

77 Communications were received from May 2, 2025 1:40 p.m. to May 7, 2025 9:02 a.m. with text similar to the following:

TO: Infrastructure and Environment <iec@toronto.ca>

RE: IE21.4 - Transitioning Towards Zero-Emission Outdoor Power Equipment

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the IEC,

As a resident of Toronto who strongly supports a ban of two-stroke engine small equipment, including gas-powered leaf blowers and related garden equipment, I urge you to vote in favour of Option B as presented in the City Staff report at your meeting on May 7, 2025, and to recommend its adoption by City Council later this month, with these suggested amendments:

- that the effective date of the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers be January 1, 2027, and that a seasonal exemption from October 1 to November 30 apply only until that date, after which no use of gas leaf blowers would be permitted. That will provide industry participants with sufficient time to adapt to the use of existing zero emission alternate equipment, and encouragement to manufacturers to continue their efforts to refine technology which can accommodate more demanding conditions during periods of heavy leaf accumulation.

My view is based on the following points:

1. Gas leaf blowers and related garden equipment represent significant health hazards to operators and bystanders alike. These are caused by excessive noise and harmful emissions that include carcinogens.
2. City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, and a ban on two-stroke equipment and its polluting effects is consistent with the aims of the City's TransformTO Climate Action Strategy.
3. Zero emission alternate equipment is readily available and is constantly being improved to be effective during all seasons.
4. The City's survey of business stakeholders indicates that some landscape businesses have already begun the transition to zero emission equipment, and that approximately two-thirds of respondents would support a phased-in ban. Furthermore, those businesses that have converted to battery-powered

equipment have reported benefits to their operations and staff. The Committee and City should reward the progressive!

The City's survey of residents indicates that the strong majority of people share my opinion. It is vital that the City take leadership in helping us to veer away from a climate crisis, and that the Committee begin that initiative by supporting a ban on two-stroke small engine equipment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Name of person submitting communication)

(Address and Postal Code of person submitting communication)

EMAILS FROM:

Kate Chung
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Ulrich Menzefricke
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Catherine Oliver
Sandra Vitorovich
Lynda McHardy
Ingrid Buday
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Marilyn Wade
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Steve Ruttle
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