemicals, and in Berkeley, Ca., in 1969, I was trying to get past one of these that was spraying CS tear gas so I could walk home to my dormitory. I never made it home because I was shot, at age 17, a first quarter freshman. I guess I looked like a hippie or something. I'll never know what was in the shooter's mind.

But whenever one of these damned machines gets close, I feel the PTSD vibes flooding my mind and body. My unconscious thinks I'm about to be shot. I need to be near public transit these days, and sometimes I feel surrounded by these awful machines.

Thanks for considering doing something to help.

Donovan Rundle





Alan
Flint
12/4/19

Position Paper on Use of Gas Powered Backpack Blowers

The use of gas powered blowers has come under scrutiny. Some are calling for a blanket ban on this equipment, regardless of its power source, while others have called for a ban on gas powered blowers by using battery versions. Many of the arguments for a blower ban are based on emotions, not facts.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, in conjunction with the National Association of Landscape Professionals, has developed the following fact sheet as one tool to assist landscapers in educating their local community leaders, residents, and other stakeholders on the vital role this equipment plays in their communities, misconceptions about its design, and the importance of the people using the equipment.

Myth: We don't need blowers

FACT: Blowers are used by landscapers as well as homeowners and many other business owners to clean parking lots and sports stadiums, remove snow, clean gutters, and clear flammable debris from around buildings during fire season.

Business owners want clean parking lots and landscapes, communities want neat and clean parks free of debris that can harbor insects and pests, and homeowners want attractive front yards. Blowers are often the best equipment to achieve those goals.

- According to the California Landscape Contractors Association, it takes about five times longer to clean up a landscape site with a rake or broom than a blower. (1)
- Manually cleaning a site takes longer, which results in higher manpower costs. Those costs are ultimately passed on to the customer – whether that is a homeowner, HOA, or municipal government.
- Using a blower instead of a hose to clean city sidewalks, driveways, and other areas saves potable water.
- Many large-scale projects, like parking lots, stadiums, or playgrounds, simply can't be done by hand in a reasonable amount of time.

Myth: Blowers produce excessive noise.

FACT: Manufacturers have invested millions of dollars and more than 15 years of research into the development of quieter blowers. Many modern blowers are as much as 75 percent quieter than blowers manufactured just a decade ago. (2) Today, landscapers have access to blowers, both gas and electric, that are quieter than considered acceptable in many cities and municipalities.

And when we all use this equipment in a safe and courteous manner, we further reduce the impact on our community and our neighbors.

Safe and courteous use means:

- Being aware and sensitive to our surroundings and time of day and planning our work accordingly.
- Making sure bystanders, including other operators, are at least 50 feet away, and ceasing blowing if we are approached.
- Using reduced-noise blowers in noise-sensitive areas.
- Using the blower at the lowest possible power needed to accomplish the task.
- Avoiding using more than one blower at a time – especially in neighborhoods

Myth: Blowers produce excessive emissions

FACT: Equipment manufacturers have been working with the U.S. EPA and California Air Resources Board for nearly two decades to reduce small engine emissions – the same small engines in blowers. And they have accomplished a lot: Gas-powered small engine emissions have been reduced by as much as 90 percent. (3) That’s a number we are proud of. And as landscapers we now have access to battery-powered blowers that have zero exhaust emissions to meet many of our needs.

Myth: Blowers produce excessive dust and debris.

FACT: Studies have shown that a blower, when used properly, generates no more suspended dust and debris than a broom. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in California commissioned a study that concluded daily driving of automobiles generates 100 times more dust than blowers. (4)

Again, we practice safe and courteous use of our equipment. This means:

- Using the lowest possible throttle speed to get the job done and reduce dust and suspended particles.
- Wetting very dusty areas prior to blowing.
- Checking wind direction and intensity so dust and debris aren’t moving toward open windows or doors.
- Starting with the nozzle close to the ground at first – then raise it to a height where it generates the least amount of dust.
- And if the debris is excessively dusty – like construction debris, dry topsoil, or large amounts of gravel – considering using a different tool for that particular job

Myth: A blower ban or restriction is the only way to address the issue.

REALTY: A blower ban is not only a severe and unnecessary remedy, but is also one that is expensive and difficult to enforce. A more reasonable course of action is for landscapers to use the most modern, efficient, and to follow industry best practices for safe and courteous use. As residents, business owners, and employers in our communities, we want to work together with community leaders, homeowners, equipment dealers, and other stakeholders to find common ground and compromise, and to develop ordinances that focus on permissible hours of operation, as well as safe and courteous use of equipment, while allowing us the freedom to choose the best equipment to complete our work.

Sources

1. California Landscape Contractors Association: <http://www.clca.org/leaf-blowers/index.php>
2. City of Long Beach Memorandum, January 10, 2017, Kelly Colopy, “Early leaf blowers averaged about 78 decibels, with some machines measuring even louder.... Many new blowers are at or below 65 decibels. For every six-decibel reduction, sound intensity is actually reduced by 50 percent. That means many of today’s units are four times quieter than older blowers.”
3. U.S. EPA Regulatory Impact Analysis and Regulatory Support Document, (Phase 1) Control of Air Pollution; Emissions Standard for New Non-Road Spark-Ignited Engines at or Below 19 kW, May 1995 “All of the prototype engines meet their respective standards. The actual percentage reductions in emissions ranged from 1 to 94 % for HC and 10 to 82 % for CO”; U.S. EPA Final Regulatory Impact Analysis, Phase 2 Final Rule: Emission Standards for New Nonroad Handheld Spark-Ignition Engines At or Below 19 kW, March 2000; U.S. EPA 2018 Small Spark-Ignited Engine Certification Database.
4. More fuss than dust, leaf blowers not big polluters, study says. Mark Grossi (technical contributions by Fitz, D.), Fresno Bee, February 23, 2006 “The first dust study ever done on leaf blowers portrays them as an insignificant polluter in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the nation’s dirtiest air basins. ... Daily air dust-up tons per day: Agriculture 91.33, Paved Roads 62.66, Construction 14.09, Leaf Blowers 0.52.”



Statement in Opposition of a Potential Gas Powered Blower Ban

I am here this afternoon speaking on behalf of the **Oregon Landscape Contractors Association**. Today I am submitting the testimony I am about to give along with our association's position paper on the use of gas powered backpack blowers and the National Association of Landscape Professionals and Outdoor Power Equipment Institute Backpack Blower Safe and Responsible Use Pledge.

Our associations mission is to support our landscape contractor members in enhancing the professionalism of their staff and business while advancing our profession with new innovation and technology. As landscape contractors, we are proud to be stewards of the important green space and outdoor living environments in our urban developments. Landscapes provide beauty, opportunities for recreation, and do important environmental work helping clean our water, clean our air, and provide shade and reduce the solar radiation of the built environment. To build and maintain these environments, we have historically used petrol chemicals, herbicides, fertilizers, and water resources. Due to the sustainable movement, many of these historic landscape maintenance practices have come under fire. As many of our owner members and employees have been drawn to the industry due to our love of nature in the out of doors, we collectively are motivated and working on reducing the environmental impact of our construction and maintenance activities while supporting the positive environmental effects of urban plants and landscape elements.

