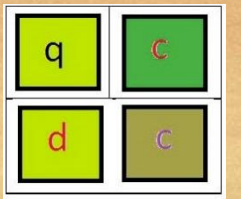


DC's Leaf Blower Phase-Out

Chuck Elkins, Member

Quiet Clean DC

October 14, 2020

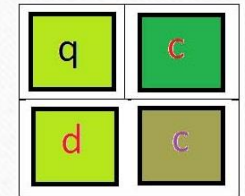


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Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2018

D.C. Act 22-538 (December 26, 2018)

Phase out of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers
by **January 1, 2022**



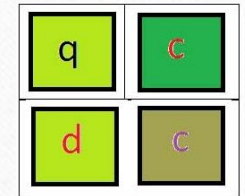
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Issues We Faced

Choices we made

and

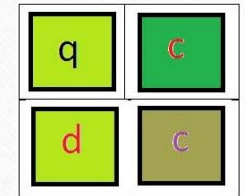
Why



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Issues We Faced

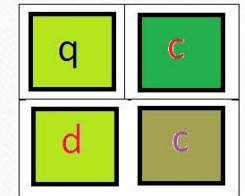
1. Phase out vs. an Immediate Ban?



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Issues We Faced--continued

2. Legislative Basis for the Phase Out:
Noise and air pollution vs. just noise?

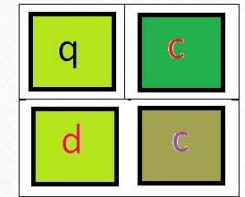


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Issues We Faced--continued

3. What to Phase Out (and why)

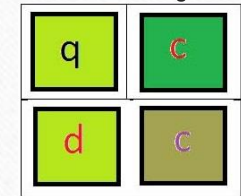
- a. Leaf Blowers only vs. all garden equipment?
- b. All leaf blowers vs. only gas-powered leaf blowers?
- c. How can this decision be based on noise?



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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.

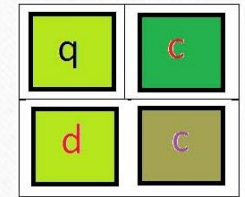


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Issues We Faced--continued

4. Applicability

Contractors and Homeowners vs. just contractors ?

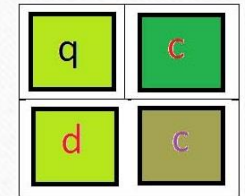


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Issues We Faced--continued

5. How to Determine a Violation

Decibel reading vs. eyesight/photo?

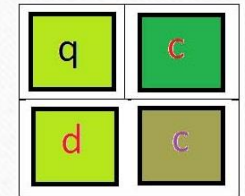


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Issues We Faced--continued

6. Primary Enforcement Method

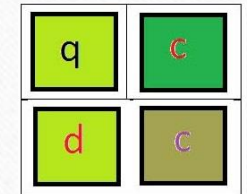
Police and Inspectors vs. citizen affidavits?



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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.

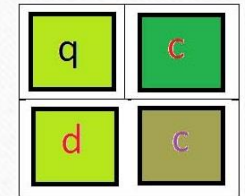


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Sources of Help

Quiet Communities Organization (quietcommunities.org)

Our Website (QuietcleanDC.com)

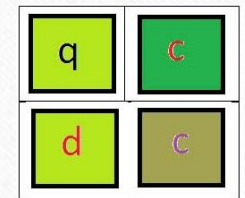


Quiet Clean DC

January 1,



2022



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