

Mark Scantlebury

#334417 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I'm very pleased that the City Council has drafted the Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out and incorporated so much of the input from community members. I would urge all council members to take the final step and vote in favor of this phase-out. It's time to end the noise, pollution, and health and environmental damages caused by gas leaf blowers. You can do it! And the people of Portland will thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Jessi Presley-Grusin

#334418 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I fully support banning gas powered leaf blowers, but the phase out should begin in 2025, not 2026, and should last one year (ending 2027). The planned phase out needs to start as soon as possible and there is no reason for it to extend beyond one year.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Lise Ferguson

#334421 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Living in a city can be loud and stinky, but the noise and air pollution caused by gas powered leaf blowers runs unparalleled to the usual sounds of traffic, sirens, lawn mowers, etc. At 80-90 decibels, gas powered leaf blowers make as much noise as roosters, which are outlawed in city limits for this reason. On top of the damaging effect of this noise level is its frequency- landscapers run them for hours every day. With more and more people working from home, this is not only disturbing, but bad for our mental health. I can hear them from inside my house, and while I'm used to noise, their constant drone is so agitating I have to wear earplugs in order to focus on my work. This doesn't even cover the significant amount of air pollution caused by these things. I hope council can understand how the negative effects gas powered leaf blowers have on our communities is much more important than the convenience of the landscaping companies who use them. Electric versions or even rakes can be substituted, but the mental and physical health of the people in our city is harder to salvage. Thank you for listening.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Testimony for GLB ordinance

I live in the Eastmoreland neighborhood. Our neighborhood association has endorsed the QCPDX and its goals to eliminate gas leaf blowers in the City. The Eastmoreland Garden Club has also endorsed QCPDX and its goals. Based on two Eastmoreland Next Door polls carried out several years ago, the majority of respondents supported the ban on gas leaf blowers citing noise, pollution, dust, small-scale ecological damage as well as production of climate-changing CO2 as reasons to ban the use of GLBs.

I urge you to support the proposed ordinance and help make the City of Portland more livable and equitable and be one of the leaders in Oregon to eliminate these harmful devices.

Thank you!

Sally Campbell

#334422 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I live in the Eastmoreland neighborhood. Our neighborhood association has endorsed the QCPDX and its goals to eliminate gas leaf blowers in the City. The Eastmoreland Garden Club has also endorsed QCPDX and its goals. Based on two Eastmoreland Next Door polls carried out several years ago, the majority of respondents supported the ban on gas leaf blowers citing noise, pollution, dust, small-scale ecological damage as well as production of climate-changing CO2 as reasons to ban the use of GLBs. I urge you to support the proposed ordinance and help make the City of Portland more livable and equitable and be one of the leaders in Oregon to eliminate these harmful devices. Thank you!

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Walt Mintkeski

#334423 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

As a SE Portland homeowner since 1975, I am subjected to the extreme noise and air pollution from gas powered leaf blowers (GLB) essentially year-round, starting with winter lawn maintenance and going through fall leaf removal. I strongly support the proposed Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-Out ordinance (item 210 on the Portland City Council Agenda. I very much applaud the strengthening of the original ordinance by:

- Shortening the wet leaf season exemption period to 3 months instead of 4
- Eliminating the one-year grace periods in 2026 and 2028, which starts enforcement earlier
- Making penalties for violation more significant for repeat offenders
- Starting the education and outreach period sooner
- Providing incentives to help small businesses with the transition

This ordinance is a good start and should be passed today, However, it should be reviewed annually to evaluate the progress of the transition away from GLB's to determine if the leaf season exemption can be shortened, and if the GLB prohibition can start before January 1, 2028.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Marcia M

#334424 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Gas leaf blowers emit unhealthy levels of noise and air pollution. While they are a nuisance to all, they have negative health impacts on the landscape workforce, which is 46% Latino, so it is also important as an equity issue. Climate change looms large and a GLB running for an hour produces the same amount of air pollution as driving from Portland to San Diego. While switching from gas to electric leaf blowers requires an initial investment, they are cheaper and require less maintenance over time. We can't afford to wait any longer to address this important issue.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Jennifer Schroeder

#334425 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I wholeheartedly support restrictions on or an outright ban of gas powered leaf blowers in the Portland metro! Leaf blowers contribute to noise pollution (proven to increase mental health problems) and air pollution (proven to worsen climate change). We don't need them!! It is reasonable to ask residents to use rakes, brooms, or let leaves naturally decompose.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Roger Vrillakas

#334428 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Good idea! Do you suppose it was an equally good idea when Los Angeles implemented a ban in 1998? Please forgive the snark.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Deborah Miller

#334429 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Gas leaf blowers are a danger to the environment and to the health and livability of everyone. The engines commonly used in gas-powered leaf blowers emit harmful substances including carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, ozone, and carcinogens. It's estimated that one hour of operation emits the same number of pollutants as driving a Toyota Camry about 1,100 miles, or the distance from Portland to San Diego. These devices also contribute to hearing damage and noise pollution. Noise from gas-powered leaf blowers often exceeds 85 decibels at close range, a volume that the CDC says can damage the hearing of operators and others nearby. Do the right thing. Ban gas powered leaf blowers.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

peggy valenti

#334430 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I encourage you strongly to support the ordinance to ban gas leaf blowers in a timely manner. It is vital for public health. I am disappointed that it will not start until 2026. Enforcements should also start earlier and penalties for violation should be more significant. Providing viable incentives to help small businesses with the transition is also very important. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Traci McCoy