The resolution before you speaks of the negative impacts of gas powered blowers on the environment, human health, and our overall community. It is our understanding that the goal is to have the city of Portland be a leader in promoting the replacement of gas powered blower's with battery powered technology. Our association is not in opposition to this internal conversion to battery blowers the city of Portland will consider, but instead is concerned about the potential of this leading to a future resolution banning gas powered blowers within the city of Portland. We would oppose such a resolution as we did of HB 3350 introduced to the legislature last year. We instead would support the promotion of and even providing incentive for individuals and companies to replace gas powered blowers with electric versions.

We would also like to acknowledge our associations excitement of the development of battery powered small engine technology. In just the past 5 to 6 years, we have seen this technology go from virtually nonexistent, to getting closer to being able to compete with gas powered technology in terms of run time, power and cost. Many of our members including my company have purchased and are using battery powered equipment of all types. Our organization promotes and supports that. Coincidentally, today is our annual conference and tradeshow at the Oregon Convention Center where multiple equipment vendors are displaying the most up to date battery powered small engine equipment. In addition, many of our educational sessions are focusing on sustainability and environmental training. These seminars included: alternatives to glyphosate, proper calibration of liquid and granular fertilizer products to reduce leaching into stormwater, outdoor power equipment maintenance to reduce fuel consumption in use, and managing vegetated stormwater facilities.

Although many landscape contractors in Oregon are beginning to adopt battery powered small engine equipment, the technology still falls short in terms of power and run time, and is significantly more expensive than traditional gas powered small engines. However, looking at the track record of technological development of battery equipment over the last five years, we are confident runtime, power, and cost should equal gas powered equipment within the next five years. Similar to automobiles, the development of vehicles like Tesla is exciting, but not economically viable for all transportation use at this time. As with vehicles, the evolution of the technology gives us great hope gas powered powered landscape maintenance engines will be replaced with battery powered in the near future naturally without legislation.

In addition to the technological advancement of battery powered equipment, the EPA established national emission standards beginning in 1997. These have helped create more efficient engines that have curbed summertime ozone and carbon monoxide sources and other regulated pollutants by approximately 90 percent per EPA estimates.

Forcing this conversion prior to it being economically viable is unnecessary as the evolution will occur naturally due to the technological development of battery powered engines. Forced conversion prior to the technology being economically equal to gas powered equipment will increase the costs for landscape contractors and other businesses that use blowers in their operations. These increased costs will put undue hardship on these businesses and raise costs to property owners that rely on blowers in their operation. Currently, battery operated blowers cost significantly more than gas powered models, their run time between battery change is shorter than gas powered refueling, and they do not develop as much power as battery. This all increases businesses capital equipment costs and slows down production, increasing labor costs for similar work.

As an industry with likely the largest used of gas powered leaf blower's, we ask to be included in the discussion and/or any work group created to formulate future initiatives aimed at increasing battery powered engines and or banning of gas powered models. Our connection to the **National Landscape Contractors Association** and the **Outdoor Power Equipment Institute** can help provide data to help a work group come up with an appropriate City policies to help attain the goal of replacing gas powered leaf blower's with battery models without an outright ban. Please except our offer to participate in any work group that is formed out of this ordinance if passed.

Backpack Blower Safe and Responsible Operation Pledge

It is imperative that our company employees always perform their job tasks in a safe, courteous and responsible manner. Employees are properly trained on all equipment and are provided with the proper personal safety equipment. Our company is an environmentally responsible company as we make every effort to be good stewards of the landscape and the environment.

- Our company regularly reviews proper operational and safety procedures. We demonstrate our commitment to these procedures through regular training programs, tailgate meetings, and other encounters. Employees have reviewed operational procedures and been trained on the proper operation of backpack blower equipment.
- Our company uses only equipment compliant with United States Environmental Protection Agency (and the Air Resources Board in California) small spark-ignited engine emission regulations.
- Our company reviews local ordinances in our operating areas to assure equipment is operated in accordance with those ordinances.
- Employees inspect equipment before each use to insure all parts are in working order. By doing so we ensure that equipment remains compliant with applicable safety standards, noise ordinances and emission regulations.
- Employees wear appropriate work clothing, work shoes or boots, no loose-fitting clothes. Employees also wear eye and ear protection when operating equipment.
- Employees are trained to be aware of their surroundings, i.e. other people, children, pets, cars and to operate equipment appropriately.
- Employees are trained to operate blowers at their lowest possible throttle speed for the specific task. Employees are trained to use noise reducing nozzle attachments.
- Our employees make every effort to be good stewards of the landscape, the community and the environment. Thus, as newer safer and more efficient equipment becomes available, our company strives to provide our employees with the best possible, safest equipment for operation.

Company: _____



Tips for Backpack Blower Safe and Courteous Operation

- Require every employee to review the safe operation portion of the manufacturer's manual
- Visually inspect all equipment before use to ensure it is in safe working condition.
- Check the condition of the muffler, air intakes and air filter to make sure they are in good condition.
- Make sure starter ropes and handles are not frayed or broken and starter handle is secure.
- Check fuel level before you start the engine to avoid fueling while the engine is hot.
- Always fuel on the ground. Never fuel while smoking and never fuel inside a truck or on the truck bed.
- Make sure any fueling overspill is wiped dry before use.
- If using battery powered equipment, make sure batteries are charged and always inspect for damage.
- Be sure the switch is in the off position before connecting the battery pack.
- Adjust shoulder straps to reduce back strain.
- Always wear safety glasses and ear protection.
- Wear appropriate work clothes and work shoes or boots.
- Be aware of bystanders, both people and pets. Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Always operate blowers with firm footing.
- Survey the area you are cleaning before operating the blower. Look for hazards such as broken glass or rocks.
- Be aware of wind direction and dust.
- Use lowest possible throttle speed. This reduces noise and give the operator more control.
- Never blow leaves and debris into the street or onto neighboring property.
- Use the full lower extensions to control sound and minimize dust.
- Limit the number of blowers in use on small residential sites to reduce noise.
- Do not operate blower from a moving vehicle.
- Maintain a safe working distance from other workers on the job site at least 30 feet.
- Never leave a blower running while unattended.
- Stop the engine when inspecting, repairing or cleaning the blower.
- Be aware of local ordinances that may regulate the operation of leaf blowers or other equipment. Hours of operation may be limited.
- Always work carefully. You need to be safe, courteous and responsible.
- When finished, always secured the blower properly in the truck or trailer.



McClymont, Keelan

From: vivsowa <vivsowa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:59 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Clean air resolution

Dear Commissioners, Please consider the health of your communities and ban the use of gas powered leaf blowers.

Thank you, Vivianne Sowa
4034 N Concord Ave.

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy Note9.

From: Alan <gardeneral@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Commissioner Fish
Cc: Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Eudaly; Commissioner Hardesty; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blower pollution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am very concerned about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz, and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Best regards,

Clyde Alan Locklear
6222 SW 36th Ave
Portland OR 97221

Let me state the goal clearly: No policy should be promulgated, no program initiated, no alliance sealed, no purchase made, no machine designed or built, no land use permitted, no product introduced, no law passed, no politician elected unless the action is a step forward to reduction and reversal of the effect of greenhouse gases. -- Gary Braasch

From: Sarah Page <sognie1216@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Res 1123

I am so grateful you are voting on this subject. I cannot stand seeing young people using these blowers to clean sidewalks and trimmings from yards - only to blow it straight into the street! This is such a menace because it slows the rainwater flow and clogs the drains - causing huge lakes at the edges of the sidewalks, which are impassable for elderly, mothers with strollers or little ones, and anyone who is injured or living with a disability.

