

FW: Public Comment for Item 6.2 for City Council Meeting on 12/2/2026

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 12/2/2025 7:00 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: A C <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 5:11 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for Item 6.2 for City Council Meeting on 12/2/2026

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Hello,

I am writing to the city council regarding Item 6.2 San Jose Clean Energy Pilot Program Options on the City Council meeting agenda. The pilot program to replace gas leaf blowers with electric blowers should not be removed from the pilot program options. Gas leaf blowers emit carbon emissions and noise pollution that are harmful to the workers as well as others who are around them while they are using them. The pilot program to replace gas leaf blowers to electric blowers should not be removed because it is a valuable program that helps increase better health for workers and residents. Please vote to not remove this program from the pilot program options. Thanks.

A

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: 12/2 City Council: Item 6.2 re: Mayor's, CM's Memorandum

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 12/2/2025 7:01 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Dave Poeschel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 8:42 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: 12/2 City Council: Item 6.2 re: Mayor's, CM's Memorandum

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Dear Mayor Mahan and Councilmembers,

In regards to your item 6.2 memorandum statement that "we should still consider revisiting the leaf blower rebates in the **future**", please take action **now**. **Mayor Mahan**, I remember campaigning with you for District 10 Council Office with **your support for a ban on gas leaf blowers, one of the most popular issues in the district**. Time has come for action. If financial support for small businesses is to be postponed, take action now by declaring a date when gas blowers will no longer be permitted to run in the City of San Jose regardless of other regulations and incentives. Meanwhile, find funding. The complexities of businesses taking advantage of the funding while still operating gas in San Jose wouldn't require staff time under those conditions.

Furthermore, look at the bigger picture -- the best value for your residents includes much more than CO2 reductions (an important and worthy goal). Gas leaf blowers also harm workers with heavier, spinal compressing equipment that require toxic oil and fuel, and that subject them to near point of source air pollution and **noise levels that damage hearing**. The noise and pollution impact the quality of life for residents throughout the city.

My well being, for example, has been and continues to be degraded by gas leaf blowers, often making my backyard virtually unusable for relaxation and recreation.

"Gas leaf blowers pose health risks through both air pollution and noise, including increased risks of respiratory issues like asthma and COPD, cardiovascular problems, and even cancer from inhaling toxic exhaust and particulate matter. The loud noise can also lead to hearing loss, high blood pressure, and stress.

Air pollution:

- **Toxic fumes:** Gas leaf blowers emit a mixture of harmful pollutants, including hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde.

- **Carcinogens:** Some of these emissions are known carcinogens that can cause or increase the risk of cancer.
- **Particulate matter:** The blowers kick up fine particulate matter (), which can be inhaled and become lodged deep in the lungs, causing or worsening respiratory illnesses like asthma and COPD.
- **Ground-level ozone:** The exhaust contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone, a component of smog that is a lung irritant.
- **Health impacts:** Inhalation of these pollutants can lead to a range of health problems, including heart attacks, strokes, cardiovascular disease, and neurological effects.
- **Pollution lingers:** The fine particles and other pollutants can remain suspended in the air for hours or even days, impacting not only the operator but also bystanders.

Noise pollution:

- **Hearing loss:** The loud noise from gas leaf blowers can cause permanent hearing damage.
- **Cardiovascular stress:** Prolonged exposure to high noise levels can contribute to increased blood pressure, stress, and cardiovascular disease.
- **Other effects:** Noise pollution can also lead to headaches and difficulty sleeping.

Who is at risk:

- **Operators:** Landscapers and homeowners who use the equipment regularly are at the highest risk for both air and noise pollution exposure.
- **Bystanders:** Neighbors, children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing health conditions are also at risk from the pollution that spreads beyond the immediate use area." -- Google AI mode with citations.

Sincerely,
David W. Poeschel
San Jose, District 10

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Council December 2, 2025 Agenda Item 6.2

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 12/2/2025 7:01 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kathleen O'Britis-McKenney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:00 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Council December 2, 2025 Agenda Item 6.2

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings Councilmembers,

I was encouraged by CHASE San Jose to briefly share my support of the Gas Leaf Blower to Electric Leaf Blower safety switchover.

So, in memory of my pets Rocky, Sierra, and Chloe, and for the health and safety of the people of our household and neighborhood, the yard workers of San Jose, and many others like us, I strongly encourage leadership of San Jose and CHASE SJ to create and build a program ASAP to switch away from gas leaf blowers because of the toxins they spread and damage they cause to vulnerable people and animals.

You see, my previously young healthy malamute husky dogs and parrot mentioned above became ill with cancerous tumors a couple of years after so much gas leaf blower use invaded Richland Avenue after around 2014, and all three of these pets died between 2016 and 2020. Then after I retired and spent more time at home on Richland Avenue, I too developed and fought an aggressive cancer. I believe this was from so many gas leaf blowers running too many days a week way too close to our windows, yards and sidewalks. I survived and our precious pets didn't, I think because they were constantly exposed without me knowing how often the blowers were around during the day, pointed at our yard and house, windows cracked open, while I was at work.

If you can't drink what is in the gas blower or eat all of the dirt, pesticides, mold, bugs, animal feces, and who knows what else that it is blowing around, then how can yard workers, kids, seniors, disabled folks, pets, wildlife, and everyone else be kept safe from illness, disability, cancer, and a shortened life when they continue to breath in the same toxins being blown around. They can't see it and some don't know it but the toxins are there and we are all absorbing them and getting sick.

Yard Vanity is never more important than a life.

Please consider and take the right steps to value the health, safety and lives of the citizens of San Jose and work together with CHASE SJ to find a way to create and maintain some kind of program to promote these changes among the workers and homeowners to protect against toxic gas leaf blowers.

