DC’s Leaf Blower Phase-Out

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Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2018
D.C. Act 22-538  (December 26, 2018)

Phase out of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers
by January 1, 2022
Issues We Faced

Choices we made

and

Why
Issues We Faced

1. Phase out vs. an Immediate Ban?
Issues We Faced--continued

2. Legislative Basis for the Phase Out: Noise and air pollution vs. just noise?
Issues We Faced--continued

3. What to Phase Out (and why)
   a. Leaf Blowers only vs. all garden equipment?
   b. All leaf blowers vs. only gas-powered leaf blowers?
   c. How can this decision be based on noise?
How can one phase out GAS Blowers without setting an acceptable noise level?

• Industry claims that they make GAS leaf blowers as quiet as battery-operated blowers.
• Therefore, they argue, that a noise measurement should be the best, not the power source.
• Study shows that a 65 dB GAS blower is NOISER than a 65 dB battery blower! The test the industry uses doesn’t tell the whole story.
• All GAS blowers AS A CLASS are noisier than battery blowers.
Issues We Faced--continued

4. Applicability

Contractors and Homeowners vs. just contractors?
Issues We Faced--continued

5. How to Determine a Violation
Decibel reading vs. eyesight/photo?
Issues We Faced--continued

6. Primary Enforcement Method
Police and Inspectors vs. citizen affidavits?
Our Decisions

1. Phase Out
2. Noise only as the legislative basis
3. Only gas-powered leaf blowers
4. Contractors AND homeowners
5. Eyesight and photos, no decibel meters
6. Citizen Affidavits as primary enforcement method.
Sources of Help

Quiet Communities Organization (quietcommunities.org)
Our Website (QuietcleanDC.com)
January 1, 2022