



Reducing Carbon Emissions

Submitted by Muffy Floyd

Did you know that operating your lawn mower for an hour produces as much (or perhaps more) pollution as driving your car 1300 miles? Unfortunately, small engines are BIG polluters and it's not just carbon dioxide – one study found 26 different pollutants in the exhaust of small engines. One EPA study found that approximately 9 percent of some types of air pollutants nationwide come from the small engines on lawn and garden equipment. And every time you use your small engine, you are usually close to the exhaust where the concentration of pollutants is the highest.

Unfortunately we use lots of small engines – lawn mowers, chain saws, generators, leaf blowers, power washers, wood splitters, rototillers, snowmobiles, ATVs. These are part of our life and most of us don't want to live without them. But you can do a few things to reduce the impact.

Consider ways to reduce the amount you use your lawn mower: mow a little less lawn or mow it less

often. If you are in the market for a new lawn mower and your lawn is small, consider getting an electric mower.

If possible, use a rake instead of a leaf blower. Split some of your wood by hand. Use your power washer less often. Use a hoe to weed your garden rather than rototilling it (plus excess rototilling is not good for the soil).

Even a small reduction can make a difference if we all do it.

