

Leaf Blowers Incentive Program

November 13, 2019
Town of Portola Valley

Town of Portola Valley



Presentation Overview

- Current Regulations
- Impacts of Leaf Blowers
- Town Actions
- Incentive Program
- Next Steps
- Questions and Comments



Current Regulations

- Municipal Code gas-powered ban for January 2021
- General Plan
- Regulated under the Noise Ordinance
 - Domestic Garden Tools
 - Prohibited Sources of Noise – Leaf Blowers
- Noise impacts only



Impacts of Leaf Blowers

- Noise Pollution
- Air Pollution
 - Fugitive Dust
 - Carbon Monoxide
 - Hydrocarbons



Noise

- Measured by decibel
- Each increase of 10dB is twice the loudness, but ten times the “power”
- Gas powered leaf blowers range between 65-80 dBa
- 8 hours of exposure to 80dBa meets many occupational hazard maximum levels



dBa Comparisons

- 0 The softest sound a person can hear with normal hearing
- 10 normal breathing
- 20 whispering at 5 feet
- 30 soft whisper
- 50 rainfall
- 60 normal conversation
- 110 shouting in ear
- 120 thunder

Home

- 50 refrigerator
- 50 - 60 electric toothbrush
- 50 - 75 washing machine
- 50 - 75 air conditioner
- 50 - 80 electric shaver
- 55 coffee percolator
- 55 - 70 dishwasher
- 60 sewing machine
- 60 - 85 vacuum cleaner
- 60 - 95 hair dryer
- 65 - 80 alarm clock
- 70 TV audio
- 70 - 80 coffee grinder
- 70 - 95 garbage disposal
- 75 - 85 flush toilet
- 80 pop-up toaster
- 80 doorbell
- 80 ringing telephone
- 80 whistling kettle
- 80 - 90 food mixer or processor
- 80 - 90 blender
- 80 - 95 garbage disposal
- 110 baby crying
- 110 squeaky toy held close to the ear
- 135 noisy squeeze toys

Work

- 40 quiet office, library
- 50 large office
- 65 - 95 power lawn mower
- 80 manual machine, tools
- 85 handsaw
- 90 tractor
- 90 - 115 subway
- 95 electric drill
- 100 factory machinery
- 100 woodworking class
- 105 snow blower
- 110 power saw
- 110 leafblower
- 120 chain saw, hammer on nail
- 120 pneumatic drills, heavy machine
- 120 jet plane (at ramp)
- 120 ambulance siren
- 125 chain saw
- 130 jackhammer, power drill
- 130 air raid
- 130 percussion section at symphony
- 140 airplane taking off
- 150 jet engine taking off
- 150 artillery fire at 500 feet
- 180 rocket launching from pad

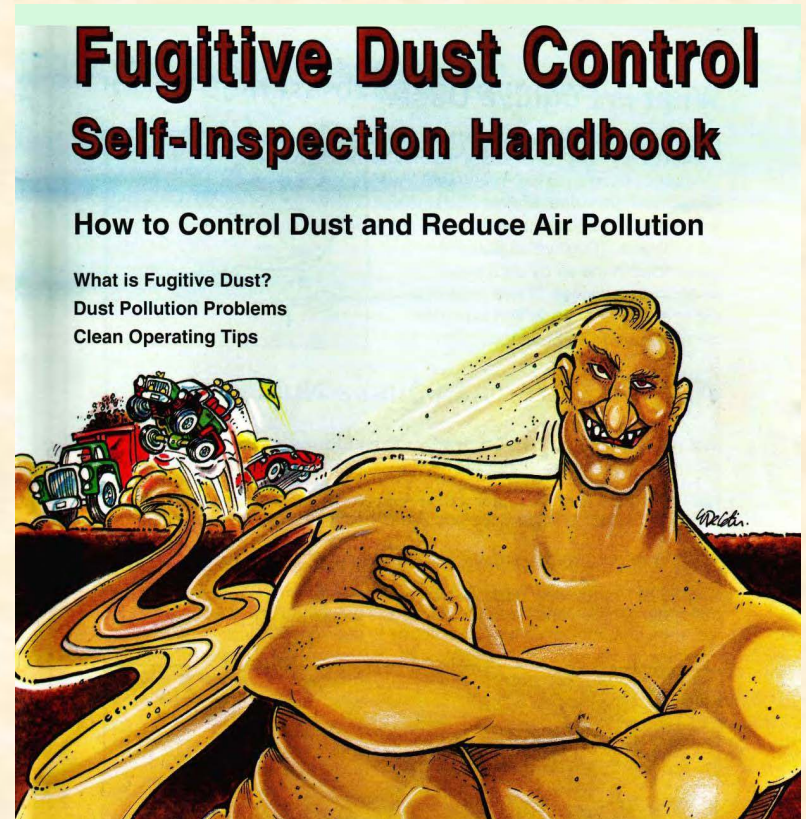
Recreation

- 40 quiet residential area
- 70 freeway traffic
- 85 heavy traffic, noisy restaurant
- 90 truck, shouted conversation
- 95 - 110 motorcycle
- 100 snowmobile
- 100 school dance, boom box
- 110 disco
- 110 busy video arcade
- 110 symphony concert
- 110 car horn
- 110 -120 rock concert
- 112 personal cassette player on high
- 117 football game (stadium)
- 120 band concert
- 125 auto stereo (factory installed)
- 130 stock car races
- 143 bicycle horn
- 150 firecracker
- 156 capgun
- 157 balloon pop
- 162 fireworks (at 3 feet)
- 163 rifle
- 166 handgun
- 170 shotgun



Air Pollution

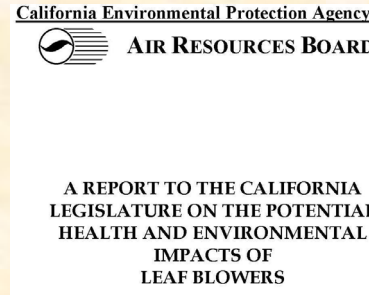
- Fugitive dust
 - Particulate matter
 - Removal of top soil
 - Respiratory illness and lung damage @ PM10
 - BAAQMD – “the air pollutant that poses *by far* the greatest health risk to Bay Area residents”



Air Pollution

- Carbon Monoxide and Hydrocarbons

- 2000 CARB report



- 2011 Edmunds report



- 2017 CARB rule proposal



Town Actions

- Outreach
- Ban of Gas-Powered models
- AGZA Workshop
- Revised Flier



Incentive Program

- Trade-in for Funds to Purchase Electric Model
- Gas-Powered Models Disposed of
- Up to 50 Trade Ins
- Focused on Residential Purchases to be used by Gardeners



Next Steps

- Continued Outreach Over Next Year
- Second AGZA Workshop



Questions and Comments