The noise pollution is terrible and the gas is an unnecessary pollutant as well. Many times have I been on a walk only to stand and wait for the leaf blowing person to notice me. I have been driving too many times when the leaf blowers continued their work, only to spray debris onto the side of my car.

Please vote to prohibit the use of these blowers by able-bodied folk. I understand elderly people wanting them, but there are still negative effects.

Thank you.

From: Kathleen Parker <kathleenmarieparker78@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 6:43 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please ban leaf blowers

Dear Commissioner,

Please
Ban leaf gas and high decible blowers in Portland, Or. they are noisy and terrible. People should be raking and sweeping.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Parker 

From: Peggy Harkins <peggyharkins@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 10:55 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: [User Approved] Commissioner Fish's proposal

I would love to see the city of Portland get rid of those awful pollution (noise and air) producing gas leaf blowers and only be allowed to use electric ones.

The air quality in Portland is not good and we need to be a more serious city when it comes to air pollution and using products that contribute to CO2 loads.

Vote yes to change to a greener leaf blowing system and consider banning them city wide not just city equipment.

Thank you!

Peggy Harkins
2109 NE Stanton St
Portland

Sent from my iPad

From: Sue Staehli <xansilk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 7:37 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please ban leaf blowers!

Just hearing that this is coming up for a vote motivates me to hope for our future!
I make a point of thanking every person I see doing yard work with a rake. The worst was waiting for a bus in downtown Portland, while a maintenance worker blew leaves and litter from around my feet into to street.it was like I was invisible. As soon as he finished, I went into the street, between passing cars, to pick up the litter and put it in the trash can on that very corner. Then my bus came...

Please vote to ban leaf blowers.

Sincerely,
Sue Staehli
4477 SW 94th Ave
PDX 97225
503-395-0022

From: Kellie Barnes <kellieb@easystreet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 5:09 PM
To: Commissioner Fish; Lawrence, Asena
Cc: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony for Resolution 12/4

Dear Commissioner Fish and Asena,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for tomorrow's Resolution.

Due to a few acute clients added onto my work schedule, I will not be able to attend in person.

It looks as though you have a strong panel of individuals that will provide compelling testimony as well as individual Stakeholders. I hope the Resolution goes well, and I sincerely thank you for your interest and hard work in bringing this topic and resolution forward.

Kind regards,

Kellie Barnes MOMT, MPT
www.corehealingpt.com
971-404-6146

December 4, 2019

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Thank you for proposing the Resolution to transition Portland City Bureaus from use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers to battery operated alternatives. This resolution is important for a few reasons.

1. 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers create noise pollution at a level that is not optimal for human health.
2. Many workers who use 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers have increased risk of adverse health conditions due to exposure to carbon emissions, particulates, and noise.
3. There are better, more cost-effective alternatives that protect human health and the overall health of the environment.

I also believe that establishment of a workgroup is an important step to identify solutions that will support small businesses as they transition towards more productive alternatives during phase II of this initiative.

Gas powered leaf blowers create noise pollution at a level that is not optimal for human health.

Health data indicates that noise pollution plays a role in many adverse health conditions including high blood pressure, increased risk of atrial fibrillation, and increased stress. As a physical therapist specializing in treating clients with neurological injury and concussions I am well aware that many clients that have sustained concussions, and those with PTSD, have increased headaches, increased cranial pressure due to venous lymphatic congestion, and an increase in sympathetic nervous system activation due to elevation of noise. For a person with a mild concussion, the level of noise generated from a 2-cycle gas leaf blower can be the cause of headaches, cranial pressure, reduced concentration, and reduced memory and recall. Many clients who sustain concussions and those that have PTSD, have to wear noise reduction appliances when in public to minimize the adverse influence noise has on healing of the brain. This includes the noise from 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers.

Transitioning from 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers will improve the health of all citizens due to the reduction in noise pollution.

Many workers who use 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers have increased risk of adverse health conditions due to exposure to carbon emissions, particulates, and noise.

The use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers increases the amount and exposure of particulates to workers and neighbors. These may include mycotoxins in the form of mold spores, (common in outdoor garden and yard environments and a source of illness for some people) debris, and rodent waste. As the speed of leaf blowers increase and residential windows are open, the risk

of indoor mold exposure increases. This is an adverse health condition as some mold spores increase the risk of indoor home mold neurotoxins. While this may not seem like a high risk, about 15% of my clients that I treat for neurological conditions have allergies to mold, and neurotoxins from mold present in their home. All of these indoor mold findings, first originated from outdoor common molds. OPEI recommends dampening an outdoor yard environment before use of a 2-cycle gas powered leaf blower, but this is not a consistent practice. This risk increases in the fall season when leaf blowers are used for controlling leaves that are full of mold spores.

The use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers does not promote a safe work environment for many people that may not have additional economic or work opportunities. Often these employees do not have the freedom of choice to use another product such as a battery-operated leaf blower, or a rake to protect their health.

Organizations such as OPEI recommend guidelines of use for 2-cycle gas operated leaf blowers, but often it appears workers are subject to using such tools without protective eye wear, clothing, or masks. Occasionally one may see workers with ear protection to reduce noise, but this is not consistent, and such precautions do not protect neighbors working from home, walking their dog, or biking through a neighborhood.

There are better, more cost-effective alternatives that protect human health and the overall health of the environment.

Many companies are already making the transition to electric leaf blowers as battery technology improves, as the owners see the benefit for the health of their employees, and as a way to generate new discerning customers. Many customers now seek green alternatives that support the health of their community members and the environment.

Transition from 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers to battery operated leaf blowers improves human health, promotes safety for workers, and improves air quality. Please support this resolution.

Support of this resolution is a positive start towards transitioning the City Bureaus from use of 2-cycle gas powered leaf blowers. Establishment of a work group to consider potential sources of funds to minimize the cost of transition for small businesses is critical to the transition's success. The Portland Clean Energy Fund may be one source of revenue to assist small businesses, particularly those operated and owned by members of communities of color. I believe that the creation of such a work group would allow close assessment of this particular topic and has the ability to identify any unintended consequences that place these businesses in undue hardship.

Sincerely,

Kellie Barnes MOMT, MPT

From: Karen Berry <karenberry.pi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Clean Air

I strongly support clean air resolution 1123. Portland has had a lot of problems with the chair. Let's make changes where it's possible to do so. Thank you, Karen Berry, Portland

From: Sabolch Horvat <sabolch.horvat@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 7:32 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support 1123 on 12/4: leaf blower resolution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing in support of item 1123 on 12/4.

I am concerned about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available. Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council.

I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,
Sabolch Horvat
NE PDX

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

From: Sarah Moses <sarahamoses@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 5:54 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blowers

I strongly urge you you to support transitioning the city away from gas powered leaf blowers but I would also like to see some required of landscaping services working in the Portland metro area.

