

**Taken from The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, CA**

## **Palm Springs City Council, leaf blowers wrong target**

### **The wrong target**

In promoting sustainability, Palm Springs misguidedly targets “leaf blowers” while giving motorized lawnmowers free passes. Motorized blowers make no more noise, use no more gas and emit no more emissions or particulates than motorized lawnmowers.

Environmentally conscious citizens who avoid hosing driveways and convert lawns to artificial turf, hard surfaces, rocks and desert landscaping to conserve water for crucial sustainability swap motorized lawnmowers for motorized blowers (or their gardeners do).

Alleging motorized blowers “just blow stuff onto your neighbor’s property” is grandstanding without empirical evidence, diverting attention from the fact that many city officials have water-guzzling lawns that rely on motorized lawnmowers. If they were fully committed to sustainability, they would swap their motorized lawnmowers for motorized blowers and sustainable water conserving yards.

Banning only motorized blowers discourages this ecological progression. They should place the same restrictions on motorized lawnmowers as motorized blowers or leave both alone.

Lopsided regulations would expose them as either clueless bureaucrats ignorant of the impact or self-serving hypocrites who understand all too well. If we must maintain our water sipping yards with brooms, they should at least maintain their water guzzling lawns with manual lawnmowers.

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