

To Our Landscaping Company:

We would appreciate your taking care of our property without using gas leaf blowers in the landscaping process. There are many reasons for this request; *see below for the public health and environmental concerns. In spring and summer grasscycling would be our choice, especially if you can use a mulching mower. In the fall we would like to leave some leaf cover for our gardens and pollinators.* Thank you very much for your service and for honoring this request.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF LEAF BLOWERS:

1. Noise: The risks of hearing loss and other negative health effects related to leaf blowers are clearly worst for the user, but also affect nearby homeowners, passersby, and even neighbors farther away from the source.
2. Toxic emissions and other pollution: Pollution comes from two sources -
- The machine itself which emits an unburned gas and oil aerosol as well as other toxic chemicals and particulates such as carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde. The hydrocarbons emitted by a leaf blower contribute to smog and ozone production in amounts far greater than that of an automobile. - The dust that is thrown up by the blower. Besides being a general irritant, this dust may contain pollens, molds and other allergens, dried animal feces, and pesticide and herbicide residues from lawn and garden care.
3. Carbon emissions: Carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases that contributes to climate change, is emitted in small amounts