

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee, City of Toronto, iec@toronto.ca

Dear Members of the IEC Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

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

The Bayview Village Association fully supports a ban on the use of two-stroke engine equipment in Toronto. Accordingly, at your meeting on May 7, 2025, **we urge you to vote in favour of implementing such a ban, i.e., Option B of the City Staff report with some amendment.** The proposed timelines for implementation are far too long, especially for noisy, highly polluting, ecosystem-damaging two-stroke engine leaf blowers.

The effective date for the ban on the two-stroke engine gardening equipment listed in the staff report should be sooner than 2030 or 2031. **We recommend a January 1, 2028 ban on this two-stroke engine gardening equipment.**

- string line trimmers.
- hedge trimmers.
- pole saws.
- pruning chainsaws.
- push mowers.
- two-stroke engine leaf blowers.

This timeline gives affected businesses almost three full seasons of operation using existing equipment. This should be sufficient time to phase out and replace their existing equipment.

This ban is a critical step in the city's transition towards Zero-Emission Outdoor Power Equipment. It will also:

- End ear-damaging noise and toxic, carcinogenic emissions.
- Stop Harm to pollinators, beneficial insects and animals.
- Reduce injury to plants, remove topsoil/mulch, and desiccate soil.
- Reduce contamination of the air and water in our neighbourhoods.
- Reduce smog and lessen climate change.

The City's survey of residents indicates that the strong majority of Torontonians support a ban. As our elected representatives, we ask you to reflect our views with your action on this file. Our health and our future depend on it.

Sincerely,

Gail Bebee
Environment Committee
Bayview Village Association

About the Bayview Village Association

BVA is non-profit volunteer organization founded in 1956 with a mandate to promote the welfare of Bayview Village residents. Bayview Village is in Ward 17, Don Valley North.