

September 29, 2019

The following is the magnitude of the violation of the Clean Air Act, 1990.

Anti-leaf blower advocates are convincing cities to cite hydrocarbon exhaust emission as a reason to ban gasoline powered leaf blowers. The following articles, recently found on the internet, exemplify the magnitude of the well-organized movement. I urge you to review them all in order to understand how misleading and detrimental the issue is to the industry. I have extracted excerpts from each article that I felt were pertinent to my assertion.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/07/30/ann-arbor-leaf-blower-ban/1866359001/>

“Ann Arbor became one of the latest communities to ban leaf blowers this month, a trend that has been sweeping the nation as residents seek to silence the noisy machines and reduce air pollution.”

“Air pollution from a blower, studies have found, can be worse than a car.”

<https://easyreadernews.com/city-will-switch-to-100-percent-renewable-energy/>

“More generally, gas-powered landscaping equipment has increasingly come under environmental scrutiny. The CARB issued another report that showed there are 16 million “off-road” engines used in gardening in California, as opposed to 18 million cars, and that by 2020 ozone-damaging emissions from those engines will exceed those from cars.”

<https://www.encinitasadvocate.com/news/sd-cm-nc-encinitas-gas-20190528-htmlstory.html>

“Gas-powered blowers and outboard boat motors use two-stroke engines, which are very energy inefficient, she said. A report produced by the state “Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Resources Board indicates that a

gas-powered leaf blower produces 500 times more greenhouse gas emissions than a light-duty truck built in 2000, she said.”

“Encinitas’ stance is rare because it is proposing its leaf-blower ban on environmental grounds rather than noise concerns, said Eric Steenblock, the city’s environmental programs manager.”

<https://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2019/09/20/encinitas-bans-gas-powered-leaf-blowers-to-fight-climate-change/>

“” Eliminating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers reduces the emissions that pollute our environment and the level of noise that degrades Encinitas resident’s quality of life,” Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear said. “This change is another step toward meeting the city’s ambitious Climate Action Plan goals.””

<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Encinitas-Considering-Ban-on-Noisy-Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blowers-509887801.html>

“But the smog and dust the blowers kick up is a bigger issue. City leaders say the blower ban falls in line with the climate action plan adopted last year aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions for years to come.”

<https://santivachronicle.com/news/gas-powered-leaf-blowers-get-postponed-by-council/>

“Operating the best-selling commercial fuel-powered leaf blower for an hour emits air pollutants comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry about 1,100 miles,” she said, quoting a study by the California Air Resources Board. Cooley also stated that current city code allows leaf blowers and other lawn equipment to be operated seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.”

<http://www.captivasanibel.com/page/content.detail/id/587088/Two-city-council-members--officers-sworn-in.html?nav=5051>

“He (Mike Miller, president of the Committee of the Islands) said those in support of a ban cited noise, air pollution, possible health effects on

workers using them and on those with respiratory issues, and the argument the devices just move debris around.”

<https://patch.com/new-york/chappaqua/new-castle-considers-summertime-leaf-blower-ban>

“New Castle’s Sustainability Advisory Board recommends seasonal limitations regarding the use of motorized leaf blowers. The board members have proposed legislation to the town board.”

“Motorized blowers create noise, emit gases and blow dust particles and other airborne pollutants into the air and onto neighboring properties,” said town Supervisor Rob Greenstein. “In order to reduce the impacts of motorized blowers, our SAB is recommending prohibiting the use of motorized blowers from May 15 through September 30.”

State of Oregon [House Bill 3350](#)

“Two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers burn only 60 to 70 percent of the gas and oil mixture used as fuel for the leaf blowers, resulting in emissions of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, butadiene and acetaldehyde, all of which are harmful to human health and some of which are known carcinogens.”

<https://www.leafblownoise.com/Cambridge%20Citizen%20Petition%20-%20leaf%20blower.pdf>

“Gas-powered leaf blowers release much higher levels of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere than do automobiles...”

<http://www.pasadenanow.com/main/city-commission-takes-aim-at-leaf-blowers-and-lawn-mowers/#.XIIToShKiUk>

“It also includes community input... because of complaints that they cause too much noise, and contribute not only to air pollution but, more significantly, to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.”

“The memorandum mentioned that a two-stroke-engine leaf blower could emit the same amount of hydrocarbons in a half-hour of yard work as a Ford F-150 pickup does during a 3,887-mile drive.”

<http://www.captivasanibel.com/page/content.detail/id/586727/Collective-wisdom-informs--COTI-Conversation-.html?nav=5047>

“Fuel-powered leaf blowers contribute ozone-damaging emissions to the environment, and ozone-contributing pollutants from small gas engines may exceed emissions from vehicles by 2020,” she (Board Member Barbara Joy) said.”

