

ARTICLE 37: Prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers

Mr. Weber moves that the town take affirmative action on Article 37 to add the following Section to the Concord Noise Bylaw, with changes from the language as printed in the Warrant shown in ***bold italics*** and ~~strike-thru~~:

ARTICLE 37: Prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers

Section [X].Landscaping Equipment

The use of gas-powered hand-held leaf blowers *on residential property of less than 1.5 acres in size* is only allowed in the periods of March 15 to May 31 and September 15 to December 30 and is prohibited all other times.

Effective March 15, ~~2025~~ **2028**, the use of gas-powered hand-held leaf blowers by commercial landscapers shall be prohibited.

Effective March 15, ~~2026~~ **2030**, the use of gas-powered hand-held leaf blowers by residents on their own property shall be prohibited.

Definition: hand-held leaf blower shall mean any fully portable blower device designed for landscaping with a handheld nozzle.

ARTICLE 37: Prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers

Purpose

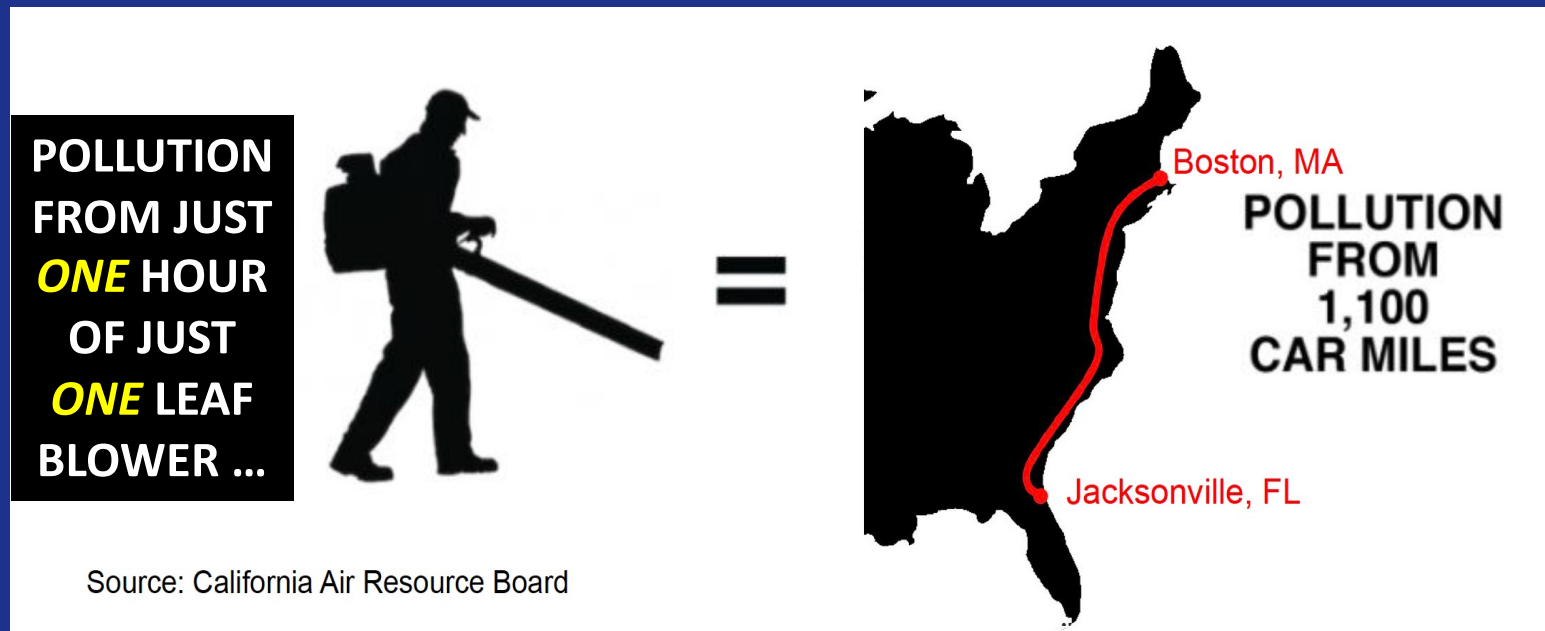
Article 37 aims to address **environmental, noise, and health concerns caused by the use of gas-powered leaf blowers**

Proposal

- Limit use initially to spring and fall
- Phase-out gas-powered handheld leaf blowers over time


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2-stroke engines are most inefficient & combust only 70% of gas
high emittance of unburnt hydrocarbons




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Directly from the Instruction Manual of a STIHL backpack leaf blower