#334432 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Hello I REALLY wish I could make a statement but unfortunately, I have medical testing at 2:00 March 6th. But I REALLY hope you guys could consider the following: I live in crappy HUD apartment owned by Catholic Charities. My windows and doors are so cheap I can hear people's conversations as they walk past my windows, so the volume of the leaf blower sounds like I'm standing next to it. Because I live in a slum, my windows leak cold air and the gas exhaust from the leaf blower wafts into my apartment. I asked for the window to be repaired 1-26-24 and it STILL hasn't been repaired! I live in this dump because I'm disabled with severe mental health disease and I'm undiagnosed Autism spectrum (can't find a provider to do the "official" testing) and I can't stand the noise level of these leaf blowers; especially when they wake me up early or while I'm trying to rest because I also have chronic fatigue syndrome. I'm suicidal and one of these days the obnoxious leaf blowers just might push me over the edge to committing suicide, again. The poor guys using these things are inhaling massive amounts of exhaust leading to lung cancer and more, and their hearing is being ruined by wearing these loud machines next to their ears. Battery powered leaf blowers are COMMON now and don't cost that much anymore. Companies would replace 3 maybe 4 leaf blowers; that's not that much money in the grand scheme of things yet the impact of health issues for their employees is HUGE! Maybe if these companies got stuck with the medical bills and loss of quality of life of these workers, they would pull their heads out of their butts and realize it's WAY cheaper to replace their equipment and spare all of us people with the annoying, loud noise waking us up early and disturbing our peace and quiet! Noise pollution is an UNRECOGNIZED health crisis in our country; humans are not designed to handle the constant noise we're being bombarded with. My sanity is being pushed to the limits every day by the chaos of noise I'm forced to deal with in this Catholic Charities dump; if I wasn't disabled trying to survive on \$30,000 a year, I would have moved out of this dump the day after I moved in! This building has NO impact noise mitigation and children running above me sounds like thunder, vibrating the walls and concrete slab under my feet, slamming doors or windows BOOM, children jumping BOOM, all the traffic noise being ½ a block off of SE Powell and SE 28th with semis, thumping stereo's, modified mufflers... I've had to put my companion cat on medication to calm her nerves because she keeps getting the crap scared out of her with all the BOOMS! I don't have a spare \$85 a month to cover the cost of the medication but what else am I supposed to do? If I could get my subsidized Housing Software Idea video done (former Software Tester at Microsoft for 7 ½ years and a few more years outside of Microsoft and offered the job to be the first Tester in Microsoft's Research and Development team), maybe I could get moved to somewhere quiet but until then, I'm losing my sanity, and these leaf

blowers don't need to be adding to it! Sincerely miserable Portlander, Traci

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Yuri Ramirez

#334433 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I want to show my support for the Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase Out ordinance. As Managing Director for Clean Air Lawn Care Portland West, a company who focuses on providing sustainable and organic lawn care, we would love all equipment to be electric and all lawn care to be done in an eco-friendly manner. Since 2006, our Clean Air mission has been changing the way America cares for lawns by delivering organic, electric, and responsible lawn care service that improves the quality of life in our communities. This ordinance is very much aligned with that mission. It is also important to recognize that the change to electric may have an impactful initial cost, specifically for lawn care service providers that have scarce resources. We need programs that help those in need to stay in business and move toward more sustainable solutions. A trade-in program with incentives based on financial need would be a great way to enable the transition and make it a WIN-WIN for everyone.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Ann Howard

#334434 | March 1, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I am a retired physician and resident of Multnomah county. I am concerned about the health and welfare of our citizens and our planet. I am writing to urge you to pass the ordinance to phase out gas powered leaf blowers. They are totally unnecessary and are causing harmful effects on many levels. Consider: -the poor landscape workers using them for hours on end, often without masks or earplugs. These engines, already outlawed for most uses except lawn care, are direct health threats to people who use them. -the irrevocable damage to our ozone in an already unstable climate environment. The California Air Resources Board has said that two-stroke lawn equipment puts out more ozone and related pollutants than all the millions of cars and trucks in the state combined. -habitat destruction from the 200mph wind from these unregulated blowers. -noise pollution. We are unable to take a quiet walk in our own neighborhood without the horrific 90+ db blare of these engines. And even inside our own home I measure 80-90db from the blowers of my neighbors. Many cities have already led the way in outlawing gas leaf blowers. Our neighbors to the north and south, Seattle and many cities in California, already have bans in place. Oregon is fortunate to have abundant clean low-cost electricity. Let's protect the health of our citizens and use it. Thank you,
Ann Howard, MD

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Meg Bowman

#334435 | March 2, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Dear Portland City Council Members, I add my voice to the call for eliminating gas leaf blowers in Portland. For the health of workers, neighbors and our city overall, I urge you to pass the strongest possible ordinance to bring to an end the perils of GLBs and transition to electric blowers as soon as possible. Thank you, Meg Bowman

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Anna Davenport

#334436 | March 2, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

These leaf-blowers are unbelievably loud. I can't work or talk or do anything while it's happening, the noise drowns out conversation and gives me a splitting headache. It bothers my dogs so much they won't stop barking, and they don't even do that when the fire alarm goes off. It stays this loud for nearly an hour before it finally starts to fade with distance as they move down the street, which feels like a huge amount of time when your ears hurt and your head throbs and you're filled with impotent rage. I would honestly rather slip on leaves. But I wouldn't, because there are almost no leaves on my street to begin with - which is the worst part I think, how pointless it is. I see these guys mulling around blowing literally nothing for ages - I assume because they're paid by the hour, no fault of theirs, but it's incredibly frustrating. Please, please, please phase out my miniature hell.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Pat Langdon

#334437 | March 3, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Dear Portland City Council Members, I strongly support the proposed Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phaseout ordinance. The noise pollution produced by gas leaf blowers (GLB) is a health hazard that impacts EVERY Portlander, EVERY day. Try to spend a day outdoors in Portland without hearing a GLB.... you can't. You hear them near, you hear them far, sitting in your home or playing in your yard. People may say Portland has bigger problems to solve but how many of those adversely and directly impact every person in Portland? By passing this ordinance, the City Council would make the quality of life better for every Portlander.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Greg Martin

