

Hess, Raymond

Subject: FW: Leaf Blowers (small, mobile gas/diesel engines are considered transportation emissions)

From: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 11:11 AM

To: 'Ken Clark' <XXXXXXXXXX>

Cc: Hess, Raymond <XXXXXXXXXX>; Stults, Missy <XXXXXXXXXX>

Subject: RE: Leaf Blowers (small, mobile gas/diesel engines are considered transportation emissions)

Ken,

Thank you for contacting the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission. Hope you had a happy holiday season. Your comment concerning small gas engines and their emissions will be provided as a communication item on the January 19 Transportation Commission Agenda.

Transportation as well as Office of Sustainability and Innovations staff are also copied here so that they are also aware of your comment.

Respectfully,

Eli Cooper, A.I.C.P.

Transportation Program Manager

City of Ann Arbor | Guy C. Larcom City Hall | 301 E. Huron, 4 th Floor · Ann Arbor · MI · 48104

734.794.6430 (O) | Internal Extension 43710

ecooper@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org

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Thank you.

From: Ken Clark <XXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 9:49 AM

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Subject: Leaf Blowers (small, mobile gas/diesel engines are considered transportation emissions)

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Dear Commissioners,

"Last year, Gavin Newsom, governor of California, [signed a law prohibiting](#) gasoline-powered lawn equipment, including leaf blowers and lawnmowers, from 2024. More than 100 cities in various states have already banned gas leaf blowers, with [Dallas](#) and [Portland](#) the latest major urban areas to mull new restrictions." (<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jan/05/gas-leaf-blowers-banned-washington-dc>)

Washington DC has now banned gas-powered leaf blowers as well. This is a mobile-source emission - lawn mowers, construction equipment, portable generators, etc are all counted for greenhouse gas emissions under transportation

emissions. ICLEI also expects us to count them that way, though the OSI Greenhouse Gas Inventory makes no attempt to count them. When I gave them a sample calculation, I included a population-share-of-emissions estimate of that category, and it's not tiny.

It would be terrific if some commission in the city were to consider bans of small two-stroke engines - particularly the noise-polluting leaf blowers. But the Environmental Commission seems to shy away from air emissions, and the Energy Commission seems to punt on mobile sources as well. You'll no doubt think it's not your purview either, but mobile sources are mobile sources. At our EPA lab, we're the "Office of Transportation Air Quality", and we regulate those engines.

BTW, in general, with transportation emissions our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions, we really need one of the commissions to step up and work to implement the transportation portion of Vision Zero. We're already falling tremendously behind on dealing with transportation emissions, and OSI has only included about 60% of the transportation emissions ICLEI says we're supposed to count.

Respectfully,
Ken Clark