Thanks,

Sarah Moses
5235 NE Mallory Ave

From: Susan Mates <smmates@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:00 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Agenda item #1123, Leaf Blowers

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Thank you for introducing your resolution to direct all City bureaus to transition from gas-powered to electric and/or battery-operated leaf blowers. It is far past time to be dealing with the climate crisis and all of our greenhouse gas emissions. I expect Portland to be a leader in forward thinking and action about these issues.

Gas-powered leaf blowers use two-cycle and four-cycle gasoline engines which can produce hundreds of times more hazardous pollutants and fine particulates than automobiles. Blowers can create a miasma of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, dried animal feces, dust containing lead and asbestos, pollens, and industrial pollutants, polluting the air we breathe. The fuel filters and contaminated air filters that are part of their maintenance produce toxic waste, and refueling spills can contaminate waterways and soil.

This pollution is a health concern to all of us, particularly children, the elderly, and those of us with lung conditions. All of us suffer from the excessive noise they produce, at a level that can cause permanent hearing loss in two hours and violates Portland's noise ordinance. Operators of gas-powered leaf blowers are especially at risk from these health effects.

There are ways to accomplish the same tasks with safer, quieter equipment that will protect the health and well-being of all of us and of the environment. Eliminating all gas leaf blowers in our City bureaus is an important first step for transitioning to electric and/or battery-powered leaf blowers in a wider Metro area.

I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

Thank you.
Susan Mates
8945 NW Oak Street
Portland, OR 97229

From: James Sitzer <jamessitzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:24 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Rakes are better

I Support Nick Fish's resolution to eliminate Gas-powered leaf blowers. Gas-powered leaf blowers emit harmful chemicals including carcinogens, other cancer-causing compounds, smog-forming agents, greenhouse gasses, and are known to damage soil health and wildlife ecosystems. They also produce high levels of noise, and prolonged exposure can contribute to permanent hearing loss, and chronic exposure to noise pollution causes mental and physical health problems, such as anxiety, depression, and heart problems. The City of Portland needs to recognize the harmful environmental and public health effects of gas-powered leaf blowers, and should join other cities nationwide in regulating their use. The people of Portland must transition away from using gas-powered leaf blowers and increase their use of electric and battery-operated models in an effort to better protect public health and the environment. The City of Portland must also do a better job of ensuring that workers comply with City code 18.10.035, which includes operating restrictions, allowable noise levels, and use in large open spaces. Please pass Commissioner Fish's leaf-blows resolution.

-James

--
jamessitzer@gmail.com
www.jamessitzer.com

From: Doug K <dougurb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:22 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blowers

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

I am in support of Resolution 1123, to be heard on December 4, 2019, to direct the city to transition from gas-powered to electric or battery-electric leaf blowers. The gas blowers pollute and are noisier than electric blowers.

Ideally, the city would ban the gas-operated blowers from private use as well.

And better, all leaf blowers should be banned. Rakes take a little longer, but can do the same job. In some cases, they may even be faster, and certainly are better for the planet, as well as reducing noise, carbon emissions (even the electric ones), and reducing dust spread.

Thank you

Doug Klotz
1908 SE 35th Pl.
Portland, OR 97214

From: Becca Stuhlbarg <writebecca@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:04 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: In support of resolution to eliminate gas leaf blowers (item 1123 on 12/4 agenda)

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,

Rebecca Ford

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

From: Joe Adreon Keller <joadreonkeller@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:55 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Vote on Leaf Blower Resolution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,

Joe A. Keller
NW Hoyt Street
Portland, OR 97209

From: Myriam Alaux <malaux.1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:47 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Vote on Leaf Blower Resolution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,

Myriam Alaux
1921 NW Hoyt Street
Portland, OR 97209

CC: Mayor Wheeler

Commissioner Hardesty

Commissioner Fritz

Commissioner Eudaly

From: DEAN SIGLER <muchcatfur@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:30 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Get ride of gas-powered leaf blowers

Gas-powered leaf blowers (and other small-engined units) are usually two-stroke engined. These types of engines mix oil with the gasoline and the whole mixture combusts in the engine cylinder, fouling the air with gasoline and oil fumes. Various studies have shown that a small lawnmower with one of these power plants can pollute as much as a V-8-engine car in motion for the length of time consumed by the leaf blower, hedge trimmer, or power mower. Electricity is quieter and far less of a health hazard.

From: Salome Dupont <salome.dupont@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:52 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf Blowers/Noise pollution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leafblowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you.

CC: Mayor Wheeler

Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

Regards,

Salomé DuPont

From: Tia Knuth <tiatia@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas powered leaf blowers

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,
Alicia (Tia) Knuth

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

From: Emily Herbert <ewh1960@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 7:21 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blowers out!

Hurray for the creative thinking for moving away from gas powered leaf blowers.

In my humble opinion all blowing of debris on the ground should be halted. Brooms and rakes work better and mulching would actually build up the soil on lawns and in planted beds. We can do better without blowing debris and noise as well as the carbon footprint from gas powered blowers.

Thank you,
Emily Herbert
2120 NE Halsey
Portland, Oregon 97232

Emily Herbert

From: Thomas Fisher <thomasharoldfisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 7:03 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: leaf blowers

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you.

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

From: Samia Estassi <samia.estassi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 6:47 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas leaf blower ban

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you.

Samia Estassi

4539 SE Main St.

Portland OR 97215

CC: Mayor Wheeler

Commissioner Hardesty

Commissioner Fritz

Commissioner Eudaly

From: Katy <katyewolf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for eliminating gas powered leaf blowers resolution

About time!
And maybe we can even transition to .. rakes??
Thank you Commissioner Fish for bringing this forward.

Katy Wolf
Boise neighborhood

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nona Gamel <nona.gamel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gasoline Powered Leaf Blowers (Item 1123)

I am writing to express my support for Commissioner Fish's proposal to begin eliminating city use of gasoline powered leaf blowers.

We are all aware of the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment generates high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise. Furthermore, it is not in any way necessary to eliminate every single leaf from every sidewalk and courtyard in the city. In fact, leaf blowing is one reason why the bird population is dropping so rapidly in this country. Also, as I'm sure you are aware, gasoline powered leaf blowers generate more air pollution than do cars and trucks.

It's time to get serious about climate change, and frankly this is just one tiny step. I hope that Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz, and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler will agree to take immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

Thank you.

Nona Gamel
725 NW 10th Ave, Portland, OR 97209

From: Wendy Ferguson <wdf2nd@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas powered mowers

Writing in HUGE support of the proposals to switch city-used leaf blowers away from gas. And then let's ban them throughout Portland, private users as well!

Thanks for your efforts to clean up our air,

Wendy Ferguson
Woodstock 97206

From: Catherine Anderson <hoperetire12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf Blower Resolution (item 1123 on 12/4 agenda)

Please register my strong support of the resolution to ban the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers by City bureaus. The gas powered blowers are terrible polluters.

Raymond Peter Anderson
1620 NE Broadway St, Portland, OR 97232

McClymont, Keelan

From: Wesley Ward <wesleyward@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:34 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gasoline-powered Leaf Blowers

Dear Commissioners:

I am strongly in favor of a ban on polluting leaf blowers. They should not be sold or used in Portland. We don't need that additional pollution.

