

Tuesday May 6, 2025

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

RE: 2025.IE21.4 — Transitioning Towards Zero-Emission Outdoor Power Equipment

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Toronto Environmental Alliance strongly urges Toronto City Council to ban the use of two-stroke engine lawn equipment throughout the City of Toronto.

Two-stroke engines are significantly more polluting and damaging to human hearing and human health than even their 4-stroke gas equivalents. Running a 2-stroke leaf blower for just one hour produces the same amount of smog-producing air pollution as driving a sedan for 1,750 kms,¹ equivalent to the distance between Toronto and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The report in front of you shows very high public support for the transition away from all fossil fuel outdoor power equipment, including the 2-stroke engines being proposed here. **73% of stakeholders consulted agreeing that the City of Toronto should move forward with the transition.**²

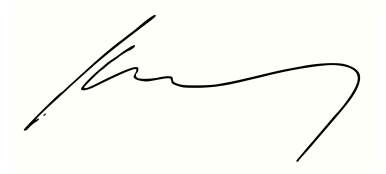
¹ Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whatonearth/gas-powered-leaf-blowers-1.7363253>

² Source: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-254922.pdf>, page 4

The staff consultation report also shows that industry is prepared to move to electric outdoor power equipment in 5 years, including moving away from 2-stroke engines. Option B takes this into consideration, with a 2025 bylaw commencing bans in the year 2030 through 2033.

Toronto Environmental Alliance very strongly strongly supports a ban of two-stroke power equipment in the City of Toronto and urges Toronto City Council to implement one in 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature is stylized, starting with a large 'H' and ending with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

How-Sen Chong
Climate Campaigner
Toronto Environmental Alliance