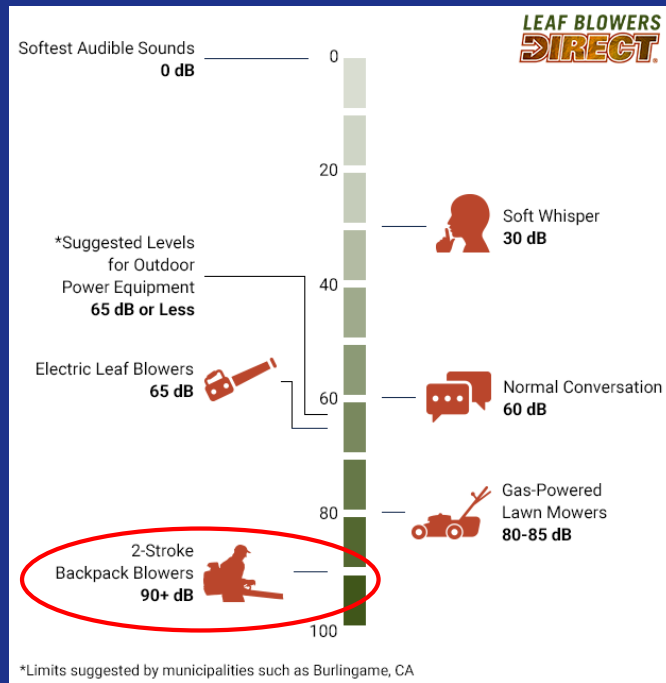
 **Warning!**



As soon as the engine is running, this product generates toxic exhaust fumes containing chemicals, such as unburned hydrocarbons (including benzene) and carbon monoxide, that are known to cause respiratory problems, cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. Some of the gases

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1,000x noise ratio against electric leaf blowers



<u>dB</u>	<u>Noise Power Ratio</u>
0	1
10	10
20	100
30	1,000
40	10,000
50	100,000
60	1,000,000
70	10,000,000
80	100,000,000
90	1,000,000,000
100	10,000,000,000

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EGO LB650 (battery)
90 min runtime

642cfm
median professional gas blower



STIHL BGA 300 (battery)
140 min runtime

900 cfm

Professional jobs

450 cfm

Larger areas,
numerous trees

350 cfm

Smaller areas

250 cfm

Source: STIHL, EGO

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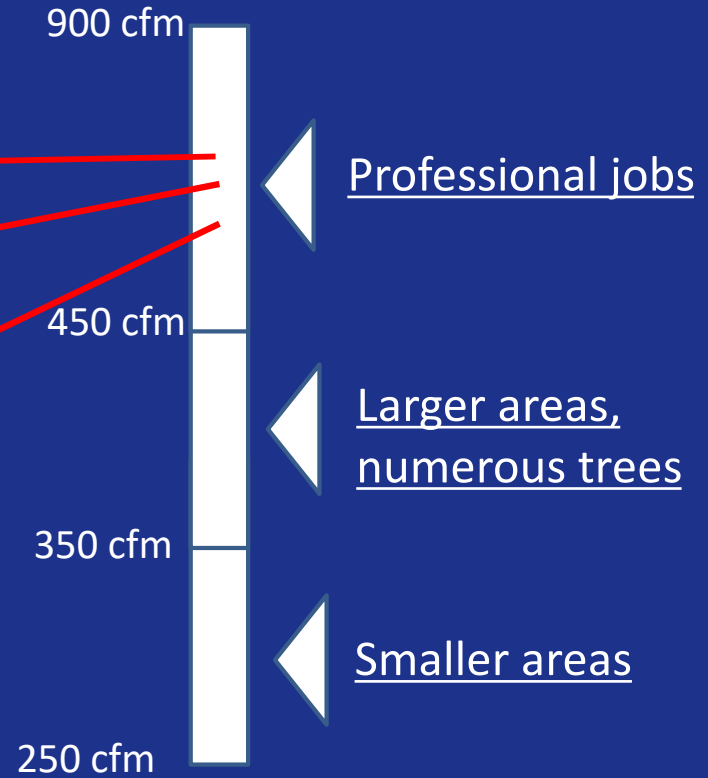
EGO LB650 (battery)
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642cfm
median professional gas blower



STIHL BGA 300 (battery)
140 min runtime

**Investment Cost:
\$1 - \$4
per work-day**



Source: STIHL, EGO

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Summary

- **better for the climate:** no greenhouse gases
- **better for the neighborhood:** less noise
- **better for workers:** no toxic fumes
- and 200+ towns and 1 State already implemented restrictions

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A few words on the process

- November: Article received a significant number of supporting signatures
- February: Hearing
- March: In-person discussions with interest groups followed
- End March: Adjustments to the original wording made to accommodate feedback
- Begin April: Select Board recommends affirmative action

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Adjusted Article

- Limit use initially to spring and fall on residential lots of less than 1.5 acres
- Ban of gas-powered handheld leaf blowers phases in 2028 & 2030
- Added definition of hand-held leaf blower
- Comparison:
 - California ban on sale starts in 2024
 - Lexington & Arlington bans on use start in 2025, Belmont 2026
 - Seasonal restrictions in Lincoln
 - 10 nearby towns & 200+ more towns nationwide have restrictions or bans
 - Some local landscapers already partially or fully electric

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Directly from the manufacturer:

ACTING FOR TOMORROW



“The changes in the environment, along with their impact, drive home the fact that we need to alter the way we live and do business and make it more sustainable”

Source: STIHL 2021 Sustainability Report

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