Thank you for considering this and many thanks to Commissioner Fish for sponsoring.

Sincerely,

Wesley T. Ward
3215 SE 16th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202

From: S <1animalover@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:31 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf-Blower Resolution

December 2, 2019

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I strongly support your proposed resolution to require all city bureaus to transition from the use of gas-powered blowers for city work. This is such an important step toward improving our health and environment, and I am very grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate **all** gas leaf blowers once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,
Stephanie Emery

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

McClymont, Keelan

From: Susan Harris <susanharris123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: support for Comm. Fish resolution--item 1123 on Dec 4 agenda

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland’s reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I hope that Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,
Susan Harris
Portland OR 97217

From: Stephanie Glazer <stephglazer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas-powered Landscape Maintenance Equipment

Dear Commissioner Fish,

As a resident of the Portland Metro region, I am grateful for your efforts to eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Your leadership on this issue will not only improve air quality for those that live in and around Portland, but will also serve as an example for other cities that are lagging behind in this area. Your example will help to improve air quality for so many people. Thank you!

I am concerned about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I genuinely hope that Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler will join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you.
Stephanie Glazer

Stephanie M. Glazer
Mobile: +1 415 505-0793

Email: stephglazer@gmail.com

McClymont, Keelan

From: Kari Schlosshauer <schlosshauer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas leaf blowers - please support Fish's resolution

Dear Mayor Wheeler & Commissioners:

Gas leaf blowers are annoying to everyone, but more importantly they are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel -- running a leaf blower for one hour has been shown to create the equivalent pollution as the 1100 mile drive from Los Angeles to Denver.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health, the environment, and our climate, I am grateful for Commissioner Fish's upcoming resolution to City Council, and ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz, and Eudaly, and Mayor Wheeler to join in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that soon Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland!

Thank you.

Kari Schlosshauer
3323 SE Grant St, 97214

--
Kari Schlosshauer (she/her)
503-734-0813

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

McClymont, Keelan

From: Brent Bolton <brent@ecospeed.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blower ban

Dear Council Member,

I wholeheartedly support the proposed gas powered leaf blower ban. It should be a no-brainer anyway as it is a rare example of a public policy that's essentially free. Gas powered blowers are obsolete. Battery technology is at the point where electric models cost less on a life cycle basis and perform as well or better.

Factor in the health cost savings from universal use of electric models and there is no economic reason not to ban them. For the average consumer, corded electric leaf blowers have long been cheaper than gas models anyway, so the proposed policy will have little or no effect on our lower income neighbors.

Kind Regards,

Brent Bolton

SE Portland

McClymont, Keelan

From: Alison Hardin <alisonbhardin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: ban leaf blowers

I strongly support Commissioner Nick Fish's proposed resolution (item 1123) to ban gas powered leaf blowers for all city work.

Regularly my allergies are aggravated and stress is raised by the dust and noise of these machines. However, I also now know that gas powered blowers are also contributing unnecessarily to global warming with pollutants that are harmful to us and our environment. A study has proven that Running a leaf blower for one hour was deemed to create the equivalent pollution as the 1100 mile drive from Los Angeles to Denver.

Living in densely populated cities like ours, we must do all that we can to protect our health and our environment. If our city is truly "green", we must take steps urgently to eliminate sources of pollution. This is one easy step to decrease our carbon footprint and make healthier living for residence of Portland. Remember we only have a few more years to make these kinds of changes before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Alison Hardin
2750 NW Saver St
Portland OR 97210

McClymont, Keelan

From: Lenny Dee <lenny@onwardoregon.org>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas Leaf Blowers

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Given Portland's explicit goal of being 100% renewable the City Council should live up to that commitment by transitioning away from gas leaf blowers. An hour of a gas leaf blower is equivalent to an 1100 mile drive from Los Angeles to Denver.

Thank you,

Lenny Dee

McClymont, Keelan

From: The Sandies <sandiefam@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Gas Leaf Blower Resolution

I strongly urge Council to support resolution and have City of Portland employees move away from gas powered blowers to more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Regards,

John Sandie
resident of NE Portland

McClymont, Keelan

From: Kimberly Koehler <kimberlyoregon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: leaf blower resolution

Thank God this is being dealt with by our city officials. PLEASE support this resolution, and find a way to require ALL lawn maintenance work be electric or battery powered.

It seems ridiculous that as my neighbors are ditching their fossil-fuel-powered cars for electric ones, the lawn workers are still filling our air with pollutants.

Best regards, Kimberly and Todd Koehler

From: Barb Greene <bgreen@flyingfocus.org>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: ban leaf blowers!

Dear Commissioner Fish,
Leaf blowers are everywhere in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

They are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland’s reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you!

Barb Greene

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

McClymont, Keelan

From: Kristine Phillips Evertz <kristinepe@summitstrategies.us>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support for leaf blower ban

Members of the Portland City Council,
I encourage you to support Commissioner Fish’s proposal to require gas powered leaf blowers to transition to clean power alternatives. It is just one of many important steps toward providing cleaner air in Portland’s neighborhoods. Personally, I believe leaf blowers to be unnecessary when landscaping tools have existed for centuries that would do the same job without the noise and air pollution. This should not present a burden to the average resident who maintains their own property, especially with the smaller lot sizes in urbanized communities like ours. I appreciate that leaf blowers are primarily used by landscaping companies to streamline their work and this will create some added cost, but they should be able to pass the cost along to their many landlord and businesses customers who can absorb the modest price increase. And let’s not forget about giving some relief to the workers employed by landscaping companies who have to breathe toxic air all day long. This change is sensible and ethical. I urge your support.

Best,
Kristine Evertz

KRISTINE PHILLIPS EVERTZ
DIRECTOR, STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
Summit Strategies
5331 SW Macadam Ave, Suite 356
Portland, OR 97239
971.506.2304
kristinepe@summitstrategies.us

From: remmers <scremmers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:02 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blower resolution

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to people's health. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel.

Despite Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, these antiquated machines are permitted to run every day. This happens all year long and makes no sense when alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland once the City bureaus demonstrate leadership in transitioning to alternatives.

Thank you,
Susan Remmers
6042 NE 35th Place, PDX 97211

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

McClymont, Keelan

From: Rob Oberdorfer <roboberdorfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: item 1123 on 12/4 agenda, leaf blower resolution

Dear City Council:

I'm writing in support of Commissioner Fish's proposed resolution. Gas-powered leaf blowers are not just an unnecessary nuisance, they are an environmental disaster according to well-publicized studies.

If the City implements this ban, it will not only be doing the right thing for the City's air quality, but it will also be very helpful in moving the state-wide and national conversation forward. Climate change and air quality can be meaningfully addressed through these targeted actions, as we move ourselves away from a fossil-fuel-based economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rob Oberdorfer
7224 N Albina Ave
97217

McClymont, Keelan

From: Dennis Pokliuha <pokman2@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Nick Fish's leaf blower resolution

I am in favor of switching from gas to electric/battery powered leaf blowers for city workers, but the commercial landscape services tend to use older gas models that pollute even more than the city's use.

We should include commercial use in this resolution.

