

April 1, 2021

**TO: Mayor Peter Sartorius
Quoque, New York**

**Copy: Trustees:
Randy Cardo
Ted Necarsulmer
Kimberley Payne
Robert Treuhold**

From: [Larry Will](#)¹



Reference: <https://www.27east.com/southampton-press/quieter-quoque-initiative-survey-quizzes-residents-about-leaf-blower-noise-1765669/>

Dear Mayor Sartorius:

I see from the referenced document on the Web that the gasoline-powered leaf blower is now an issue in Quoque. It appears that Sally Beatty is the leader of this movement, having gone to the trouble of soliciting opinions from residents regarding the need for a ban via an email survey. If I did my math right, 744 people responded and only 305 of these are full time residents. Of these, 151 were in favor of a ban, which is only 6.3% of the 2400 surveys sent out.

Of course, I do not know Ms. Beatty, but I'm sure she is well meaning, conscientious, and dedicated to improving the environment. I can understand her

position on this matter, for she is not alone in this conviction. I have seen this in several cities. Some leaf blowers are loud and can be very irritating if they are used often, near your residence, and for long periods of time. Mr. Mayor, I can see that you are considering the impact a blower ban will have on your community.

In the back of your mind, you may be thinking that because there are other cities that have banned blowers, you can't go too far wrong to follow their precedent. However, I'm sure you have questions:

- How will a ban be enforced?
- Will homeowners with leaf blowers be upset?
- How does this impact the elderly?
- What will be the cost impact to the homeowner and landscape contractor?
- Will current users comply with your ordinance?
- Will people use time consuming tools, or will they just leave the debris where it lies?

If you decide to check this out for yourself, you can talk to council members from cities that already have a ban, but don't overlook talking to the enforcers, local lawn care providers, and homeowners to learn the true impact.

Who am I to tell you all this? I am a former Vice President of Engineering for Echo Inc., a leading manufacturer of powered handheld lawn care products. I have been in the lawncare industry for 27 years, 19 of these years as an advisor to cities with leaf blower issues. I do not live or work in your community, but what I share with you in this document will not be heard from anyone else in your area. The reason is, I can provide information not commonly known to the average citizen. As a professional engineer, I deal in facts. The information herein is presented as a public service to you, to your city and to the people that own and use leaf blowers in Quoque.

The trend to ban certain leaf blowers is troubling to me because except for noise, it is often based on distorted facts and lacks empathy for those that need them for their work or want them to reduce their workload at home.

Here are some very important leaf blower facts to consider:

- The only true issue with any type of leaf blower is that some of them are noisy. But quiet ones (gasoline versions) at 65 dB(A), measured at 50 feet, are universally available from several manufacturers. These blowers are actually quieter than battery-powered units. Click [here](#) for a demonstration video.
- Quiet leaf blowers are only 85 dB(A) at the ear of the operator. Hearing protection is not required according to OSHA.

- Health hazard and environmental impact issues are overstated if not untrue.

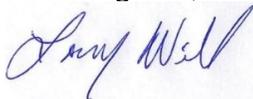
I think you will agree that the driving force for a ban is that some people are irritated by leaf blower noise. In their zeal to ban blowers, what some people may tell you about blowers, other than noise, is erroneous. Perhaps this is because ban advocates are misled by the propaganda available on the Internet. As for their understanding the impact a ban will have on users, they likely have never used these blowers personally and therefore have no concept of how valuable they are to homeowners and lawn care professionals.

In time, when battery-powered units have sufficient power and performance to do the job at hand, they will replace gasoline power by their own merits. You need only visit your local outlet store to see how popular battery-powered leaf blowers are among those with light duty, consumer type applications. Unless their property is relatively large, many homeowners are already choosing to use battery-powered blowers.

Because the issue is only with gas-powered blowers, the best solution to your leaf blower issue is to allow, but not require, electric or battery-powered blowers. However, because there is a need for blowers that are more powerful, you can allow gas units provided they are the quiet version. There is a [label](#)²³ on the unit that tells you what the sound level is, making it easy to enforce your noise restriction, should you choose. Professional users need the more powerful blower to do a better job and get the job done more quickly.

The leaf blower issue can become quite complex. If you are being told about other negative traits attributed to the blower, such as emissions or particulate matter, read the appendix, with links to references, to learn the facts about the leaf blower and its use.

Best Regards,



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Click: [APPENDIX](#) for details and [links](#) to references