



January 21, 2014

Dear Members of the Huntington Conservation Board:

We, the Long Island Sierra Club support a ban on the use of Gas Leaf Blowers in the Town of Huntington from mid-May to mid-September.

Our reasons to seasonally restrict the use of Gas Leaf Blowers are that:

- Gas blowers present serious public health problems, as documented on the attached Fact Sheet
- Gas blowers produce air polluting gases
- Gas blowers produce greenhouse gases which counter our need to control global climate change
- Gas blowers raise dust and dangerous particulates\*
- Gas blowers produce disruptive levels of noise which can have long term health effects\*\*
- Gas blowers use gas which is a commodity whose supply and recovery are problematic worldwide
- Gas blowers are not necessary – brooms, manual lawn sweepers, and mowers that pick up the grass and lawn debris can be used
- Grass clippings and leaves make excellent compost and reduce the need for fertilizer if left on the lawn

The Sierra Club's motto is "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet". Part of enjoying the planet is being able to hear its natural sounds –singing of birds, wind in the trees, and children playing in a toxic free environment. Leaf blowers interfere with all of these and more, both while they are running and afterwards as the dust settles.

Many communities across America\*\*\* have recognized these issues and put some basic limits on the use of leaf blowers. Therefore we respectfully request that the town of Huntington follow their lead and place restrictions on the use of leaf blowers during the months when many people are outdoors trying to enjoy their yards, streets or parks.

\* Leaf blowers raise particulates, and particulates have recently overtaken second-hand smoke as the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest cause of lung cancer after smoking.

\*\*Leaf blowers create noise which creates stress for those exposed to it, and stress has been shown to degrade overall human health.

\*\*\* Four hundred communities across America, including sixteen in Westchester County, have enacted seasonal restrictions on the use of leaf blowers, and Westchester County has required the use of only low-emission leaf blowers since January 2009.

Sincerely,

**Executive Committee, Long Island Group, Sierra Club**

P.S.: For questions please contact Gail Payne, LISC member, at [PayneStudios@gmail.com](mailto:PayneStudios@gmail.com) or 1208 Washington Drive, Centerport, NY 11721