Dennis Pokliuha Portland 97203

McClymont, Keelan

From: Alexander Macdonald <alex_macd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Ban leafblowers

Not only are leaf blowers horrible due to air and noise pollution, the work can be done in similar time with a rake saving resources and offering exercise. They are the tool of the devil and make it difficult for me to concentrate at home when landscapers are nearby. Please ban them!

Concerned citizen,
Alex Macdonald

McClymont, Keelan

From: Steve and Deborah Waksman <waxsmans@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf blowers

We support the proposal to transition away from gas driven leaf blowers. Workers can use rakes or battery driven blowers.
Steve & Deborah Waksman
Sent from my iPad

McClymont, Keelan

From: Leslie Pohl <sharedgardens11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Leaf Blowers

It is about time that there is a switch away from gas powered blowers to electric, or to none at all. What happened to the "broom? Cut the noise and pollution from our neighborhoods, please.

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau

McClymont, Keelan

From: djek53@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: gasoline powered leaf blowers

Dear Commissioner Fish,

I am writing to express my concern about the public health and especially the environmental hazards associated with gas powered leaf blowers. This equipment has become ubiquitous in Portland, generating high levels of toxic emissions, dangerous fine particulates, greenhouse gases, and extreme noise.

Gas leaf blowers are hazardous to workers who use the equipment and to the general public, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory illnesses. They generate more pollution than cars and trucks, while burning enormous amounts of fossil fuel. They are also distracting, annoying and smelly.

Portland's reputation as a clean, green city, is imperiled by these antiquated machines. Good alternatives such as hand tools and battery powered blowers are readily available.

Considering the hazards to human health and the environment, I am grateful for your upcoming resolution to City Council. I ask Commissioners Hardesty, Fritz and Eudaly and Mayor Wheeler to join you in taking immediate action to eliminate the use of gas leaf blowers by City of Portland bureaus as soon as possible.

It is my hope that Portland can eliminate all gas leaf blowers in Portland.

Thank you.
Debbie Kaye
2235 NW Aspen Ave
Portland, 97210

CC: Mayor Wheeler
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Fritz
Commissioner Eudaly

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jodi Tanner Tell <joditell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:34 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Support of Commissioner Fish's resolution

Hi - I am writing to encourage the City Council to adopt Commissioner Nick Fish's proposed resolution that will require all city bureaus to stop using gas-powered leaf blowers. Gas powered landscaping equipment does not have the same pollution controls as cars and as a result, they are much more polluting. There are better options that keep our air clean and safe for everyone to breath.

Thank you.
Jodi Tanner-Tell
55 NE 47th Ave, Portland

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PORTLAND CITY RESOLUTION TO TRANSITION AWAY FROM GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

1. Emissions – Pollution and CO₂e
2. Noise
3. Productivity – Force & Runtime
4. Operating Cost



TOXIC EMISSIONS



Gas Powered

Battery Powered

Non Methane Hydrocarbons	Yes	<i>Known by EPA and Health organizations to increase risk of cancer, respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disease</i>	No
Oxides of Nitrogen	Yes		No
Carbon Monoxide	Yes		No
Benzene	Yes		No
Butadyene	Yes		No
Formaldehyde	Yes		No
Fine Particulates	Yes		No



From: Edmunds sponsored testing at AAA Automotive Research Center, Diamon Bar, CA 2011
 EPA - National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment, 2015
 California Air Resources Board – Small Engine Fact Sheet, 2017

CARBON EMISSIONS



Gas Powered



Battery Powered

Fuel Consumption

.46 gal + oil/hr

0.550 kWh/h

CO2e Production

12 lbs/hr

0.478 lbs/hr

25X Less

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Yearly CO2e Production

Charged w/ RE

@ 1 Hr / Day:

2,885 lbs

117 lbs

0 lbs

@ 2 Hr / Day:

5,770 lbs

233 lbs

0 lbs

@ 5 Hr / Day:

14,426 lbs

583 lbs

0 lbs

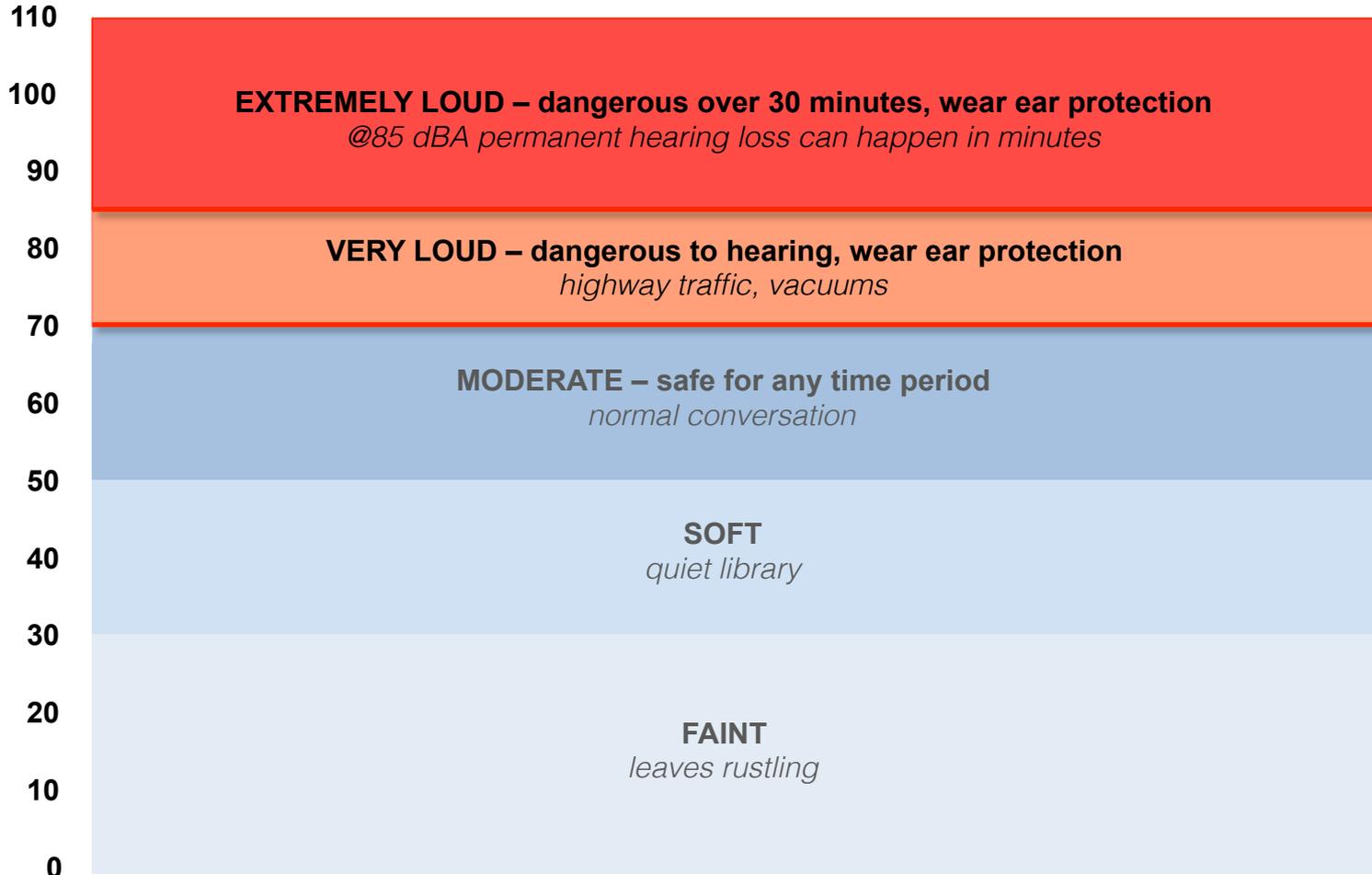
Automobile

11,500 lbs

A gas powered leaf blower operated for several hours per day will emit as much CO2e as an automobile

