

MAY IS BIKE MONTH



With its mild weather and relatively flat topography, the Sacramento region

is the ideal place to bicycle commute. To inspire you to consider commuting by bike, the region is hosting its third annual Bike Commute Month. Each year, thousand of cyclists pledge to ride and in 2007 rode 926,638 miles.

Do you lack the confidence and knowledge to try bicycling as a commute mode? Bicycle commuting is easy but it may require some small adjustments in your daily routine. Go to:

www.sacregion511.org/bicycling/BicycleCommuteGuide_v2.pdf for a guide that was created to ease the transition and make the experience safer and more enjoyable. If you are new to bicycle commuting it may take a little while to develop your routine - but be persistent! You will not only arrive at work alert and motivated and back home relaxed, you will save money too! Even if you're already a seasoned cyclist, you'll probably find some useful ideas in this guide.

If you would like to join in the fun, get some exercise, and save money on gas start by registering at

www.mayisbikemonth.com. You can start logging miles on May 1st. The website makes it easy to challenge your friends or co-workers, and for friendly challenges among employers.

During **May is Bike Month**, thousands of cyclists will be meeting to cycle to work in a "pedal pool." A pedal pool is a group of two or more cyclists who meet at a designated location and commute together. Pedal pools are safer and more fun than riding alone! Using the website, you can start a pedal pool or join an existing one.

Another component of the website is the **Bike Safety Quiz**. Test your knowledge or learn something new. To travel safely and effectively, cyclists need to understand the rules and patterns of traffic flow, and how to find their way within them.

As part of the celebration, **Bicycle Friendly Awards** will be presented on both local and regional levels. Winners will first be selected on a local level, then advanced to the regional level for consideration. **Deadline for entries is Friday, May 9th.** Regional Winners in the following categories will be announced May 23rd:

- **Bike Friendly Employer**
- **Bicycling Advocate of the Year**
- **Commuter Cyclist of the Year**
- **Student Cyclist of the Year**

CALENDAR

April 9, 2008 cancelled
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

May 1, 2008
Spare the Air season begins.
www.sparetheair.com

Calendar Contest for Grades K-12 begins.
www.ysaqmd.org

May 1-31, 2008
Bike Commute Month
www.mayisbikemonth.com

May 14, 2008 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

June 11, 2008 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

Did you know that one third of the CO₂ produced in the US is from the transportation of people or goods? Pick one day a week to walk, bike, take public transportation or carpool to work or when running errands. If possible, live close to your workplace. When driving, remember to combine several car trips into one trip and avoid unnecessary idling.



AIR AWARE

A Publication of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District - Spring 2008

AMENDED DRY CLEANING ATCM REQUIREMENTS

In 2007, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved the amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Emissions of Perchloroethylene (Perc) from Dry Cleaning Operations (Dry Cleaning ATCM).

Who does the Dry Cleaning ATCM apply to?

The requirements of the amended Dry Cleaning ATCM applies to any person who sells or distributes Perc and who installs, owns, operates, or distributes cleaning equipment in California that uses a solvent that contains Perc.

What are the major new requirements for Perc dry cleaners?

Amendments to the Dry Cleaning ATCM will:

- Prohibit the installation of new Perc dry cleaning machines beginning January 1, 2008;
- Eliminate the use of existing Perc machines at co-residential facilities (facilities that share a wall with, or are located in the same building, as a residence) by July 1, 2010;
- Require that converted machines, and machines that are 15 years or older, be removed from service by July 1, 2010;
- Require that all Perc machines be removed from service once they become 15 years old (as a result, all remaining Perc machines must be removed from service by January 1, 2023); and
- Expand good operating practices and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

What are the available alternative dry cleaning technologies?

There are a variety of alternative dry cleaning machines available for use, with some suitable for each of the available alternative dry cleaning solvents. The available alternative dry cleaning solvents include the following:

- Water-based cleaning,
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂),
- Hydrocarbon solvent (DF-2000™ Fluid, EcoSolv®, and Shell Sol 140 HT),
- GreenEarth® solvent (composed of volatile methyl siloxane),

- Propylene glycol ether (Rynex™ or Rynex3),
 - Stoddard solvent, and
 - PureDry® solvent (a blend of hydrocarbon and chemical additive).
- The solvents listed are known to be used in California. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list, other solvents may also be available.

Is there any financial assistance available?

The California State Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 998, which established the Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program. The Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program is composed of a grant program and a demonstration program. The objective of the grant program is to provide financial assistance (\$10,000) to California dry cleaners for a portion of the cost to replace their existing Perc dry cleaning systems with non-toxic and non-smog forming systems such as water-based and CO₂ cleaning systems. The demonstration program was established to showcase professional non-toxic and non-smog forming dry cleaning technologies statewide, and to provide an opportunity to educate dry cleaners on the benefits, costs, and effectiveness of these alternatives.

