



Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Dear Members,

A major nuisance to the enjoyment of the sights, sounds and smells of our beautiful neighborhood, is the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and their deafening noise and foul fumes. In response to countless complaints about these devices, the CNA Board invites you to join us in an effort to remove this nuisance that so negatively affects our livability.

We are recommending that our members stop the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on their properties. We have received strong support, to date, from CNA's membership and board for action by the city to ban the use of these blowers in our neighborhood. [The city has encouraged residents to consider alternatives](#), but, apparently, it will not be imposing any ban in the near future. We will continue our efforts but, in the meantime, we recommend voluntary action by our members to switch to electric blowers.

Below is a recap of:

WHY we're making this recommendation.

WHAT was discussed with city officials.

HOW residents can implement this recommendation.

WHY this recommendation:

In a 2024 letter to the mayor posted on our website at <https://www.chasna.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CNA-letter-re-gas-blower.pdf>, the CNA board detailed why gas blowers should be banned, including the fact that they harm our hearing, health, and environment. In our neighborhood, the device operators, who suffer the most from their use, are often landscaper employees from vulnerable populations. We also highlighted that electric blowers would save landscapers money in the long run as they'd avoid the high costs of burning gas and oil all day and the related maintenance.

WHAT was discussed:

The CNA's 2024 letter to the mayor gained the unanimous support of the Peninsula Neighborhood Consortium, representing different neighborhood associations on the peninsula. At several of our CNA public meetings, members have pleaded with city officials, in attendance, to ban these devices— if not city-wide, then at least on the peninsula, or even just in our neighborhood. CNA board members, and other CNA members, have pushed for a ban, in other meetings as well as in calls and communications with city officials. The city has not acted; seemingly because some city council members, who represent other neighborhoods, oppose any ban.

HOW to implement:

The board discussed this topic with several landscapers that operate South of Broad as well as with some members of our association.

Two landscapers, Ables Landscapes (<https://www.ableslandscapes.com/>) and Carolina Landscape (<https://carolinalandscape.net/>), stated that they already only use electric blowers downtown. Another local landscaper, The Greenery, advertises that they use only electric blowers and trimmers in the Charleston area. (<https://thegreeneryinc.com/service/cutting-edge-technology>). Using one of these companies would be a way to switch to electric.

Perhaps, you may, understandably, be reluctant to change your landscapers solely to get electric blowers. You could, however, discuss the issue with your current landscaper. Some of our residents were able to persuade their landscapers to stop using gas blowers. In some cases, the residents even purchased the needed electric equipment and/or agreed to a higher fee for the service.

Some of you take care of your own property and currently own and use gas blowers, and switching to electric blowers would entail an initial cost to you, but we encourage you to consider: a) the benefits to you, your neighbors, and others of avoiding the harms from the gas blowers; b) the lower operating cost, and thus

savings over time, of electric blowers (see, e.g., <https://chasesantacruz.org/gas-vs-battery-power-which-is-more-expensive>); and/or c) buying electric equipment soon, and no later than when your current gas blower needs replacement or significant maintenance.

Let's not forget that many of our CNA members have already switched to electric blowers and we applaud and thank them!

Realistically, we do not expect this recommendation to result in an immediate switch to electric blowers on every property in our neighborhood but hope that the action of some propels action by others. We suggest and hope that members do not wait for everyone around them to switch to electric before they make that switch themselves. If that happens, nothing will change (unless and until the city imposes a ban). Also, if all of us can say, see and show that a vast majority of the properties in our neighborhood have gone electric, we'll all have a stronger position to try to persuade both the remaining majority to switch, and the city to impose a ban.

Thank you.

The CNA Board

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Questions? Contact us at charlestowneneighborhood@gmail.com.

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