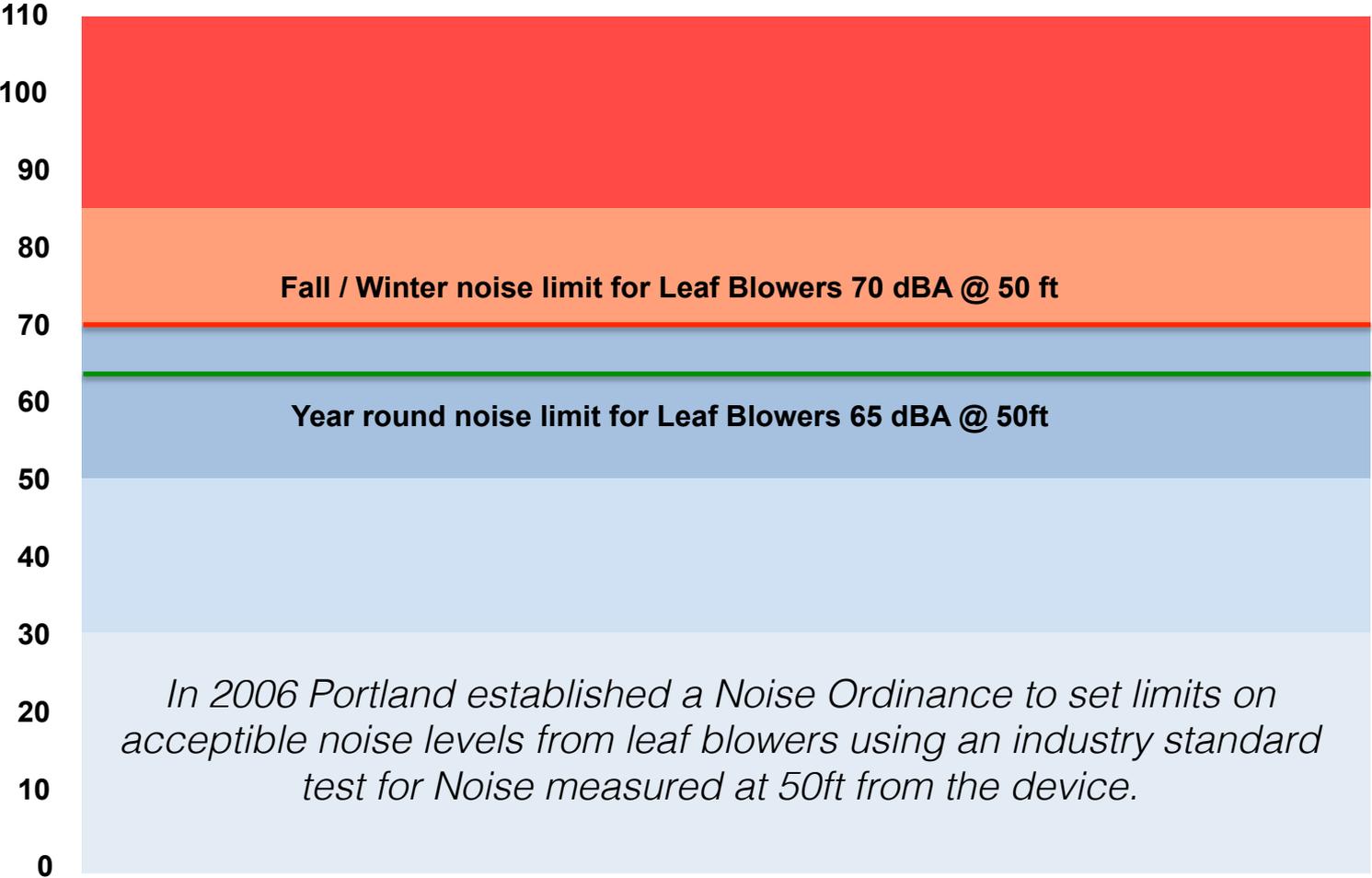
NOISE LEVELS AND SAFETY

NOISE LEVEL dBA – Percieved as a doubling of “loudness” every 10DBA

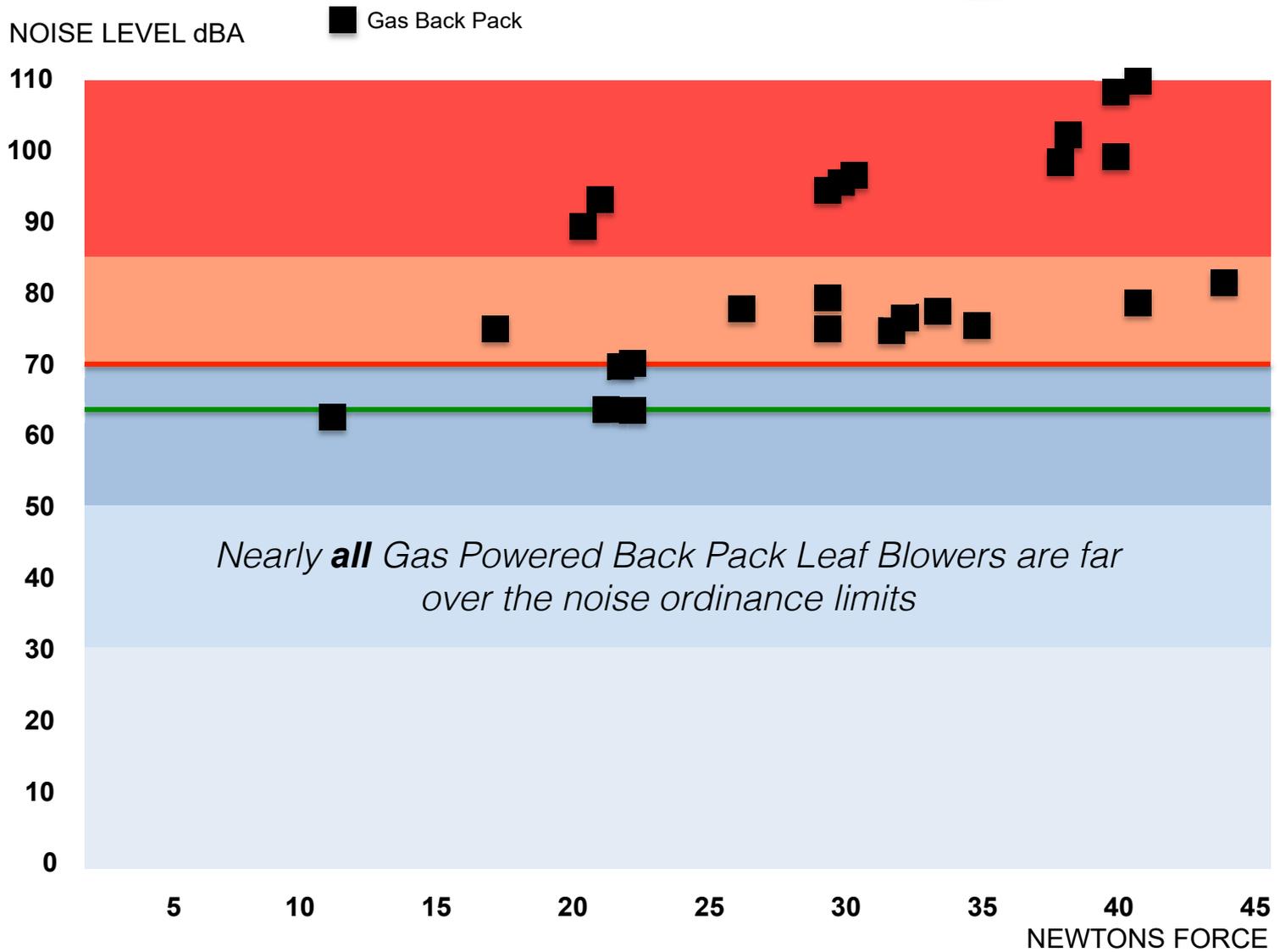


PORTLAND NOISE ORDINANCE 18.10.035 - LEAF BLOWERS

NOISE LEVEL dBA

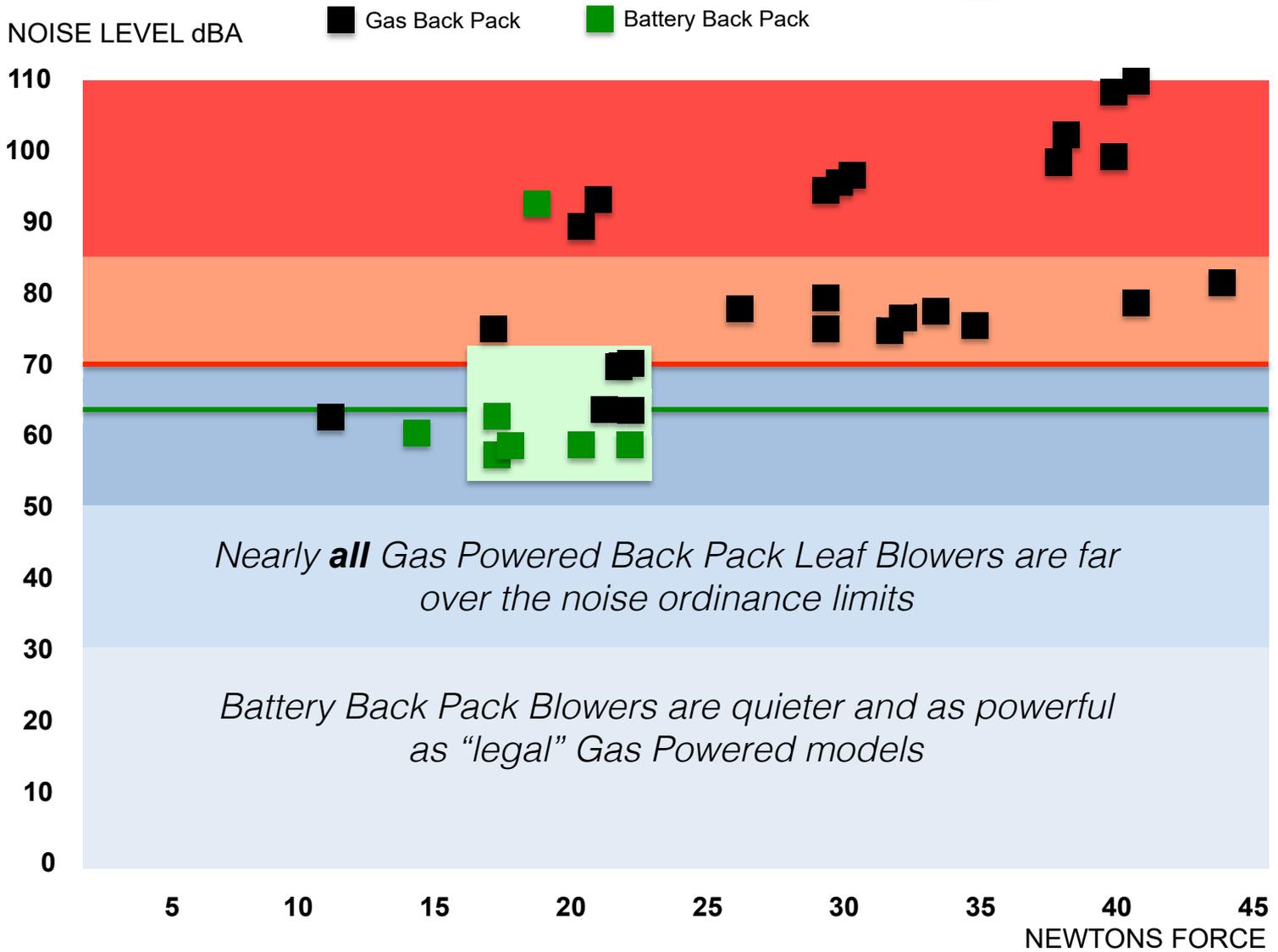


BACK PACK LEAF BLOWERS – NOISE vs FORCE



From: Manufacturers website data on force and certified noise ratings as per ANSI B175.2-2000
Echo, Stihl, Husqvarna, Makita, EGO, Oregon

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BACK PACK LEAF BLOWERS – OPERATING COST



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Battery Powered

Fuel / hr* .46 gal gas + 1.2 oz oil

0.550 kWh

Fuel Cost \$ / Hour: **\$2.22**

\$0.07 *30X less*

Total 2 Yr Fuel Cost**

@ 1 Hr / Day: **\$1,090**
 @ 2 Hr / Day: **\$2,180**
 @ 5 Hr / Day: **\$5,445**

From: Manufacturers website data and Online Tool Reviews - Echo, Stihl, Husqvarna, Makita, EGO, Oregon

* Leaf Blower equipment costs are similar for battery and gas blowers excluding batteries

**2 Year Warranties are standard for all equipment and batteries

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\$550 Cost of battery that runs for 1 hr + charger
Prices are dropping 6.5% per year

- \$585** - *includes \$550 for batteries/charger*
- \$1,170** - *includes \$1,100 for batteries/chargers*
- \$2,925** - *includes \$2,750 for batteries/chargers*

Battery Back Pack Blowers are far cheaper to operate than Gas Blowers

From: Manufacturers website data and Online Tool Reviews - Echo, Stihl, Husqvarna, Makita, EGO, Oregon

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Gas Powered Leaf Blowers are Dangerous

Toxic emissions and extreme noise endangers the health of workers and the public

Nearly all gas blowers are out of compliance with Portland Noise Ordinance

Gas Blowers burn fossil fuels, contributing to the climate crisis

Safe, Powerful, Cost Effective alternatives are readily available

An equitable transition away from Gas Powered Leaf Blowers is in the best interests of the city and the residents of Portland