

## Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption

July 15, 2025

Hello Councilmembers,

My name is David Mosher and I'm a homeowner here in Montgomery County. I'm writing you today because I'm very concerned about the problem of gas leaf blowers and I'm **against adoption of Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption**. I've talked with some landscapers in this area who have already made the switch to electric equipment. They are very successfully running their businesses on all electric equipment.

The lawn maintenance industry in Montgomery County should move to electric blower equipment now to reap the benefits of cost savings and protecting their worker's health.

### 1. ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT IS AS POWERFUL AS GAS AND MORE COST EFFICIENT

Independent researchers now rate electric equipment as highly as gas, and the landscapers who use them say they won't go back to gas. Electric equipment actually saves businesses money over time, even with pricey batteries. The reason is that gas leaf blowers use and waste a lot of gas and oil and require frequent maintenance. In my conversations with electric-equipped landscapers, they all said electric equipment lasts longer. Even if batteries hold slightly less energy density after a few years, they still function perhaps at 80% capacity, whereas a gas leaf blower rarely lasts more than 3 years in professional usage and is in the landfill by that time.

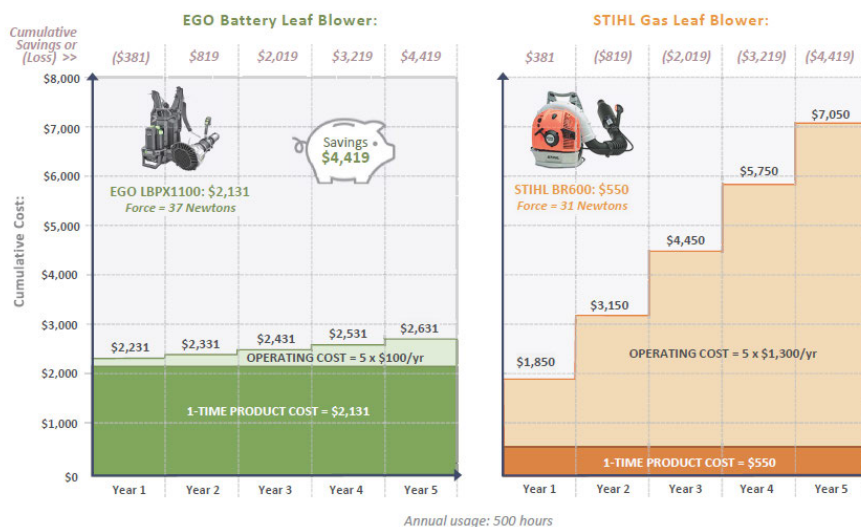
The slide below, which was created by a researcher, shows a sample scenario where even spending over \$2K on an electric blower with powerful batteries quickly shows savings versus using gas. Landscapers routinely use over \$1K in gas/oil each year per blower according to major manufacturers and landscaper testimony. Moving to electric now seems like an obvious business decision. **Delay will only add to the cost over time.**

SECTION 3: Battery vs. Gas Cost Comparisons Over 5 Years

- Page 6 -

### Battery Leaf Blowers Save \$4,400 vs. Gas Over 5 Years (Commercial Use)

#### Cumulative Cost Comparison



P. Kampas 4/2025

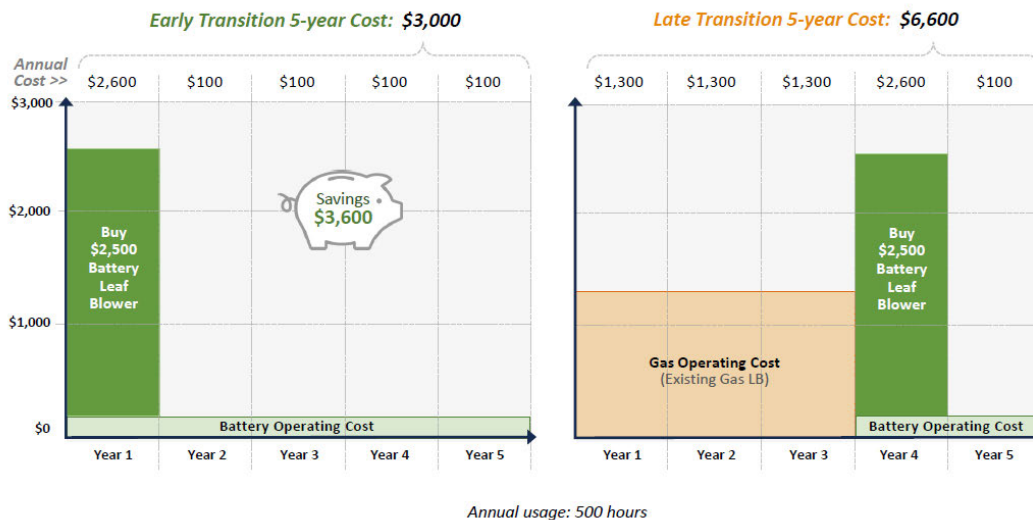
Also, landscapers will need to buy electric blowers to service their customers during the rest of the year outside the fall exemption season, so this will not avoid the expense of purchasing some electric blowers. If you look at the chart below, the sooner landscapers purchase electric blowers, the sooner they can start

reaping the savings and we've not found evidence of a single landscaper being forced out of business by moving to electric leaf blowers because they actually save money.

