

# Health & Environmental Impacts of Gas Lawn & Maintenance Equipment

## MORE POLLUTING THAN CARS



Source: California Air Resources Board Small Engine Fact Sheet

## HARMFUL EXHAUST

- High levels of fine particulate matter and smog-forming chemicals cause dizziness, headaches, asthma attacks, heart & lung disease and cancer.

## DANGEROUS DUST

- Blowers blast up industrial pollutants, demolition debris (lead, asbestos), feces, pollens, fertilizers, and dirt right where we breathe.

## EXTREME NOISE

- Machine noise penetrates homes, schools, parks, disturbs wildlife, and constantly violates Portland's noise ordinance.
- One gas leaf blower can cause permanent hearing loss in 2 hours and can impact 90 homes.

## NATURE DESTRUCTION

- Refueling spills contaminate soil and waterways
- Blowers especially erode, compact, and dry out soil, and harm plants, microorganisms, and pollinators.

## MOST AT RISK

- Workers, children, elderly, people with chronic illness such as asthma, and people exercising.

## Gas-Free Maintenance For Our Health & Environment



**It's Time to Change  
How We Clean Up,  
Portland**

## CONCERNED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS INCLUDE:

**Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center, World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control, American Lung Association, EPA**

Quietcleanpdx.org

# Solutions for our Health and Environment

## Choose Healthy Tools



Choose tools that don't create toxic fumes, dust or extreme noise

- **Using a broom or rake instead of a gas blower** eliminates massive pollution, dust and noise.
- **Battery/electric alternatives** to gas tools are readily available.
- If you must use a blower (gas or battery), make sure there are no bystanders within 50 feet and do not use on dusty surfaces.

*Don't want to buy a new tool?  
Check out your local free tool library*

## Rethink to Reduce



Embrace a less manicured look and let nature do its thing

- **Leave the leaves** under trees and shrubs to build healthy soil and habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- **Cut the work:** Instead of mow-edge-blow, just mow. Leave grass clippings to improve lawn.
- **Replace** resource-intensive lawns with drought tolerant, pollinator friendly plants.

*Info sources: Xerces.org,  
EMSWCD.org, and Metro.gov*

## Create Healthy Jobs



Help create demand for green, healthy jobs

- **Ask** landscapers, arborists, roofers, etc. to use brooms, rakes or vacuums instead of blowers to clean up.
- **Talk with** contractors about the harmful effects of all gas equipment. Ask what support they need to switch to safer, healthier tools and work.
- **Hire eco-landscapers** that are already out there.