<https://www.scribd.com/document/390990052/B22-234-Leaf-Blower-Regulation-Amendment-Act-of-2018>

“Gasoline powered leaf blowers also emit fumes from the gas engine and gas storage containers. California’s statewide Environmental Protection Agency reports that the best-selling commercial leaf blowers emit as much smog-forming pollution after just one hour of use as driving a 2016 Toyota Camry about 1100 miles.”

<http://www.longislandernews.com/the-long-islander-archives/2018/6/21/residents-ask-town-board-for-more-quiet-time>

“Similarly, Dr. Lucy Weinstein, a Huntington-based pediatrician, called the board’s proposal “minimal legislation” and asked it to expand the amendment to “at least include a summertime ban.” Weinstein added, “Gas blowers expose us to an unnecessarily high levels of exhaust pollutants, noise and cause the suspension of dust and particulate matter... The health of the children of Huntington is at risk.”

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2018/01/30/will-torrance-become-the-next-south-bay-city-to-restrict-the-use-of-leaf-blowers/>

“Residents are increasingly intolerant of the ear-splitting noise, while many gardening businesses seem to largely blow debris into streets and off private property. In addition, gasoline leaf blowers are seen as a major contributor to smog.”

“Air quality regulators said pollution from the tens of thousands of gas leaf blowers out there will soon surpass that of cars in the state.”

<http://concord.wickedlocal.com/news/20180130/effort-to-ban-gas-powered-leaf-blowers-in-concord>

“Scott Richardson said, “Adverse health effects from the emissions from this equipment - Benzene, butadiene, and formaldehyde - are listed among the four top ranking cancer-causing compounds, and cause lymphoma, leukemia, and other types of cancer.”

http://tbrnews.com/news/redondo_beach/redondo-beach-proposes-citywide-ban-on-leaf-blowers/article_87456c98-f63f-11e7-b6d7-672108dc5f45.html

“In less than two years, gas-powered gardening equipment including leaf blowers, lawn mowers and hedge trimmers will surpass cars as the worst air polluters in California, according to the state’s Air Resources Board, which is considering more rigid statewide restrictions.”

“While air emission standards have become more strict for cars over the years, that hasn’t been the case for gardening equipment. With more than 16 million estimated little engines roaring away in California each day, that pollution adds up.”

“This is life or death,” said Todd Loewenstein.

<https://www.redondo.org/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=2899&TargetID=11>

“Leaf blowers pollute the air we breathe and the noise is bothersome to neighbors.”

<https://www.losaltosonline.com/news/sections/news/297-news-features/56708->

“Operating the best-selling commercial gas leaf blower for an hour emits the same amount of smog-forming pollution as driving a 2016 Toyota Camry approximately 1,100 miles, according to a fact sheet the California Air Resources Board published online in June. Automotive website Edmunds.com, meanwhile, equates hydrocarbon emissions from a half-hour of operating a two-stroke blower to driving 3,887 miles in a 2011 Ford Raptor.”

<http://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2017/10/78169/leaf-blower-ban-greenport-village/>

“She also quoted a 2011 study by Edmunds, a car review company, that compared a two-stroke-engine leaf blower with a Ford F-150 Raptor pickup truck, concluding that a half-hour of yardwork with the leaf blower produces the same amount of hydrocarbon emissions as a 3,887-mile drive in the truck.”

<https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2017/09/26/portola-valley-gas-powered-leaf-blowers-not-just-a-noise-problem>

“Town Manager Jeremy Dennis prepared a staff report for the Sept. 13 session that cites a recent statement by the California Air Resources Board: by the early 2020s, small-engine emissions will exceed car emissions in Orange County and the non-desert regions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.”

“The studies cited in Mr. Dennis' report include claims that emissions from 30 minutes of operation of a typical two-stroke engine leaf blower are equivalent to driving a Ford F-150 pickup to Alaska from Texas, or a car 7,700 miles at an average speed of 30 mph.”

<http://www.27east.com/news/article.cfm/General-Interest-Southampton/536336/Southampton-Town-Hall-Could-Be-Next-Green-Zone-On-East-Coast>

“The town’s goal, she explained, is to address the release of harmful emissions and noise from gas-powered landscaping equipment by essentially transforming all town-maintained parks and grounds into Green Zones—hoping to set an example for the rest of the community.”

<http://www.27east.com/news/article.cfm/East-Hampton-Village/538635/East-Hampton-Village-May-Silence-Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blowers>

“Mr. Graham also pointed out that battery-powered blowers do not produce fumes like those that emanate from gas-powered blowers.”