



**HB167 Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase and Use - Prohibitions**  
**Government, Labor and Elections Committee**  
**February 17, 2026**  
**FAVORABLE**

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Green Towson Alliance writes in support of HB167 which requires the state to end purchases of gasoline-powered leaf blowers on July 1, 2026, and phases out state and state contractor use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers by January 1, 2031. The adoption of cleaner, quieter battery-powered leaf blowers will send a clear message that the state is advocating for the health of Marylanders and our environment and setting an example for citizens and businesses to follow.

Green Towson Alliance members feel strongly that it's time for the era of two-stroke gasoline-powered leaf blowers to come to an end. We are concerned about the pollutants these machines emit due to their contribution to climate change and the impacts they pose to the health of residents and workers. Gasoline-powered leaf blowers emit many pollutants including fine particulates (PM2.5), ozone-forming nitrogen oxides, VOCs and air toxins such as benzene and formaldehyde. Exposure to these pollutants can increase the risk of significant health effects including asthma, reproductive issues, mental health issues and cancer. Air quality is a very important local issue in the Baltimore area as we have significantly higher rates of asthma, with the hospitalization rate for asthma in Baltimore City approximately 2.3 times higher than the hospitalization rate for all Marylanders.<sup>1</sup>

Studies have found that the high-decibel, low frequency noise created by gasoline-powered leaf blowers can result in stress related illnesses such as high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, and sleep disruption. The stress associated with loud noise can also affect birds, bees and other wildlife that visit our landscapes and pollinate our crops. Insects are a primary food source for birds and amphibians, and some studies estimate that the insect population in the United States has declined by as much as 40% since 1970 because of environmental stressors including soil erosion caused by the overuse of gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

Cities and counties in Maryland have begun to restrict the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers as powerful and effective battery-powered models are readily available. Baltimore City stopped city use at the end of 2024 and is phasing out private use. Montgomery County, and the cities of Annapolis and Hyattsville have also prohibited all use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. With Maryland working hard to achieve a 60% reduction in climate emissions by 2031 and reach net zero emissions by 2045, the state needs to move toward readily-available and energy-efficient battery-powered alternatives. Finally, the state must stop exposing its landscape workers to the many health hazards these blowers cause, especially when cost effective alternatives are available.

**The Green Towson Alliance asks for a favorable report on HB167 as an important step toward the goal of a greener, healthier Maryland for all.**

Respectfully,  
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<sup>1</sup> Kelly, L., K. Burkhart. Asthma and Air Pollution in Baltimore City. Environmental Integrity Project. December 2017.

*The Green Towson Alliance unites Towson area environmentalists to create a greener, healthier and more beautiful community through collaboration and activism.*