


We're a group of concerned Toronto residents determined to create a safer, cleaner and quieter city for all.

We're on a mission  
to transition Toronto away  
from gas-powered  
leaf blowers

**GASBUSTERS**

[www.gasbusters.ca](http://www.gasbusters.ca)





"Gas powered noisy leaf blowers are unnecessary, pollute, and affect our quality of life, especially as there are alternatives available. It's time to finally get rid of them."

COUNCILLOR JOSH MATLOW

## ABOUT GASBUSTERS

GASBUSTERS, is a Toronto-based volunteer organization advocating for the ban of gas-powered leaf blowers on the basis of health, welfare, environmental and social grounds. We actively engage the community to raise awareness of the issues and support a transition towards a ban of gas-powered leaf blowers and free alternatives.

With a growing 600 strong membership and the support of 18 Residents' Associations our stance is based on scientific, evidence-based facts that highlight the potential harm to citizens' health.

The concerns raised by GASBUSTERS are supported by various studies and reports. These concerns include the significant health risk from the noise produced by these machines and the high level of toxic pollutants they emit, as well as broader environmental concerns.

## WHY BANNING GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS MATTERS

### ONE

The unusually high levels of noise produced from gas-powered leaf blowers has been shown to cause auditory damage. Studies have shown that untreated hearing loss is associated with anxiety, depression, loneliness, and stress. The stress and disturbance of chronic noise also impacts cardiovascular health leading to increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

### TWO

Gas leaf blowers emit toxic and carcinogenic compounds into the air that anyone nearby breathes. They contaminate the air and water in our neighbourhoods—emissions, fuel spill and grass clippings are clogging storm sewers and polluting local waterways.

### THREE

Leaf blowers create harmful airborne dust and debris that can linger in the air for a week or longer. Leaf blowers' forceful gusts of wind damage lawns, gardens and beneficial insects and animals including pollinators.

### FOUR

Similar to the emissions from gas-powered vehicles, gas leaf blower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions add to greenhouse gases and worsen climate change.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Join Gasbusters

We need your help. Join our campaign to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and related garden equipment. Input from Torontonians helps the City better understand the perspectives, opinions, and concerns of people affected by City decisions.

### Change how you care for your lawn

Reconsider your landscaping choices. Clearing the fallen leaves with a leaf blower sweeps away prime habitat for a lot of creatures and also disrupts the habitats for critical pollinating species such as bees, butterflies and moths, as well as other critters including amphibians and small mammals like chipmunks.

### Talk to your landscaper or property manager about changing landscaping methods

Hire lawn care services that use battery-powered lawn care equipment. If you are renting, talk to your property manager about switching from gas leaf blowers to electric.

JOIN US AND TAKE A STAND ON BANNING GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS:

[www.gasbusters.ca](http://www.gasbusters.ca)

**GASBUSTERS**

TO: **Infrastructure and Environment Committee**

Item: 2025.IE21.4

May 7, 2025

### **About Gasbusters**

[www.gasbusters.ca](http://www.gasbusters.ca)

Gasbusters is a group of constituents and residents' associations that want a BAN on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and related garden equipment in Toronto. Our membership includes 600 individuals and 18 resident associations:

### **Gasbusters has the support of these Residents Associations**

- Avoca Vale Residents
- Bayview Village Association
- Bedford Park Residents Organization
- Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association
- Deer Park Residents Group
- Eglinton Park Residents' Association
- FONTRA The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations
- Friends of Farquharson
- Grange Community Association
- High Park North Residents Association
- Lytton Park Residents' Organization
- North Rosedale Residents Association
- Rathnelly Area Residents Association
- Republic Residents Association
- South Armour Residents Association
- South Eglinton Davisville Residents Association
- West Willowdale Neighbourhood Association
- Wychwood Park Residents Association.

