

**REGIONAL WORKING GROUP
LEAF BLOWER REGULATION REVIEW
IMPACT OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS SUBCOMMITTEE**

June 1, 2022 – 3:30 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome

Scott Grams, ILCA
Jeff Nehila, Deerfield Park District
King Poor, Winnetka Ex-Trustee; Go Green! Winnetka
Tony Blumberg, Highland Park City Council
Heather Ross, Northbrook Trustee; Northbrook Sustainability Committee
Phil Kiraly, Glencoe Village Manager

2. Reports

- Review Penalties and Violations from various municipalities
 - *Mr. Poor reported that the subcommittee developed a spreadsheet with Ordinances and other regulatory structures in the region. He noted that the subcommittee has followed up with several Public Works and Police Departments to gather additional information, however not everyone responded. He summarized the conversations, which have been developed into several documents that will be shared with the group.*

- Review best-practices/feedback on hours and days/times of the year, and noise pollution
 - *Mr. Grams noted that he has developed a spreadsheet based on availability of equipment through local distribution channels that summarized various product specifications of interest to the group. He indicated that he focused the research on what is actually available in the commercial marketplace and top selling models for gas and battery/electric. He noted that this includes decibel readings and other equipment specifications. He noted that the biggest challenges with commercially available equipment are cost, charging time and how much full power you get on a single charge.*

Mr. Grams also noted that most manufacturers' spec sheets don't list emissions. He outlined that since 2007, the EPA has gone through three revisions of emissions standards and noted that most equipment emits 90% less emissions since those built before 2007. 72% of all equipment purchased since 2021 is zero emissions, referencing the total sales across the industry – including both residential and commercial.

He noted that it is likely that we will still need to maintain a fall and spring cleanup carve out as the commercial industry hasn't caught up quite yet. It was

noted that this may underscore the value of a phase out over time as a practical path forward.

There was a significant discussion around the decibel levels of gas and battery powered blowers.

- Review Leaf Blower Specs and Information
 - *Mr. Blumberg and Ms. Ross noted that the subcommittee was pulling together a lot of scientific information mostly related to noise issues affecting workers. However, it was noted that there may not be enough information on how that noise actually impacts residents.*

3. Next Steps

It was determined that all documents that have been developed would be shared with Mr. Kiraly to be assembled for the full working group. Please email documents to pkiraly@villageofglencoe.org. Mr. Kiraly indicated he would connect with Mr. Barghi from Lincolnshire to discuss the information he has assembled.

The group noted that it was the general consensus that we are likely pretty close to assembling the majority of the information available to us that we can share back with the full working group. We can determine whether we need to continue meeting based on the discussions that come out of the June 6 working group meeting.

There was some discussion of the final product that the working group was assembling as well as the timeline for doing so. There was discussion about the value of assembling (in addition to the white paper) a few different versions of draft ordinances for communities to consider. It was also discussed that additional development of education materials will be needed.

4. Schedule next subcommittee meeting

None at this time. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.