

**From:** Marc Samwick <[mayor@scarsdale.com](mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com)>  
**Subject: Re: Leaf Blowers and Fall Leaf Collection**  
**Date:** December 11, 2020 at 2:15:09 PM EST  
**To:** JC <[jjcotton21@gmail.com](mailto:jjcotton21@gmail.com)>

Hi John,

Thank you for your email.

The Village has reviewed these policies periodically over the years and has recently asked the CAC to review the commercial feasibility of battery-powered blowers. The Village Board is looking forward to discussing the potential to limit gas-powered blowers once we receive the CAC's report.

Have a nice weekend.

Best regards,

Marc

On Dec 11, 2020, at 2:11 PM, JC <[jjcotton21@gmail.com](mailto:jjcotton21@gmail.com)> wrote:

**CAUTION:** External sender.

Dear Mayor Samwick,

I'd like to add my voice to those calling for a change in the way we manage our landscapes in Scarsdale. I'm in favor of completely banning the use of gas powered leaf blowers throughout the year and eliminating the practice of curbside leaf pickup in the fall. Seasonal bans on the blowers are not enough as they are widely ignored and poorly enforced. Mulching and composting provide an environmentally friendly and less costly alternative to leaf collection.

As I'm sure you know, people from throughout the community including the Scarsdale Inquirer have suggested the same. In addition, the Village of Larchmont has taken the lead by completely eliminating the use of gas blowers and limiting electric blowers starting in 2022. It seems that people are waking up to the fact that these practices negatively impact the environment, are unhealthy and unnecessary. I'd like to see Scarsdale follow suit and show the same type of leadership we did with the implementation of food scrap composting.

With respect to gas leaf blowers, beyond the obvious impact on people's hearing (and sanity), the negative health and environmental effects are well documented. Considering the noise, engine emissions, and particulate matter, these machines represent a triple threat to the health and safety of the surrounding neighborhood not to mention the people using the equipment. And the impact is compounded given the density in Scarsdale and the fact that most crews use multiple blowers at the same time. During the fall clean up it's as if an angry swarm of bees

hovers over the village as leaves are blown to the street all day, everyday. Are spotless lawns really worth these negative environmental and health impacts?

With respect to curbside leaf pickup, it seems to me that this is a poor use of precious village resources. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to collect and ship leaves out of state when we could be mulching and composting that material in our own yards to produce high quality garden soil at little or no cost.

Surely we can do better.

Thanks and Regards,

John Cotter

Brite Ave.