

# February 8<sup>th</sup> – Lawn and Garden Equipment Consultations

(table 2)

## Gas powered Equipment

*What equipment do you currently own?*

- 7ppl have a mix of gas and electric
- 5ppl have trimmers
- 3 ppl have chain saws
- 3 ppl have leaf blowers
- 4 ppl have snow blowers

## Alternative Equipment

*Have you considered using manual, electric or battery powered equipment?*

- if electric had the same duration of use as gas power, it would be considered.
- limited number of electric outlets.

*For Individual Use:*

Why	Why Not
- Don't have to pay for gas	- Cost of battery replacement
- Health reasons	- Lack of power
- No tune ups needed	
- Easy to start	

*For Commercial Use:*

Why	Why Not
- Environmentally friendly	- re-charging stations
- Marketing.. people will possibly pay more	- a lot of power off grid
- Health reasons	- cost of replacement... equipment is expensive.

*Would you consider moving to manual equipment?*

*For Individual Use:*

Why	Why Not
- for small properties	- large properties
- health reasons	- Time and effort
- cut lawns much better (healthy for lawn)	- difficult for older people
- cost	- manual mowers are easier to damage and harder to sharpen

*For Commercial Use:*

Why	Why Not
- cut lawns much better (healthy for lawn)	- time and effort
- cost	- difficult for older people
	- manual mowers are easier to damage and harder to sharpen

*Do you hire lawn care / grounds maintenance companies to look after your property?*  
 - 1 person

*Would you consider hiring a company that uses battery, electric or manual equipment?*

<i>Why</i>	<i>Why Not</i>
- environmentally friendly	- cost may increase.. more time means more \$
- tax incentive for using specific green companies	
- health reasons	

- Note: when hiring a company, find out what type of equipment they use.

**Regulatory Options**

*Should the City regulate small engine equipment and if so how? If not, why not?*

<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
- regulations would need to be made at manufacturing stage... manufacturer should only make clean equipment.	- policing at housing would be impossible and expensive
- Carbon Tax – city could implement this for everyone (city and industry)... may cost less to purchase clean equipment.	- spillage of oil is going to happen no matter what.
- Society pressure... for people to clean up	- City should not have higher tax on fuel... consumer pays tax if contractor passes through.
- Have higher tax on fuel	- cost of policing is expensive and will cause property taxes to go up.
- Greater education on proper mixing of oil and gas	
- Ban 2 cycle engine oil. Have to purchase ready mixed... could reduce oil spills.	
- Some homeowners will add too much oil	
- Contractor should have education... city should have a record list of qualified contractors.	
- Community Education – for homeowners and citizens. Flyers, public service advertisements	
- Emission testing facility for lawn and garden equipment.	
- Tie education into other activities... fire prevention, Councillor environment days, flyer on tax bill.	

## **Other Actions**

*What other actions could the City take to advance the phase out of older polluting equipment?*

- Peer Pressure           - everyone is using green equipment
- Fines                   - policing is an issue... legal action means a lengthy process.  
                              - large incentive to not use old equipment
- Industry Pressure   - to make better and cheaper alternatives
- Cash Incentives      - 30% discount or 50%  
                              - discount related to age of machine.  
                              - this could put small business selling the equipment at risk or hurt them financially.
- Regulate Engines    - regulation should be done by the Federal government, City should not be involved.  
                              - over time, older equipment would phase out.
- Certification Program – Implement a city recognize certification program.  
                              - Totally voluntary but benefit to company going through this process is consumers may hire them because they know their equipment is environmentally friendly.
- Best Practices       - California many jurisdictions have been leaf blowers.
- Landscape Ontario   - Some people may pay for Landscape Ontario, others won't.
- Dealers               - work with lawn mower repair shops to secure incentives.  
                              - Try to get lawn mower repair shops to move away from repairing.
- Awareness            - raise awareness about impact to human health  
                              - video showing exhaust coming out of a 2 cycle engine.  
                              - internet... show consumers what the equipment is emitting.
- Advertising / Education - warning labels on lawn mowers could be like labels on cigarettes.  
                              - promote existing programs and actions people can take.  
                              - relate pollution to health effects  
                              - show visual link between health and pollution.  
                              - Work with major users (landscaping companies) to identify opportunities for emission reduction that doesn't impact their livelihood.  
                              - interactive website
- Disposal              - start new programs to help people get rid of old equipment.  
                              - allow people to dump equipment at transfer stations, needs to be easy
- Equipment Ban       - ban sale of polluting equipment after 3 years (2013) Ban use in 2016.  
                              - ... though banning equipment may create more problems.

- Alternative Technology – invest in alternative technology that is cleaner, such as hydrogen....  
Coleman is coming up with a home generator back-up for computers.
  - Home Depot solar panel kit to charge mower battery
  
- Alternative Landscaping
  - Changing trends in landscaping
  - Naturalized areas
  - stone (green)
  - local plans that don't need H2O