#334438 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Mayor Wheeler and commissioners: I applaud the council for focusing on the serious public health and environmental impacts of gasoline leaf blowers (GLBs), and I fully support the ordinance that aims to phase out these super-polluting machines in a speedy and equitable manner. The findings listed in Section 1 of the proposed ordinance express the importance of this measure very clearly. The work of the Leaf Blowers Policy Work Group has provided an impressive body of information on which to base the recommended ban. The council and the county commission have balanced the environmental and equity issues to come up with a reasonable set of directives for the phase-out. While some advocates had promoted an earlier start date, beginning the ban in January 2026 will allow needed time for education and outreach without seriously delaying enforcement. The work group reported that “additional resources will be necessary to conduct education and outreach to ensure compliance,” and I have urged the county commission to provide adequate funding to support that effort. Education and outreach should include, per the work group, “modifying expectations of when and at what level leaf blowers are necessary.” GLB sellers and operators have raised valid concerns about the cost and near-term availability of electric leaf blowers. I believe that banning GLBs in an equitable manner will depend on offering significant financial incentives to offset the upfront costs of electric leaf blowers for small landscaping businesses. The city needs to honor its pledge to work with Multnomah County to develop those incentives. Again, my thanks to the council for taking this urgent and bold action.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Claire Shim

#334439 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on proposed Chapter 8.66: Leaf Blowers. While I am heartened to see progress in this move toward a citywide ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, I believe the proposed ordinance as drafted must be strengthened in order to be effective upon implementation. First, the implementation dates for each phase should be moved up to January 2025 for proposed Section 8.66.040(A) and January 2026 for proposed Section 8.66.040(B), respectively. These are straightforward requirements that leverage currently available technology, and there is no need to delay implementation for so long. Furthermore, the "fall exception period" in proposed 8.66.040(A) should be shortened to begin November 1st, not October 1st, to align with the city's own leaf pick-up service schedule. Second, the enforcement mechanisms need to be strengthened in order to achieve a reasonable measure of compliance by property owners. Proposed 8.66.060(A) should state that a notice "will" be issued for each violation, not "may"; otherwise the appeal right in proposed 8.66.070 is effectively unenforceable by owners. Also, proposed 8.66.060(B) should state that civil penalties "will" be issued for third and all subsequent violations; "may" indicates that there could be inequitable enforcement of these penalties. Furthermore, it is unclear what "education and outreach" means in proposed 8.66.060(C) and (D), how such "education and outreach" will be conducted and by whom. Finally, if the ordinance is able to reach parties beyond property owners such as property management companies and landscaping companies contracting directly with owners, it should do so. Lastly, the term "electric leaf blower" appears in the definitions section but not in the substance of the ordinance and should therefore be removed or revised to a term that is used. The elimination of gas-powered leaf blowers seems like about the lowest-hanging fruit we have to combat the local impact of climate change, and comes with the added benefits of protecting the health of workers and vulnerable residents. I hope the city will recognize this as a straightforward issue with a clear solution and commit to implementing it quickly and clearly through a revised version of the proposed ordinance.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Geoffrey Gillespie

#334440 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Leaf blowers produce a low-frequency buzz that “allows loud sound at harmful levels to travel over long distance and readily penetrate walls and windows. Blasting fallen foliage with powerful winds isn’t just problematic. Gasoline-powered leaf blowers also spew toxic chemicals and planet-warming emissions into the air and disrupt natural habitats. Using a commercial leaf blower for one hour produces as much smog-forming pollution as driving 1,100 miles in a car. They're also harmful to people with health problems like me and the individual operating them.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

David Szafranski

#334441 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

To the attention of the Portland City Council: We cannot pass laws to eliminate gas leaf blowers from our neighborhoods quickly enough. These obscenely loud blowers disrupt our lives every week starting at 7:30am in the morning and can be heard from 5 blocks away. Operators of these blowers ignore both time restrictions and noise ordinances in their operation. They are even operating these blowers in the middle of winter, yes, right now, without any purpose other than to create noise and pollution. During the summer, these blowers spew clouds of annoying fumes, crate billows of dirt and dust in the air, and abuse our ears with eardrum crushing noise. So please, ban these gas blowers ASAP, and make sure that ANYONE using these blowers are fined in a significant way to deter their use. Everyone involved with their use need to be held accountable, including property owner, contractors, and contractor employees. Multiple violations of gas leaf blower bans should require confiscation of their blowers. Passing a ordinance to ban gas leaf blowers would be the absolute best way to drastically improve the quality of life for everyone in Portland. Thanks for voting to approve the Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out Ordinance David Szafranski

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Joseph Stenger

#334442 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

March 4, 2024 Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of the City Council, My name is Joe Stenger MD. I live in NE Portland and I am writing in support of Item 210 regarding phasing out gas leaf blowers. Protecting vulnerable people is smart policy. Gas leaf blowers emit toxic air pollution, putting anyone nearby at risk. Children and people with respiratory illness are at enhanced risk, however prolonged exposure sustained by workers using these devices puts them at especially high risk. The noise caused by these devices is harmful to operators and bystanders. Again, prolonged usage will cause greater damage. Hearing loss is insidious and cumulative, usually not detected until too late. Operators of these devices are at higher risk of significant harm if they are uninsured, as are many workers with low incomes, since they are therefore likely to delay seeking medical care for illnesses resulting from lung or hearing damage. Resulting costs to their health, to loss of ability to work, and direct medical costs will be higher. I am proud that this City Council declared a climate emergency in 2020. Our city has committed to a plan of reduction of greenhouse pollution. Gas leaf blowers have an outsized GHG emissions burden. Eliminating spewing these toxic gasses will contribute significantly to meeting our goals. I urge passage of this Ordinance. Sincerely, Joseph Stenger MD