**Q: Does delaying the transition from gas to battery leaf blowers save money?**

**A: No. The sooner you switch, the more you save.**

Annual Cost Comparison

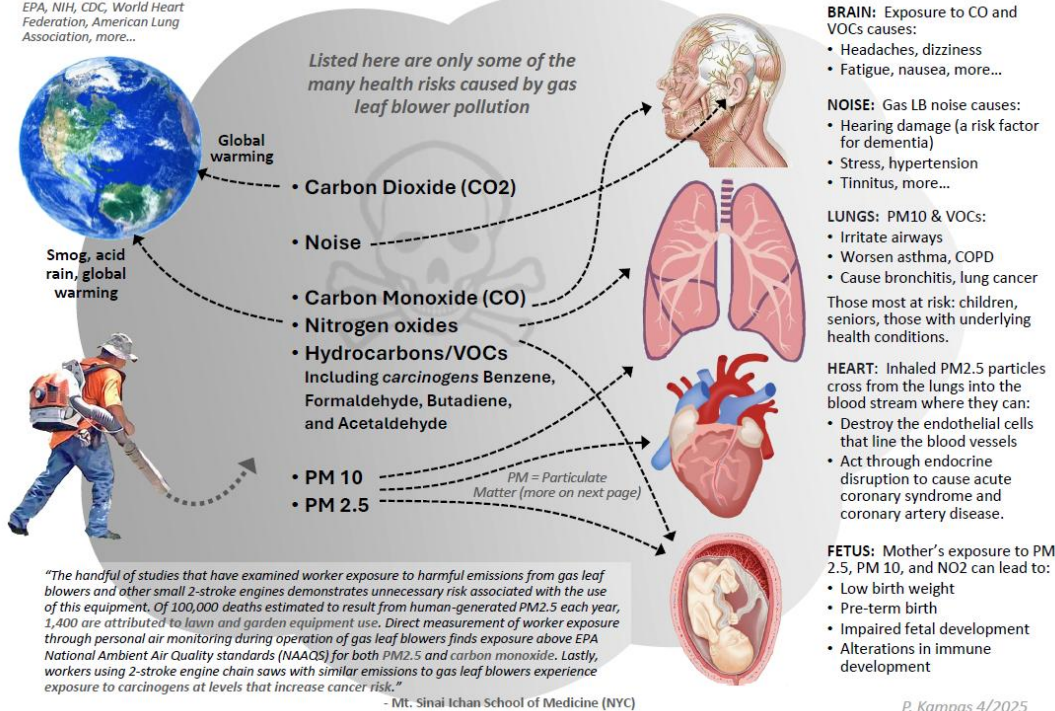


## 2. GAS EQUIPMENT HARMS WORKER HEALTH.

Electric equipment is far better for workers and everyone in the community. The air pollutants emitted from a gas leaf blower include 23X the carbon monoxide emitted by a Ford F-150 pick-up truck and an absurd amount of PM2.5, which the World Health Organization says is the deadliest of air pollutants. Workers routinely complain of eye and throat irritation, coughing and far more serious health complaints including permanent hearing damage. Ground-level ozone and PM2.5, even at low levels, cause or contribute to many different health impacts: including cardiovascular events, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD, and they compromise the ability of the body to fight respiratory infections, and result in higher morbidity and mortality. Long-term (months to years) exposure to PM2.5 has been linked to reduced lung functional growth in children, and premature death particularly in people who have chronic heart or lung diseases.

## Gas Leaf Blowers Cause Health Risk to Workers, Residents, and the Planet

Sources:  
EPA, NIH, CDC, World Heart  
Federation, American Lung  
Association, more...



## 2. GAS LEAF BLOWERS HARM COMMUNITY HEALTH

Further, this equipment causes harm to everyone in the community, because the air and noise pollution travels far and wide from the work site. Roughly four million Marylanders live in communities with suboptimal/failing air quality, including those in "D" rated Montgomery County, according to the American Lung Association. Don't we all have a right to breathe cleaner air? Shouldn't we be able to enjoy our homes without the extreme air and noise pollution of gas leaf blowers throughout the day? Gas leaf blowers prevent me from enjoying that right. Three quarters of Marylanders complain about gas leaf blower noise, saying it impacts their ability to concentrate, work, learn, and sleep, and even affects physical and mental health for some, according to a Maryland Sierra Club survey. Gas leaf blowers have the same effect on birds and other wildlife.

I urge the lawncare industry to make the switch now to electric and reap the cost savings and protection of the health of their workforce and the community.

Hundreds of communities across the nation have made this transition, and those communities are doing just fine. I respectfully request you to **oppose the adoption of Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption.**

Thank you very much,

David Mosher

██████ Rushing Water Way

Germantown, MD 20874