



June 28, 2023

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

RE: IE5.1 Two Stroke Engine Small Equipment: Steps to Pursue a Ban

Dear: Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Toronto Environmental Alliance is writing to support Option B of item IE5.1 Two Stroke Engine Small Equipment: Steps to Pursue a Ban

In our view, Option B, which moves towards an eventual ban on two-stroke engine equipment, is more in line with the city's TransformTO commitments, while providing additional benefits such as significantly reduced air and noise pollution while imposing a minimal impact on costs.

Reducing climate and air pollution

Two stroke engines are the most polluting fossil-fueled engines in the world. Not only do they produce global warming pollution, they also produce significantly more particulate air pollution at the local level, damaging lungs and irritating airways. This has detrimental effects to local residents as well as to workers. Emissions that would come from the electrical grid to power these engines would be a fraction of the emissions from the direct burning of fuel.

Significantly reducing noise pollution

Conventional 2 stroke gasoline lawn equipment run at 80 to 90 decibels. Those levels are high enough to cause permanent hearing damage over sustained times, damaging the hearing of both residents and workers. Conventional electric lawn equipment, on the other hand, run at 60-70 decibels, which is about as loud as a regular conversation between two people. Because the

decibel scale is algorithmic, it means that electric lawn equipment runs 100 to 1000 times quieter than conventional two-stroke engines.

Cost implications

The cost implications for small businesses should be minimal. Not only is the cost of all-electric lawn equipment comparable to the costs of 2-stroke engine equipment, electric lawn equipment is cheaper to power and to maintain, as there are fewer moving parts and do not require the purchase of gasoline mixtures.

That being said, a ban on 2-stroke lawn equipment could have a detrimental financial impact on small lawn care businesses that have recently purchased 2 stroke equipment. TEA recommends that the city provide an extension for those cases.

Conclusion

The Toronto Environmental Alliance supports a full ban on 2 stroke engines in the City of Toronto and strongly recommend that the Infrastructure and Environment Committee support Option B on Item IE5.1.

Sincerely,



How-Sen Chong
Climate Campaigner
Toronto Environmental Alliance

