



SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER



ELECTRIFY LANDSCAPING

Protect worker health and the environment

Small off-road gasoline engines, such as leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and portable generators, produce more smog-forming emissions than all of the passenger cars in California. Two-stroke engines, used in handheld landscaping equipment, are highly polluting because they burn gas mixed with oil. One hour of leaf blower operation equals the same level of smog-forming pollution as driving a midsize sedan 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver.

Health hazards posed by gas-powered leaf blowers are an environmental justice issue for both workers and our most vulnerable populations. Workers are exposed to toxic fumes and fine particles. Vibrations from gas-powered leaf blowers are known to cause nerve damage in the hands and arms of operators. Unsafe noise levels at close range can cause permanent hearing loss. Children, older people and others with respiratory issues, hearing disorders or neurological conditions like autism are especially vulnerable.

All leaf blowers use high airspeeds that disperse fine particulate matter, including dust, herbicides, animal feces, pollen, pesticides and spores. Rakes and brooms are a much better option. Allow leaves to remain in place and serve as mulch.

Information on electric landscaping equipment, worker health, state and local legislation and a list of green gardeners can be found at <http://sd-sequel.org>. (San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping)

Take Action

- 1 Use only electric landscaping equipment on your yard.
- 2 Ask your landscape company to transition to all electric equipment.
- 3 Encourage your gardener to use a rake and broom.
- 4 Contact your City and County representatives to:
 - Implement a program to transition city landscaping crews/contractors to battery powered lawn equipment.
 - Help secure funding for an equitable trade-in/buy back program to assist individuals and small landscaper businesses transition to electric equipment.
 - Enact a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, once funds are available for a buy back program.
- 5 Contact sd.sequel@gmail.com to learn more about the statewide \$30M voucher program for sole proprietors and small landscaper businesses and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District's \$3M trade-in program. Both programs will commence in Fall 2022 and volunteers are needed for outreach.

For more information visit our website: www.sierraclubncg.org/home/sierra-club-at-home-resilience-project/

