

I am writing to support the ban on the sales of, and later the use of, gas powered leaf blowers. Gasoline powered leaf blowers are harmful on two major fronts:

1. They emit harmful toxic pollutants into the air, including carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons. Air pollutants emitted by gas-powered leaf blowers exceed pollutant emissions of large automobiles. (One study showed that a leaf blower emits nearly 300 times the amount of air pollutants as a pickup truck).

2. In addition, the noise pollution caused by leaf blowers is mind boggling, at least **80 decibels**. Most cheap or mid-priced units can expose users to up to 112 dB. (A plane taking off generates 105 dB.) The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recognizes that exposure to sounds over 85 dB causes hearing loss. In every season except winter, they disrupt the peace and quiet of our neighborhoods.

Gasoline powered leaf blowers are completely unnecessary. Rakes and electric blowers can do the job!