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Vim Westle

#334443 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I support a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers year round beginning in 2025. This ordinance is a step in the right direction, but the implementation of it needs to happen earlier. It also needs to ban gas-powered leaf blowers year round. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Justin Acta

#334444 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I don't think this ordinance is adequate enough. There needs to be language that allows BDS to take enforcement action against property owners who hire landscapers that continue to use gas powered blowers. Also I'm concerned that BDS may not be able to enforce much of this as they are already extremely lack on enforcement of other city code when citizens complain.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Scott Emery

#334446 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Dear City Council Members, I would like to encourage your support for the Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out. Gas leaf blowers represent a poor trade off of values for our community. They trade high decibel hearing damaging noise, emission of toxic particulates, and the redistribution of leaves onto our streets and leaf mold and soil aerosols into our lungs...for what? My concern with the Ordinance, which may require your attention, is enforcement. There is currently a noise ordinance that would preclude the use of some of the noisier gas leaf blowers, but enforcement of that has proven difficult. Few of us can measure the decibel levels reliably, and the gas leaf blower activity at any location although seeming interminable, is usually only fractions of an hour. A fair mechanism for finding violators should be encoded in the Ordinance. Thanks for your consideration of this ordinance and my thoughts..

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Heather Grant

#334447 | March 4, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I have lived in Portland for over 30 years and moved here primarily due to the progressive stances this city has taken. The health and environmental issues caused by gas leaf blowers are an anomaly for this city. Portland has shown over the years much foresight - more bike lanes than any other American city – by far. We have very early adoption of hybrid and electrical vehicles....plus many more. It is about time for the city to take another trailblazing step and phase out these polluting gas leaf blowers. I urge the City Council to act on this – right away. The pollution won't solve itself, you have to take action.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Rick Craycraft

#334448 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

These machines have no upside. They are notorious polluters which pose a health hazard to their operators. They violate noise ordinances the minute you turn them on. Electric and battery-operated blowers do just as good a job with none of the above complications. They are used professionally year-round, a lot of times for no reason. They have been banned in communities across the United States, so this is not an issue restricted to just Portland. There is no reason to delay. They are truly a public nuisance.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Nona Gamel

#334449 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I am writing in support of the phase-out of gas leaf blowers. This is the least we can do in the face of climate change.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Robert Elon

#334450 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Dear Commissioner, I am happy to learn about the proposed ordinance to ban gas leaf blowers in Portland. This is long overdue. It's disappointing, however, that Portland and Multnomah County have been trying to figure this out for seven years, passing the matter back and forth and will now take four more years to fully implement an ordinance. Around 100 municipalities already implemented a ban, some acting over 30 years ago. In 2021 Oakland passed a ban on gas leaf blowers and string trimmers ("weed whackers") in one meeting and implemented the ordinance in only three months. Here are some of my thoughts on this ordinance:

- It fails to mention even ONCE the benefits of hand tools, despite the enormous cost savings for businesses. Yes, some will argue that blowers save time but, truthfully, no one saves time by doing something that is not necessary, such as blowing leaves that don't exist (which is what happens most of the year).
- The ordinance acknowledges that exhaust from GLBs produces toxic and carcinogenic emissions that can pose health risks to operators and the public, including stroke, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, cancer, neurological conditions, and prenatal development issues. And yet, you feel it's okay to wait several more years to ban them due to a lack of advanced technology. If other cities have already banned them, the existing tools obviously work.
- Some small businesses in Portland have completely abandoned all gas equipment and have a hard time keeping up with demand. Isn't this proof that gas blowers are unnecessary?
- Though gas blowers can be helpful to bureaus managing large parks and properties, they are almost always unnecessary on standard residential properties where they are used daily. There is no need to prolong a seasonal ban in residential neighborhoods.
- I think mentioning the impact on workers is important since they are closest to the equipment. And yet your resolution fails to emphasize the impact on other people trying to work, study, or sleep. Why is their choice of equipment a higher priority than the needs of everyone else in the community? Blowers are a health hazard to everyone, not merely "a nuisance".
- The ordinance fails to recognize that ALL blowers blow pathogens, mold, herbicides, dried animal feces into the air, which is detrimental to the respiratory health of humans and animals. There should be seasonal restrictions on all powerful blowers, with some exceptions.
- It fails to recognize that all blowers decimate pollinator habitats and destroy topsoil.
- It should be noted that, though battery powered blowers are better than gas powered in terms of emissions, the life cycle, from "cradle to grave" is not clean and green.
- Let's be honest. If workers were emptying their blower tank fuel in the Willamette, would you ask them how they identify and then, based on their answers, take several years to find a "fair and equitable solution" that takes another few years to implement? People are emptying their blower tanks around our homes and blowing pollution all over our neighborhoods.

How some of them identify on a census form shouldn't determine the length of a "transition period". The problem is not just the gas blowers, it's the status quo of prioritizing blowers over all other tools which reinforces the industry talking point that leaf blowers are essential tools and that more power is better, despite the health and environmental consequences. We don't need to just electrify the status quo; we need a new vision for landscape design and maintenance. I do appreciate that you are finally acting on this matter though I wish this were a more honest ordinance, based on evidence, respect for everyone, and a greater sense of urgency.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Amy Houchen