**Gasbusters has the support of these community partners:**

- Climate Action Network, Canada
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)
- Climate Fast
- Coalition for Green & Quiet Neighbourhoods, Montreal
- Friends of Cedarvale
- Green Neighbours Network
- Green 11, University-Rosedale
- Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society
- No More Noise Toronto

**A few letters from Residents**

Hello,

I'm on your email list and I have a question. I was wondering if you think there is any chance of a ban on leaf blowers actually happening in the near future? My rental apartment building overlooks the mansions of Forest Hill, and their landscaping companies have already started using leaf blowers. For the past two weeks, I've had to wear headphones or earplugs every single day to try and drown out the noise. It goes on for hours. You can hear it from blocks away, as each one of these bloody estates has landscapers that work different days, for hours at a time, morning and afternoon, sometimes even past 6pm. I work from home and I hate my life. My stress levels are through the roof...I can't even go outside for a walk anymore without hearing them and getting annoyed. Winter is the only happy time in my life now. I would love to move away from these mansions, but I have rent control and I can't afford to go anywhere else. Please let me know honestly what do you think the chances are of getting rid of the blowers permanently?

Thank you,  
Jennifer

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Dear Councillor Matlow,

I'm writing to you as a long-time resident of Deer Park who is frustrated by the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Toronto. I live on the second floor of a small apartment building. Larger buildings directly to the west and north of me and directly across the street from mine use landscaping services from early spring until the first snow. At 8:00am today, two landscapers across the street ran leaf blowers simultaneously for over 90 minutes. There have been several occasions over the years where more than one crew of workers at different buildings on my street have run leaf blowers and gas-powered lawn mowers simultaneously, often for hours at a time. (I once timed it at over 3 hours.) The effect is akin to having multiple motorcycles revving their engines outside my window for hours on end.

I work most days from home. As a lifelong urban dweller, I can deal with noise from traffic, streetcars, ambulances, etc. But the noise pollution created by these machines makes it difficult and stressful to work, let alone enjoy my home. It's aggravating, to say the least. It's also an issue that has increased drastically over the last 10 years as more

and more property management companies have chosen to hire landscapers who use this equipment. Not only am I aggravated by gas-powered leaf blowers, I'm worried about their widespread use. I'm sure you're aware of statistics like the one stating that operating one of these machines for just one hour creates the same amount of smog-forming air pollution as a car making a 1750 km trip. In addition, environmental groups have warned us that the powerful blasts of air they produce disrupt topsoil, creating negative impacts on delicate ecosystems (including insects, birds, etc.). We know that there are battery-powered alternatives to two-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers. And we know that landscaping companies in jurisdictions where leaf blowers have been banned have made the switch to using them. I'm aware that Toronto City Council has been talking about instituting such a ban in our city for a couple of years. I know that there are many other pressing issues affecting our communities, but I urge you to use your voice at Council to prioritize a solution to this problem.

Thank you for all you do for St. Paul's.

Sincerely,

Alison

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> Date: Wed, Oct 30, 2024 at 4:04 PM  
 > Subject: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers being used by City Housing  
 > Contractors  
 > To: <[councillor\\_fletcher@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca)>  
 > Cc: <[gasbusterstontoronto@gmail.com](mailto:gasbusterstontoronto@gmail.com)>  
 >  
 > Hello Councillor Fletcher,  
 >  
 > I am outraged by the sight of five gas leaf-blowers going at once at  
 > the City of Toronto housing complex at 2 Phin Avenue, this afternoon.  
 > The noise and the gas fumes were both intense and could be heard and  
 > smelt blocks away. These gas blowers were being wielded by a crew  
 > from Executive Landscaping, which, according to one of the workers I  
 > spoke to, is contracted to the city to maintain the property. I  
 > fully support a ban on these machines, as advocated by the  
 > organization Gasbusters.ca. Please vote for a ban when it comes  
 > up in council. Thank you.  
 >  
 > Hila

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to earth

Wed, Oct 23, 2024,  
 11:52 AM

In addition to all the health hazards the above invoke, the noise levels when surrounded by them, almost everyday of the week, is sheer torture. Constant stop start, stop, start, stop, start and in most cases simply blowing leaves out onto the streets. The noise levels in this city are horrendous. I think it almost borders on invoking mental health issues. In my highly residential neighbourhood alone, we have 6:00 am construction noise exceptions and then these blowers power up at 7:30/8:00 am.

Thank you for addressing and keeping this issue at the forefront!  
 Lynda