



# Quiet Clean Seattle

How much noise, dust and pollution can you tolerate ?

Are you bombarded with noise, dust, and pollution from leaf blowers ? We would like your support to change the lawn care culture in our area.

Do you or your yard crew use a leaf blower ? Visit our website and find out what alternatives may work for you.

<https://quietcleansSeattle.org/>



Leaf Blower Noise

Did you once think you were hearing chainsaws somewhere nearby, almost every day ? Many leaf blowers use noisy two cycle engines with minimal mufflers.



Leaf Blower Dust

Wind from the nozzle at 200 MPH kicks up clouds of dust, mold and other small particulates. This endangers your eyes, lungs, and overall health.



Leaf Blower Pollution

Which creates more pollution ? Driving a Ford Ranger across the USA or running a leaf blower for a half hour ?

## Leaf blowers and long-term health

Long-term exposure to air pollution, especially with high levels of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), makes it more likely a person will suffer severe consequences of respiratory illnesses, including Covid-19.

We know that leaf blowers kick up tremendous amounts of PM2.5. In addition, gas-powered blowers produce a cocktail of dangerous pollution. These are particularly hazardous to machine operators and, since the fine particles linger in the air for hours, over the long run they can also be hazardous to people in proximity.

# Alternatives to using blowers

- ❑ **Leave the leaves** under trees and shrubs to build healthy soil and habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Scoured soil exposes roots and causes water runoff.
- ❑ **Cut the work:** Instead of mow-edge-blow, just mow. Leave grass clippings to improve your lawn. You can still use a mower bag to catch clippings if you prefer.
- ❑ **Replace** resource-intensive lawns with native, drought tolerant, pollinator-friendly plants. Native shrubs with good ground cover require far less maintenance.
- ❑ **Use a vacuum** instead of a blower. Why blow dust everywhere when your end goal is to collect debris? Commercial yard vacuums are available.
- ❑ **Perfect is the enemy of good.** Be tolerant of a few specks left here and there. A few hours after blowing will result in new specks anyway.
- ❑ **Get some exercise.** For about the same amount of time as using a blower, you can push a rake or broom and do something good for yourself, good for your garden, and good for your neighbors.

# Electric-powered equipment

- ❑ **Power.** Commercial battery-powered leaf blowers meet or exceed wind velocity and volume of gas blowers.
- ❑ **Maintenance.** Electric equipment needs almost no maintenance. And it will still work instantly after sitting in the garage all winter.
- ❑ **Ease.** No more annoying trips to the gas station. No more hauling a jerry can around with you.
- ❑ **Available Products.** See our website for more info on electric products and some suggested manufacturers.

# What you can do

- ❑ **Ask** landscapers, arborists, roofers, etc. to use brooms, rakes, or vacuums instead of blowers to clean up where practical.
- ❑ **Talk with** contractors about the harmful effects of all gas equipment. Ask what support they need to switch to safer, healthier tools. Explain that electric equipment is safer for their operators.
- ❑ **Hire eco-landscapers** that are already out there.
- ❑ **Pass this flyer** to your neighbors and friends. Explain that it's their choice to have a discussion with their yard maintenance companies about using leaf blowers.

For more information, visit

<https://quietcleanseattle.org/>

Make sure your voice is counted: sign up now!