



Motion to IEC

Thursday, October 16, 2025

## **High Pollution Days and Two Stroke Engines**

### **Summary:**

Wildfires are worsening with climate breakdown. Wildfire smoke is a serious health hazard, which again this summer caused Toronto’s air quality to be one of the worst in the world. Residents were urged to stay indoors, schools cancelled outdoor activities, and hospitals braced for a surge in patents. Air quality reached Level 10 and above on the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) – [AQHI 7–10](#) the “Very High Risk” category – threatening the health of children, seniors, outdoor workers, and anyone with heart or lung conditions.

When air pollutant levels are so high, it is dangerous to the health of Torontonians to worsen the pollution by operating highly polluting engines, such as two-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers and diesel engines manufactured before 2008. On smoky days, when pollution is already at crisis levels, the last thing our children need is even dirtier air.

### **Recommendation:**

City Council requests that, when Toronto’s Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is at high to very high-risk levels (7–10), city operations, businesses and residents refrain whenever possible from operating highly polluting engines, such as two-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers and diesel engines manufactured before 2008.

Councillor Dianne Saxe

Ward 11, University–Rosedale