

**CITIZENS  
CAMPAIGN**  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



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Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

May 19, 2015

Supervisor Frank Petrone; Huntington Town Board Members  
100 Main Street  
Huntington, NY 11743

Dear Supervisor Petrone and Members of the Board,

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and our natural environment. There is a growing concern over the potential health impacts caused by the use of gas leaf blowers, which create debris and releases air pollutants in the community. CCE urges the Town Board to support legislation restricting the use of gas leaf blowers during the summer months.

While blowing leaves, gas leaf blowers also pick up dust and debris, potentially releasing significant amounts of particulate matter into the air. This particulate matter can include mold, pollen, feces, pesticides, and heavy metals, which exacerbates asthma and other respiratory problems and cause long-term damage to the heart and lungs. In fact, particulate matter is the second highest cause for lung cancer after smoking. In addition to hazardous debris, the emissions from the landscaping equipment also present potential environmental and health risks.

Gas leaf blowers are inefficient machines, emitting greenhouse gases including carbon and nitrogen oxide while creating the equivalent of 17 cars' worth of smog. These emissions also contain Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Benzene, two known human carcinogens. In Suffolk County, which has been given an "F" for air quality by the American Lung Association for the last fourteen years, there is no reason to continue to allow unregulated gas leaf blowers to release contaminants and increase air pollution. Over 500 communities across the nation, as well as the entire state of Hawaii, have already passed legislation restricting or banning the use of gas leaf blowers. The Town of Huntington should be a leader in the fight to protect air quality on Long Island and must restrict the use of these unnecessary, polluting machines.

**CCE recommends that the Town of Huntington pass legislation restricting the use gas leaf blowers from May 15th to September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Sincerely,

Adrienne Esposito  
Executive Director  
Citizens Campaign for the Environment