Thank you for your service and protection of vulnerable citizens of San Jose.

Kathleen O'Britis-McKenney



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Leaf Blowers (Item 6.2 on the Agenda for 12/2/25)

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 12/2/2025 7:02 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Bonnie Ross <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:18 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Leaf Blowers (Item 6.2 on the Agenda for 12/2/25)

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Councilmembers,

I'm a resident of the Northside Neighborhood in San Jose. I understand that staff has given you a memorandum recommending that the city abandon the Electric Leaf Blower (ELB) initiative in order to support an initiative encouraging contractors to install electric water heaters. Supporting electric heaters is a great idea but it should not come at the expense of landscapers' and residents' health. The ELB initiative is important for the wellbeing of landscapers and residents and should continue.

The staff memo recommending discontinuing ELB program does not take all the relevant factors into account, focusing too narrowly on the issue of greenhouse gas emissions. Gas emissions are only part of the story. Gas leaf blowers create air pollution and noise pollution. The blowers kick so much particulate matter up into the air that even while standing across the street from a blower in use, clouds of dust are visible. That dirt mixes with oil and heavy metals from the street and goes into our lungs and homes and settles onto our porches, cars and windows. The gas leaf blower-generated dust stays airborne for a long time and we, our children and our pets breath it in. Gas leaf blowers also let off dangerous nitrous oxide, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. Every day from dawn til dusk on my street, including Saturday and Sunday, the whine of the gas leaf blowers can be heard. It is so loud that even inside my house with the doors and windows closed, the noise is enough to regularly disrupt work video meetings. The noise and air pollution from gas blowers is bad for the people running the blowers and anyone near them. ELBs are still annoying, but at least they create less noise and fewer pollutants.

Many cities have taken action to discourage gas blowers and encourage electric blowers; namely, Santa Cruz, Los Gatos, Cupertino, Los Altos, Menlo Park, San Mateo, Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Danville and Pleasanton. San Jose could and should do the same.

I ask that you reject staff's recommendation to cut the ELB program and instead allow the ELB program to continue.

Regards,

Bonnie Margaret Ross



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Approve Item 6.2 and Modify 6.3 (SJCE Pilot Program Options and SJCE Customer Bill Credits)

From Linda Hutchins-Knowles 

Date Tue 12/2/2025 10:06 AM

To The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (94 KB)

2025.12.02 Letter to SJ Items 6.2 & 6.3.docx.pdf;

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and Councilmembers,

Please see the attached letter from Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley. In sum, we you to approve Agenda Item 6.2 and the Memo from the Mayor and colleagues, and we urge you to modify staff's proposed bill credits to SJCE customers.

Thank you for your consideration,
Linda Hutchins-Knowles

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Date: December 2, 2025

Subject: Agenda Items 6.2 & 6.3: SJCE Pilot Program Options and SJCE Customer Bill Credits

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and Councilmembers Kamei, Campos, Tordillos, Cohen, Ortiz, Mulcahy, Doan, Candelas, and Casey:

As leaders in the community representing over 2000 Silicon Valley supporters, **we're writing to convey our support for staff's proposal** to develop a contractor incentive pilot program to encourage local contractors to install electric heat pumps. We also **support the Memo from the Mayor and Councilmembers Candelas, Cohen, Mulcahy and Tordillos** to direct the City Manager to:

- include in the Spring 2026 SJCE Programs Roadmap Status Report recommendations to (a) improve the eco home program and (b) assess the eco home and contractor incentive programs to inform potential Reach Code policy updates for single-family homes, and
- conduct an enhanced engagement and education about the eco home rebate programs to homeowners and contractors.

We ask you to accept the staff recommendation along with the additional recommendations in the Memo—and to go beyond them. In Item 6.3, SJCE staff propose to issue bill credits to San José Clean Energy customers of up to \$25,000,000—that's **25 MILLION DOLLARS**. But that only amounts to a **one-time \$40 credit** on their January bill for residents (totalling ~\$12.5 million) and a one-time “tiered credit” for non-residential accounts adding up to another ~\$12.5 million.

We support this bill credit for low- and moderate-income residents, but think that for more resourced residents, \$40 would be a drop in the bucket. Rather than giving everyone a credit they may not need, **we urge you to ask SJCE staff to give both residential and nonresidential customers the option** to either receive this modest one-time credit OR to contribute it to a fund to provide support to residents to get heat pumps for energy-efficient cooling and heating. This would be a significant step toward promoting climate resilience as temperatures rise and toward reaching our carbon neutrality goal, which we've fallen behind on.

Please use the power vested in you to protect our children, communities and climate by directing Staff to take these important steps toward making San Jose a more climate-safe city.

Sincerely,
Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Co-founder
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

FW: Leaf blowers

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 12/2/2025 9:56 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Robin Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 9:53 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: D Heindel [REDACTED] Martin Stuczynski [REDACTED]
Subject: Leaf blowers

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Honorable mayor and council members,

The analysis of gas v electric leaf blowers is very poor. It considers only air pollution...just one aspect of the analysis. If you just include health considerations then the result becomes overwhelming in favor of electric leaf blowers and lawn mowers.

For example, just \$100 per landscape worker (at least 1286x1 or more) for emissions and noise impacts, and a mere \$10 per citizen for noise/emissions annoyance etc. (1,000,000 people) totals over \$128,600 plus \$10million. In my humble opinion, the recommendation for heat pumps over electric leaf blowers is very shortsighted.

We, San Jose, claim to be a leadership city so why are other cities further ahead of us in creating quieter, healthier, livable neighborhoods?

Robin Williams, PhD

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.