

Hi there,

I'm writing to the civic works committee about agenda item 2.12, gas-powered blowers, to be discussed at the upcoming meeting on May 22nd, and I consent to this email being recorded publicly.

I'm glad that staff has recognized the need to eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and similar devices. They produce a massively inordinate amount of greenhouse gases which exacerbate climate change, and toxins that are harmful in the local air. They also are excessively loud causing psychological stress and making neighbourhoods like mine less walkable, worse for children, and generally less pleasant.

Despite council's apparent willingness to take this issue on, I'm disappointed at the half-measure. The need to transition to non-carbon devices isn't a new idea, and so awareness campaigns are plainly unnecessary. You can skip the 'phase', and just pass a by-law or other immediate mechanism for prohibiting the use of these harmful devices.

Partnering with Landscape Ontario is also a mistake. An industry lobby group will predictably work to stifle the transition to devices that are more healthy for our entire community and planet, all in the name of short term profit for a small group. I'm sure the industry will be able to manage the transition, given that many jurisdictions have already banned these devices and lawncare companies in those places manage to survive.

The priorities must be local air quality, the climate emergency(!), and reducing unnecessary excessive noise. Please ban gas-powered lawn care devices now.

Dan Cameron
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