

SD-SEQUEL



San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping

Dear Landscaper,

The 2-stroke engine of gas-powered leaf blowers is highly polluting. According to the California Air Resources Board, one hour of leaf blowing is equivalent to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry 1,100 miles, the distance from L.A. to Denver. Smog-forming emissions from small engines, such as those found in leaf blowers, are set to exceed those from passenger cars in the South Coast Air Basin by the early 2020s. A large portion of these pollutants are greenhouse gases that heat the planet.

Gas-powered leaf blowers impact the health of the operators. The fumes can cause respiratory disease that may lead to asthma. The noise can cause hearing loss. The vibration can damage the nerves of the hands and arms.

Gas-powered leaf blowers affect neighborhoods. The fumes of these blowers blow into yards and homes. The noise destroys peace and quiet. Those sensitive to noise, such as people with autism, experience extreme discomfort.

Many landscape companies are switching to electric gardening equipment. In some cases, this is because communities through the US and California, including 5 municipalities in San Diego County, have banned gas-powered leaf blowers. For others, the switch makes economic sense. A gas-powered leaf blower costs about \$1.25/hour to operate, whereas electric costs 24 cents. Other companies change their equipment because of the reasons laid out above.

SEQUEL urges your company to replace your gas-powered leaf blowers with a quiet blower. Many electric blowers generate noise levels of 65 decibels or less, which will protect your hearing and avoid annoying residents in the area.

Respectfully,

SD-SEQUEL San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, and Quiet Equipment in Landscaping

<http://sd-sequel.org>