#334451 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

The use of gas leaf-blowers has been harming people's health for far too long with air and noise pollution. The landscape contractors who use them have known about the health problems for years, but still want to drag their feet—at the expense of the health of their workers, the yards they work in, the neighbors and the planet (using a gas leaf-blower for an hour pollutes as much as driving a Camry from Portland to San Diego). Some contractors have made the switch and are thriving. After all, in the long run electric equipment is cheaper. Gas leaf-blowers are horrendously overused, because they're easy to refill with fuel. Hence they are used mindlessly. It makes no sense to blow a few leaves that could easily be picked up by hand. Nor does it make sense to blast sodden leaves for several minutes to no avail, when a rake would take care of them in a few seconds without air or noise pollution. I've seen workers blowing a driveway three times in quick succession, which I assume must be to fill up the contracted time. Rakes and brooms still work. The resistance to the proposed ordinance reminds me of the resistance to banning backyard burning. We survived that ban just fine. Portlanders and their gardens thrived quietly for years without blasting the plants with 200° hot air from leaf-blowers. For the sake of people and planet, Portland should join the many cities that have banned gas leaf-blowers.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Richard Wise

#334452 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

As an internal medicine physician for the past approximately 40 years I'm very concerned about the adverse health effects of gas powered leaf blowers both to the population in general and especially to the workers who use them for hours every day. The amount of emissions and noise the machines produce has been well documented. We know there are quieter, emission-free alternatives that are effective. I'm also concerned about climate change. Portland has been a leader in developing concrete goals for addressing climate change and caring for the environment. The banning of gas leaf blowers is happening in a growing number of cities across the country. It is time for Portland to show its commitment to protecting the health and well-being of our populace and our environment. Please move forward with action to ban gas powered leaf blowers. Thank you. Rick Wise MD

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Brook Howard

#334453 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Gas leaf blowers are unhealthy and unnecessary. I experience their ill-effects regularly, walking in my neighborhood, and inside my home. As a physician, I am mindful of their well documented acoustic and emission hazards. I would expect that a green city such as Portland would be on the forefront in actions to mitigate and eliminate these hazards. We should also recognize the detrimental effect on habitat that is a side effect of excess and unnecessary removal of leaves. Many ecologically essential insect and vertebrate species need leaves left in place for reproduction and population stability. For these reasons strongly support the proposed Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, and urge its passage by the Council.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Mark Booth

#334454 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my deepest chagrin at the proposed gas powered leaf blower ban. If adopted, this ban will be classic Portland City Council overreach. The Council was publicly called on the carpet due to it's requirement somehow that citizens who had trees fall needed to pay the city for a permit to remove those trees (already removed by an act of nature). That includes citizens who had proactively applied for removal permits that the City denied. PBOT is forever asking citizens to do its job and remove leaves from the streets and storm drains. This city loves the trees in it and creates onerous requirements around their maintenance and removal. Electric leaf blowers (why do I need that additional expense?) are not ready for prime-time. They do not have the power to do the job that gas powered blowers have. The batteries require frequent recharging (extending use times). The cost of electricity is going up and the availability of electricity to support all the items a number of you want to see electrified is not there and won't be for some time. In my case, there is a mature sycamore in our yard that, in the fall, sheds blankets of a lot of large leaves that, from my previous experience, are not easily moved by my electric blower. Being an older individual, I rely on my gas blower to quickly get the leaves to zones where they can be collected. Promote and in some cases require trees, then take away the tools the people need to manage them. Honestly, this ban is the type of thing that is propelling the exodus of residents from the city. Do not put it in place. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

March 5, 2024

Re: Agenda 210 to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers – Please ban these machines.

Dear City of Portland City Council:

Respectfully, there are readily-available alternatives to noisy, polluting gas-powered leaf blowers, including electric leaf blowers as well as brooms and rakes. To quote the guy on the t.v. commercial, this “should be the easiest decision in the history of decisions.”

My wife and I live at the corner of NW 20th and Irving, one block from the busy playground at Couch Park as well as the Metropolitan Learning Center school. We work from home frequently, and, during weekdays, there are often multiple leaf blowers operating on 20th and Irving near our residence, which make it extremely difficult to have a telephone conversation. The noise generated by gas-powered blowers cannot be overstated – the operators, of course, wear professional ear protection (but they don’t distribute ear protection to nearby neighbors and residents).

Nor is the incessant roar of the machine limited to the immediate area surrounding the leaf blower; the noise is still oppressively loud from 1 to 2 blocks away! Indeed, I got up one morning at **7:00 AM sharp** to hear a ridiculously loud racket, which I assumed must be emanating from right outside our building – but no, there were 3 city workers running outrageously loud gas-powered leaf blowers a full block away at Couch Park.

Nor is the extreme nuisance of gas-powered leaf blowers limited to weekdays – frequently on weekends the blowers will be out all around our neighborhood by 9 or 10 AM. The lack of consideration for Portland’s residents demonstrated by the operators of these machines is, frankly, shocking.

Nor is the nuisance limited to the deafening roar. These machines kick up massive clouds of dirt and grit, which does not simply go into the street – it carries in the air for long distances, including, of course, right over to the playground and schoolyard where children are either attending school or playing on a daily basis. I understand that electric leaf blowers, while having the advantage of quieter operation, also kick up dust. However, there is at least a chance that some landscapers, building managers, and property owners, when gas-powered leaf blowers are banned, will return to using quiet rakes and brooms, which do not create air pollution like these obnoxious gas blowers (as you’re all aware, the air quality in NW Portland is not the best, as it is; and anything that can remove some grit from the air would be a welcome improvement).

A related point concerning economics and jobs is that the workers who make a living in part by operating gas-powered leaf blowers will not lose their jobs if gas-powered

blowers are outlawed; not at all – rather, they will switch to other options such as electric and/or manual equipment that can come close to doing the same job without all the noise and pollution. While a few workers will have to change their way of doing things, it is unlikely that a single worker will lose a job in the City of Portland due to the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers (indeed, there could be slightly more demand for labor when these unnecessary machines are banned). In terms of the efficacy of alternatives, I can note anecdotally that I served as on-site manager for over 6 years at a historic building on 19th and Irving, one block from where we live now; there are plenty of trees in the area and I had no problem keeping the sidewalks and grounds tidy using a broom and rake.

