

Ginny Gemmell

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Council
Subject: Gas Powered Garden Tools

Dear Council Members

Some of you probably read in the news that Oak Bay just signed a new bylaw, which will [phase out gas powered garden tools until 2026](#).

I would like to ask the North Cowichan Council to consider the implementation of a similar bylaw, to improve the quality of life for residents, and to reduce emissions as part of our climate change mitigation actions.

Below are a few key points to support this, there is much more to find on the internet:

- engines in garden tools (both residential and commercial) are among the dirtiest engines. They are built cheaply and don't have any catalytic converter or other mechanisms to reduce emissions
- professional workers using these power tools daily, are subject to elevated health risks as they breath in those emissions
- spilled gas: The EPA estimates that 17 million gallons of fuel are spilled by gardeners every year! [This page](#) provides a nice overview about how polluting gas mowers are
- gas powered garden tools are very noisy, and when you want to enjoy some nice time in your garden in the summer, you can be sure that some of your neighbours are using some sort of powertool. This issue seems to have been the main driver for the Oak Bay bylaw.

There are many battery powered alternatives now available for garden tools - both for residential and commercial tools. While these tools are typically a bit more expensive than their gas powered equivalents, they have a lot of advantages:

- reduced noise
- cheaper operating cost. Electricity is cheaper then buying gas and oil, these tools also require less service
- no air pollution

In my opinion removing power based garden tools could be a "quick win" on our way into a low carbon future. It doesn't seem as difficult to achieve as electrifying our transportation or our homes. And with tens of thousands of these engines being used in North Cowichan, I think the impact could be huge.

I don't know what impact a single email like this has. Is this the right way to ask for such an initiative? Or would it be better to raise public awareness first through

newspaper articles and by collecting signatures? Or should I come to one of your council meetings to speak up about this topic?

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

FIPPA s. 22(1)

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North Cowichan