



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 91**

Fossil Fuel–Powered Lawn and Garden Care Equipment – State Purchase, Use,  
and Contracts – Prohibition

Date: January 19, 2024

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Doug Myers  
Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 91 which prohibits the state from purchasing new fossil fuel-powered lawn care equipment on a phased basis.

Running a typical gas mower for one hour creates roughly the same amount of smog-forming air pollution as driving a passenger car 300 miles, according to the California Air Resources Board. In the case of some gas-powered leaf blowers, an hour's worth of use is equivalent to driving 1,100 miles. All told, say the authors of a 2021 study published in the *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessments*, the small, inefficient gas engines used for lawn mowers, blowers, weed trimmers and other garden equipment account for a quarter of all nonroad gasoline emissions nationwide each year. One reason lawns matter is their sheer scale. A 2010 report by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, based on data from 2000 to 2005, found that turf covers as much as 3.8 million acres in the Bay watershed, which is about 10% of the total land area. From the standpoint of bay health, one-third of the nitrogen pollution that ends up in the water comes from [air pollution](#), according to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Lastly, the market signal Maryland could send by replacing fossil fuel-powered lawn care equipment can help reduce the price of these alternatives for consumers fostering more wide-spread adoption.<sup>1</sup>

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 91.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11367-021-01917-x>