From a cost benefit analysis, the scale tilts so clearly in favor of banning (i.e. phasing out) gas-powered leaf blowers that the City should promptly and decisively do the right thing. Our city, and all cities, will always feature noise and air pollution; but when such obvious options to improve the sonic ambience and air quality are available, i.e. banning gas powered leaf blowers, the City of Portland should ban these machines by the earliest possible effective date.

There is scant legitimate rationale for allowing a small group of people to operate machines at a decibel level similar to a chainsaw in order to spend hours on end pushing a few leaves off the sidewalk during business hours or on what should be a peaceful weekend morning, only to have the leaves and dust blow back onto the sidewalk overnight. It would be a Sisyphean task to maintain a clean car parked on the streets in NW Portland, and most of us don't worry too much about that (even though many of us have no option but to use on-street parking and pay a not insignificant amount to do so); nonetheless, it is obvious when the blowers have been operating near your car, for the vehicle will be grimy the day after you wash it; however, I'm not writing because I am concerned about keeping a car clean – I'm writing to urge you to help keep the air clean for children and to help citizens maintain their mental health, as the noise these blowers make is very unsettling and creates a stressful environment.

The points made above are not hyperbole. From a second-floor window I have watched some of the folks operating these machines engage in what is clearly a 'make-work' process: wielding their blowers like machine guns targeting clean sidewalks, literally spending minutes chasing a single leaf or two, all while terrorizing the neighborhood with noise and dirty air that children and all of us must breathe. Gas-powered leaf blowers accomplish nothing of meaningful utility to their employers or to the public that could not be accomplished by less harmful means.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim W. Voglele

503-779-5415

Jim Vogele

#334455 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

March 5, 2024 Re: Agenda 210 to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers – Please ban these machines. Dear City of Portland City Council: Respectfully, there are readily-available alternatives to noisy, polluting gas-powered leaf blowers, including electric leaf blowers as well as brooms and rakes. To quote the guy on the t.v. commercial, this “should be the easiest decision in the history of decisions.” My wife and I live at the corner of NW 20th and Irving, one block from the busy playground at Couch Park as well as the Metropolitan Learning Center school. We work from home frequently, and, during weekdays, there are often multiple leaf blowers operating on 20th and Irving near our residence, which make it extremely difficult to have a telephone conversation. The noise generated by gas-powered blowers cannot be overstated – the operators, of course, wear professional ear protection (but they don’t distribute ear protection to nearby neighbors and residents). Nor is the incessant roar of the machine limited to the immediate area surrounding the leaf blower; the noise is still oppressively loud from 1 to 2 blocks away! Indeed, I got up one morning at 7:00 AM sharp to hear a ridiculously loud racket, which I assumed must be emanating from right outside our building – but no, there were 3 city workers running outrageously loud gas-powered leaf blowers a full block away at Couch Park. Nor is the extreme nuisance of gas-powered leaf blowers limited to weekdays – frequently on weekends the blowers will be out all around our neighborhood by 9 or 10 AM. The lack of consideration for Portland’s residents demonstrated by the operators of these machines is, frankly, shocking. Nor is the nuisance limited to the deafening roar. These machines kick up massive clouds of dirt and grit, which does not simply go into the street – it carries in the air for long distances, including, of course, right over to the playground and schoolyard where children are either attending school or playing on a daily basis. I understand that electric leaf blowers, while having the advantage of quieter operation, also kick up dust. However, there is at least a chance that some landscapers, building managers, and property owners, when gas-powered leaf blowers are banned, will return to using quiet rakes and brooms, which do not create air pollution like these obnoxious gas blowers (as you’re all aware, the air quality in NW Portland is not the best, as it is; and anything that can remove some grit from the air would be a welcome improvement). A related point concerning economics and jobs is that the workers who make a living in part by operating gas-powered leaf blowers will not lose their jobs if gas-powered blowers are outlawed; not at all – rather, they will switch to other options such as electric and/or manual equipment that can come close to doing the same job without all the noise and pollution. While a few workers will have to change their way of doing things, it is unlikely that a single worker will lose a job in the City of Portland due to the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers

(indeed, there could be slightly more demand for labor when these unnecessary machines are banned). In terms of the efficacy of alternatives, I can note anecdotally that I served as on-site manager for over 6 years at a historic building on 19th and Irving, one block from where we live now; there are plenty of trees in the area and I had no problem keeping the sidewalks and grounds tidy using a broom and rake. From a cost benefit analysis, the scale tilts so clearly in favor of banning (i.e. phasing out) gas-powered leaf blowers that the City should promptly and decisively do the right thing. Our city, and all cities, will always feature noise and air pollution; but when such obvious options to improve the sonic ambience and air quality are available, i.e. banning gas powered leaf blowers, the City of Portland should ban these machines by the earliest possible effective date. There is scant legitimate rationale for allowing a small group of people to operate machines at a decibel level similar to a chainsaw in order to spend hours on end pushing a few leaves off the sidewalk during business hours or on what should be a peaceful weekend morning, only to have the leaves and dust blow back onto the sidewalk overnight. It would be a Sisyphean task to maintain a clean car parked on the streets in NW Portland, and most of us don't worry too much about that (even though many of us have no option but to use on-street parking and pay a not insignificant amount to do so); nonetheless, it is obvious when the blowers have been operating near your car, for the vehicle will be grimy the day after you wash it; however, I'm not writing because I am concerned about keeping a car clean – I'm writing to urge you to help keep the air clean for children and to help citizens maintain their mental health, as the noise these blowers make is very unsettling and creates a stressful environment. The points made above are not hyperbole. From a second-floor window I have watched some of the folks operating these machines engage in what is clearly a 'make-work' process: wielding their blowers like machine guns targeting clean sidewalks, literally spending minutes chasing a single leaf or two, all while terrorizing the neighborhood with noise and dirty air that children and all of us must breathe. Gas-powered leaf blowers accomplish nothing of meaningful utility to their employers or to the public that could not be accomplished by less harmful means. Thank you for your consideration. Jim W. Vogele 503-779-5415

