

## Should the City Regulate?

- Yes, and quickly.
- Certification:
  - 1) demonstrate that they meet US EPA standards
  - 2) training on how to use the equipment
- client responsible to ensure they have these qualifications
- outright ban: some equipment such as leaf blowers, hedge and edge trimmers are unnecessary.
- Or, an outright ban on two stroke engines specifically... they will never be as clean as 4-strokes.
- seasonal: mid September to mid November.
- regulations provide an important education opportunity
- professionals perceive that they need gas powered equipment because of speed.  
...ban could impose different standards for professionals versus residents... residents don't need gas-powered.
- smoking ban = proof that voluntary approach doesn't work.
- enforcement – requirement to have a license to operate, displayed in the window of their vehicle.
- collective responsibility... should not be exemptions.
- complaint line... perhaps connected to Councillor's office.
- new landscaping companies... could impose financing conditions requiring proof of certification. But, banks could perceive this as not in their purview. Also, many operators work in multiple jurisdictions.
- Carrot: operators who have obtained certification could get access to better financing or discounts on the purchase of new equipment.
- Paolo Alto (California)... model ordinance requires a leaf blower licenses and proof of participation in a leaf blower etiquette class. Tied to 2007 EPA Standards.
- license would only be required when equipment is operated for profit... but what if the landscape just uses the homeowner's equipment?
- Regulation as education: phased in approach, education driven to encourage compliance
- use livegreen animators for outreach.
- strong regulation has a psychological effect, shows you are serious which makes strict enforcement less critical because there is public enforcement.

- staged enforcement – start with a warning.. But would this be too soft with just a threat?
- often there are no names on trucks... difficult to enforce.
- Priorities: Use equipment only when necessary (time of day / week, seasonal restrictions, quiet zones). When necessary, use most efficient equipment. Operate efficiently.
- call on this sector to do their part.
- public education to drive landscaper behavior.
- definitely not on moderate to high risk air quality days.
- Use kids in public education... schools, video contest to generate media interest.
- waste watch... deals with solid waste and water but not with air. Tie to community right to know bylaw.
- community newsletters with info on environmentally friendly companies... Moore Park experience has been that this hasn't resulted in the anticipated behavioural changes.
- Neighbourhood challenge
- big challenge is that homeowners are in a contractual relationship and it is difficult to change. Alternatives not clear. Often they just use who their neighbour is using.
- public expectations for lawn care standards.
- need to keep on the health issue... consider talking about air quality impact on pets.
- financial incentives... property tax rebate for a low-maintenance lawn.
- strong support an outright ban on leafblowers because this would help to drive the conversation on the other equipment.
- risk in focusing on leaf blowers instead of the engine that produces the emissions.
- Moore Park Moms and Residents Association voluntary ban on leaf blowers.
- target resident association AGMs
- Civic gardens... courses on landscaping and benefits of leaves on grass, alternative landscaping practices.
- get residents association to sign a commitment to create a bylaw.