

September 21, 2020

TO: Mayor Brian Pugh, Croton On Hudson, New York
Copy: Deputy Mayor Ann Gallelli
Trustee John Habib
Trustee Sherry Horowitz
Trustee Andy Simmons
From: [Larry Will](#)



Reference:

<https://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=crotononhudson&elD=793>

I see from the referenced Internet video that Croton is being advised by the Conservation Advisory Council to ban gasoline powered leaf blowers permanently. There is a legitimate reason for considering this, which is noise, but most of what the advisory council is presenting is false and unsubstantiated. If I may, I would like to provide insight as to why I say this so your decision concerning the future of leaf blowers in Croton is fact based.

I am a former Vice President of Engineering for Echo Inc., a leading manufacturer of powered handheld lawn care products. I am not a stakeholder in your community's leaf blower issue, nor am I trying to interfere with any decision you deem necessary. But I am a source of facts about the design and use of cordless and gasoline powered leaf blowers. Please click [here](#) to review my qualifications and credentials.

Well intended though they may be, my first observation is that none of the presenters in the forum are professionals, that is, none of them are in any way professionally involved in the use, development, or accreditation of the leaf blower. They can only quote information presented by others with no way of knowing if what they present is based on facts, qualified tests or is simply inuendo and opinion. One very blatant inaccuracy is the quote from Edmonds.com. The primary reason is because their test equipment is inaccurate when testing a 3-horsepower engine on equipment designed for a 300-horsepower engine. To learn all the facts about this test, see the [explanation](#) on my website.

As for the pollutants attributed to leaf blowers, their so-called facts are totally wrong. Take carbon monoxide (CO) for instance. This exhaust component is directly proportional to the amount of fuel burned and that in turn is dependent on the size of the engine and how long it is run. Even logic can tell you that a Ford Raptor, running at any distance, will develop more CO than a leaf blower. The same is true of [greenhouse gas](#) (CO₂).

Nitrous oxides (NO_x), which is the source of [particulate matter](#), are not present in any appreciable amount in exhaust from gasoline powered engines. That's because it takes excess nitrogen and oxygen in the combustion cycle of the fuel to generate NO_x. The nitrogen component is not present in the fuel, rather it is in the general atmosphere, [78% to be exact](#). Only diesel engines generate NO_x because they do run on excess air. As you can see from the above link, even particulate matter is not an issue from a leaf blower.

Some equate leaf blowers to the spread of the Corona Virus. It is impossible to say this with any correlation to reality. The best doctors in the land would not be able to substantiate this. At most, the sequestering of people in their home for work is making them realize that neighbors are using leaf blowers, and some of them are noisy.

Everything that was presented in the forum can be exposed as a falsehood, except for noise, if you take the time to read the articles at the following links:

[Can leaf blowers be regulated locally to reduce emissions?](#)

[Are automobiles cleaner?](#)

[What about global warming?](#)

[Are leaf blowers hazardous to your health?](#)

[Greenwich Department of Health](#)

[Dr. Steel's Report to California Legislature](#)

[Excessive Dust](#)

[Dust study and comparison.](#)

[What do Doctors say?](#)

[Education](#)

[Will a ban work?](#)

[Leaf Blower vs. Broom](#)

As I have already said more than once, the underlying issue, and the only issue with the gasoline powered leaf blower, is [noise](#). The industry learned of this more than 20 years ago and deliberately addressed this issue in response to complaints. Much has been done to reduce the noise from gasoline powered leaf blowers. In order to understand how sound reduction is quantified, note that for every six dB(A) reduction in sound magnitude (from any starting point on the measurement scale), the actual volume is reduced by 50%.

This much sound reduction is hard to accept as being true for the average person because we cannot comprehend from experience what a 50% reduction sounds like. The best thing to do is to witness an actual leaf blower sound comparison, but I know that it is not easy to arrange this. An alternative is to check out the [video](#) of an actual demonstration developed for the comparison of leaf blowers on my website.

In the case of a gasoline powered leaf blower, sound level is measured at 50 feet per the industry Standard ([ANSI B175.2](#)). A “Quiet” leaf blower is 65 dB(A) or less, measured per the above Standard. This is at least a seventy-five percent reduction in sound or 12 dB(A), from a typical noisy leaf blower at 77 dB(A).

Quiet leaf blowers have been available for a long time, however, not all leaf blowers are quiet. Therefore, I encourage you to learn more about these quiet blowers before summarily banning them along with the noisy ones.

Fortunately, because of the industry’s foresight, any city that wants to limit the sound emanating from a gas-powered leaf blower can easily determine sound magnitude in the field without testing. The consumer can also determine compliance with local sound limitations at the point of purchase via the attached [label](#). This decal has been on all gasoline powered leaf blowers manufactured in the United States for at least the past fifteen years.

Battery-powered leaf blowers are becoming very popular among homeowners. My wife loves ours because it is easy for her to use, not that I make her clean the entire yard with it, but because she likes to keep our flower adorned deck free of debris, which seems like an everyday ritual. I use it in the summer to clean a 5400 square foot driveway and courtyard. It does an adequate job clearing debris from paved surfaces and therefore may be viable for the homeowner. It is faster than a broom or rake and does a much better job.

However, battery powered blowers have lower performance than that of a gasoline powered unit, because of their limited available propulsion energy from a battery. This means it takes more time to get the job done. But most homeowners do not mind having to spend a little extra time working in their yard, as long as it doesn't take too much time. To many, their yard is a source of pride and pleasure, requiring a great deal of care, with a personal touch.

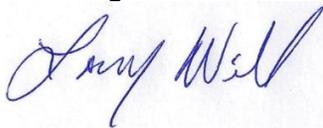
To others, yardwork is a pain. It is just a yard with grass that never quits growing, and trees that continually shed leaves, seed pods and twigs, always in need of grooming. These people turn to the yard care professional for this task. Most landscapers consider the battery powered blower inadequate. To make money, they must get the job done fast. This can only be done with a gasoline powered blower.

Just so you know, in some cities, banning gasoline-powered leaf blowers has been controversial. Lawn care contractors have taken at least one city to court over a ban. The reason is because it significantly impacts their livelihood.

One other potential obstacle could be enforcement. Police officers, in most cases, are reluctant to cite their neighbors with leaf blower violations. Not when their primary job is to apprehend criminals, prevent acts of violence and ardently protect citizens and their property. Lots of cities have problems with enforcement; Palo Alto, Santa Monica, and Los Angeles just to mention a few.

If you should need information that is not clearly addressed here or on my website, please contact me and I will do whatever I can to help, at no cost to you, including further research on your behalf.

Best regards,



Larry Will. BSME
Leaf Blower Information Specialist
ECHO Inc.
479-256-0282
Email: info@leafblownoise.com

Website: <http://leafblownoise.com/>
To learn more about ECHO:
<http://www.echo-usa.com/About-ECHO/About-Us>