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Rebecca Webb

#334456 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Dear City of Portland officials, I write to thank you sincerely for your draft of the leaf-blower ordinance, an important step toward reducing neighborhood noise and pollution - and to request changes to it. Although your draft ordinance represents progress, it is simply too weak and too far in the future to bring timely and significant progress. Specifically, with most of 2024 before us, please consider an earlier phase-out date! After years of waiting for official attention to these dirty and noisy devices, and especially since battery-operated alternatives are available and increasingly affordable, phase out should begin in 2025 (not 2026, as your ordinance draft suggests). Further, the fall exemption should be shortened to two months (November-December, NOT October) to coordinate with city leaf pickup (which begins in November). The second phase, a year-round GLB ban should begin in 2026 - not 2028, as planned per your draft. 2028 is much too late for us to continue to tolerate the invasive noise and health risks associated with GLBs. One final point: Please strengthen enforcement! Weak enforcement can undermine the important goals of this ordinance - and pit neighbor against neighbor. Contractors and property managers, along with property owners, should be included as potentially responsible parties or "violators." Penalties for repeat offenders should be enforced earlier after the ordinance takes effect. As written, the ordinance allows for lax and subjective enforcement through "education" only. Again, thanks for taking action to alleviate a noxious source of noise and pollution in Portland, and please consider these requested improvements to your draft ordinance. Best regards, Rebecca Webb, Portland resident

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Diane Lucas

#334457 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

A few decades ago, if you remember, we decided that leaded paint was not something we wanted to continue to use around our homes. There were better alternatives that did not cause brain damage to our children. Did we do that by fining the homeowners who hired workers to put leaded paint on their homes? NO ! We didn't do that! We removed the leaded paint at its source, made it illegal to make, sell, or use it. Something very similar happened with leaded gasoline, in that we didn't fine the drivers who put it in their cars... Portland has finally decided that there are better alternatives to gasoline powered leaf blowers that do not cause or increase rates of leukemia, anemia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, asthma, hypertension, hearing loss, dizziness, low birth weight, neighborhood strife, etc, etc. But how do we try to get rid of these dangerous gas leaf blower in Portland? We fine the HOMEOWNERS who hire people to use them on their property!!! (What am I not understanding here?) Whatever happened to the idea of BANNING THE SALE AND USE of an unsafe product? It will be interesting to observe whether Portland ever succeeds in getting rid of gas leaf blowers. (That is, unless the state or the county steps up to fix this problem.) Why, after all, should we fix a problem at its origin...stopping the manufacture, sale, and use of an unsafe product, when we can poke at the problem in dribbles and drabs from the back end? So what if we have to suffer the ill health effects and cost of so many unnecessary cases of leukemia, anemia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, asthma, hypertension, hearing loss, dizziness, neighborhood strife, etc, etc.? After all, it's Portland, right?

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Barbara Amen

#334458 | March 5, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I strongly support the Ordinance to phase out the use of gas leaf blowers in the city. The fumes and noise level of gas blowers are noxious to the broader community. Banning these machines will be of health benefit to the workers, neighbors, and to local animal life (birds in particular).

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Matt Morrissey

#334459 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Please pass this ordinance - our city air and noise is already bad enough without this unnecessary contraptions. And the climate collapse is upon us. Thanks

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Alexis Wenker

#334461 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Portland City Council Meeting Re: Agenda Item 210, an amendment to Title 8 of the Portland City Code regarding leaf blower use The Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association (OGCSA) is a trade association representing over 330 golf industry professionals managing golf courses in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Seven of our member courses are located within Portland city limits. The members of the OGCSA are committed to the adoption and use of electric equipment as technology improves but do not support this phase-out which will result in an outright ban of critically needed equipment by January 1, 2028. While the phase-out as outlined in the ordinance may be practical for homeowners or those managing small properties, the needs of golf course superintendents maintaining, on average, 150 acres of land and valuable community green space is very different. Golf is more than just an enjoyable pastime in the state. According to a 2020 economic and environmental impact study commissioned by the Golf Alliance of Oregon, golf contributes \$1.6 billion to the states overall economy and supports over 16,000 jobs while generating \$69 million annually in tax revenue for state and local governments. But the industry's positive impact doesn't stop there. Oregon's golf course superintendents are leaders in environmental stewardship and conservation. For context, today, thanks to a national effort, superintendents in every state across the country have a golf course best management practices document which thoroughly guides and provides implementation recommendations for the latest sustainable land management practices uniquely suited to golf courses in their state. But Oregon's golf course superintendents were proudly the first to adopt and implement such practices more than 25 years ago. With a focus on sustainable golf course maintenance and aimed at protecting the environment and preserving limited resources, Oregon was the first state to implement an environmental best practices guideline in 1999 and have twice updated this document having recently published the 3rd edition of Environmental Stewardship Guidelines in 2020. In short, golf in Oregon supports local jobs, tourism, outdoor recreation, philanthropy, and most importantly, environmental conservation including nearly 20,000 acres of green space across the state. Gas leaf blowers (GLBs) are an important tool used to maintain golf courses for a variety of operations throughout the year, not only the wet leaf season. Because of this golf course superintendents recognize and prioritize the health and safety of operators who use this equipment. Golf course superintendents adhere to all worker protection standards and regulations administered and enforced by State and Federal agencies, many times exceeding these requirements. We fear that this ordinance may have the potential to result in a market shortfall of products available for commercial use, especially during a time of supply chain volatility. The transition to electric leaf blowers should be based on availability and variety of

equipment, affordability, reliability, and feasibility, especially for those operating on a large scale like golf courses. This doesn't mean our industry is not prioritizing "going green." In so many ways, we have been green for a very long time. We simply ask for more time to prepare and secure alternatives to make the transition. We would like to see a more phased approach for large properties like golf courses that allows for the gradual integration of new technologies and alternatives as manufacturers make them available for commercial use and we appreciate the city's willingness to reassess the available technology as the 2028 deadline approaches and the commitment the city has made to change course if commercial needs are still not being met at that time. We also ask the City to consider focusing on promoting education, and for incentives to help this transition occur naturally and cost-effectively for small businesses that will be impacted, such as golf courses. One cannot only consider the base cost of a GLB compared to an electric version using just one battery. Golf course operators will require multiple batteries to complete jobs throughout the day and would need to install charging station infrastructure with potential upgrade costs that could run in the tens of thousands of dollars. While there is mention of program development to offset costs for small businesses that would experience disproportionate hardships, details have not been shared. There is no indication of where the funds will come from, how much businesses will receive, and who would be eligible. Please note, most golf courses in the U.S. qualify as small businesses according to the Small Business Administration. If this ordinance is to pass, we respectfully request that golf courses are included for funding to assist in the transition. In summary, OGCSA remains committed to embracing innovation and new technologies. If a full exemption from the ordinance is not possible, we ask that the implementation deadline be extended and that financial incentives and rebate programs include Portland's golf courses. We thank city staff for their engagement on this issue and listening to our concerns, especially Sonrisa Cooper, and we appreciate your consideration of the issues we have raised when making a final decision on this ordinance. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Ann Haroun

#334462 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Thank you so much for taking steps to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in Portland. However, please don't wait nearly 2 years to get this phase-out started! Let's not live with the hateful noise and dangerous air pollution for another 2 years! In the City Council's own words: "Switching from gas to electric equipment will benefit our local environment and improve quality of life for workers and neighbors." Let's get this started sooner! Other cities have already done this. They are the leaders on this important issue. Let's join them! It's not like this measure would deprive landscapers from using leaf blowers. It simply requires the switch from gas to electric. Let's not suffer -- and allow our children and our urban wildlife to suffer -- from the terrible impact of gas powered leaf blowers for another two years!

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Jennifer Stout

#334463 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Hi - I'm a 30-year resident of Portland and fully support the equitable gas leaf blower phase out ordinance. I live in the Arnold neighborhood of SW Portland. Yes - I have a yard service and so do many of my neighbors. But we would all benefit from the phase out. Eliminating gas leaf blowers would be better for workers' health and the public's health. And better for the environment and the climate. There is **STRONG, WIDESPREAD SUPPORT** for this. Thank you for your consideration.
Best, Jennifer Stout

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Arlene Landry

#334464 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Thank you for developing this ordinance to phase out the use of gas leaf blowers. I know you face enormous pressures from many different groups. I am most concerned about the noise level & pollution of these blowers. Please strengthen the ordinance so we can more quickly achieve the public health & quality of life benefits. I urge you to make these changes: Require an earlier reporting date for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to assess the feasibility of replacing gas leaf blowers with electric leaf blowers. Small businesses might need help with this transition, so let's provide incentives for them. Repeat offenders of this ordinance should face tougher penalties. That seems only fair.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Douglas Young

#334465 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I urge the passage of Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out. The pollution from the gas and oil burning adds significantly to the stressors that trigger asthma in our family. The sooner we transition away from gas-powered leaf blowers the better. We have structured our home to be manageable by non-powered tools such as rakes and shovels. I urge my neighbors to consider doing the same. We need to stop burning fossil fuels in leaf blowers for the greater environment, for our local air, and to reduce noise pollution that has been demonstrated to have significant impact on human well-being.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Laura Feldman

#334466 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

Pass the proposed ordinance that bans gas leaf blowers. Can city council show us that it can do something in response to the climate emergency?

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Deirdre Young

#334467 | March 6, 2024

Testimony to on the **Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out, Ordinance Draft**

I strongly support the Equitable Gas Leaf Blower Phase-out Ordinance. I have been wishing for years that we could do away with gas-powered leaf blowers, so I am really glad the Equitable Phase-Out ordinance has been created. Please do me, an asthma sufferer, and the rest of us, e.g. children walking about, folks out walking their dogs, the elderly (who shouldn't have to cross the street to avoid the harmful fumes and noise) a favor and pass this asap. I hope that it can be enforced. When I walk around, say, the big Safeway parking lot in St Johns and there are 2 enormous industrial-size gas blowers going, I have to walk way out of my way to avoid the fumes and noise. Will those landscapers be told to change to electric? Who will be accountable in that situation? Also, when I walk over near my daughter's apartment in Goose Hollow around those big expensive homes, those people are safe inside or away, while all the gas-powered blowers and hedgers and such are whining and stinking away. Will this ordinance really be enforced and make a difference? With climate change threatening our very existence, does it make sense to burn and pollute with fossil fuels this way just to make someone's yard look tidy? I am old and struggle to breathe anyway. Who knows what all pollutants I have been exposed to throughout my childhood and lifetime. Please make it better for today's children by ending the use of these noisy, carcinogen-spewing and unnecessary machines right away! Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.

Portland City Council Meeting - Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Item	First Name	Last Name
210	Stanley	Penkin
210	Brian	Stewart
210	Wade	Lange
210	Tamara	Olcott
210	Matt	Villers
210	Sandy	Polishuk
210	Albert	Kaufman
210	Alicia	Cohen
210	Charles	Wolsborn
210	Yuri	Ramirez
210	Brian	Koffler
210	Nolan	Wenker
210	Jim	Myers
210	Jessica	Stolzberg
210	Erika	Magill
210	Jill	Bellenger
210	Dan	Gilk
210	Robert	Butler
210	Regina	Wolfson
210	Sarah	Silkie