Where can I find more information on the Dry Cleaning ATCM status and requirements?

ARB's website www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dryclean/dryclean.htm contains regulatory information and formal rulemaking documents. The Yolo-Solano AQMD is the local agency that will implement and enforce the new Dry Cleaning ATCM requirements within the District's jurisdiction. District staff is currently evaluating the impact of the new requirements on existing facilities with Perc dry cleaning machines. For more information contact the District at (530) 757-3650 or (800) 287-3650.

"The Dry Cleaning ATCM sets forth the equipment, operations and maintenance, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements for Perc dry cleaning operations."

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SPRING CLEANING

As a public health agency, the District is focused on regulating controls on processes that effect the ambient air. But EPA studies show that the interiors of homes can have levels of a dozen pollutants two to five times greater than the air outside. This is largely due to a buildup of fumes from chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are found in everything from upholstery and carpets to paint and building materials.

Usually the most effective way to improve indoor air quality is to eliminate individual sources of pollution or to reduce their emissions. Some sources, like those that contain asbestos, can be sealed or enclosed; others, like gas stoves, can be adjusted to decrease the amount of emissions. In many cases, source control is also a more cost-efficient approach to protecting indoor air quality than increasing ventilation because increasing ventilation can increase energy costs.

Here are a few specific ways you can decrease the amount of VOC's and other pollutants in your home.

- Paint shelves and cabinet interiors with a low-VOC paint or sealer. Vinyl shelf liners release chemicals.
- Opt for non-traditional cabinet and flooring materials. Pressed wood, fiberboard and interior grade plywood may off-gas formaldehyde for years after installation. Safer alternatives for cabinets include formaldehyde-free strawboard or wheatboard, or bamboo. For flooring, try cork, milled or low-VOC pressed bamboo, natural linoleum (not vinyl), ceramic tile and slate. Avoid synthetic wall-to-wall carpeting which off-gases chemicals.
- Go green with household plants. Besides converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, some plants may help remove airborne toxins and improve air quality. Since most chemical conversions take place on the leaves, keep them free of dust.

Remember that if too little outdoor air enters a home, pollutants can accumulate to levels that can pose health and comfort problems. For more information on rating of household products go to www.householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov and for indoor air quality visit: www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/insidest.html.

AUTOMOTIVE COATINGS

In 2005, the California Air Resources Board approved suggested control measures (SCM) that local air districts can use when adopting and amending their automotive coatings rules. Control of emissions from automotive coatings is primarily the responsibility of the districts and YSAQMD is in the process of reviewing Rule 2.26.

The SCM is designed to promote consistency and uniformity among district rules and to achieve volatile organic compound (VOC) emission reductions. The SCM is the result of nearly four years of study of automotive coatings, and was developed in cooperation with the districts, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the affected industry.

What will the SCM accomplish?

The SCM will achieve significant emission reductions. It is estimated that coatings used in automotive refinishing operations generate 20.7 tons of VOC emissions per day in California which contribute to the formation of smog. Many of these operations are located in or near residential areas and can adversely impact the surrounding neighborhoods. If all of the districts adopt the SCM, VOC emissions from automotive coatings and cleaning solvents would be

reduced by approximately 15.8 tons per day, resulting in a healthier workplace, and a cleaner environment.

What will the SCM require?

The districts that adopt the SCM will have lower VOC limits than those in current district rules. The SCM also establishes a 25 grams per liter VOC limit for cleaning and surface preparation solvents. Most of the VOC limits are based on available coatings and solvents. The SCM prohibits the sale of coatings that do not comply with the VOC limits. It also prohibits automotive refinishing shops from possessing or using non-complying coatings and solvents.

“The intent of the SCM is to protect the public health by reducing the public’s exposure to potentially harmful emissions of VOCs.”

The SCM applies to manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and users of automotive coatings, but does not apply to aerosol coatings in containers of any size. The SCM applies to coatings that are used to coat any part or component of motor vehicles (such as cars, buses, and golf carts) or mobile equipment (such as railcars and tractors). The SCM also applies to manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and users of solvents used in cleaning operations. For more information visit ARB’s website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/coatings/autorefin/scm/scm.htm>.

A recent study by Dr. Tom Cahill, volunteer for Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trials and its Health Effects Task Force, demonstrates that if the right kind of vegetation is strategically placed adjacent to highways or heavily trafficked roadways, the vegetation can efficiently capture highly toxic ultrafine particulates before they get mixed into the regional air mass. Finely needled and leaved evergreen trees such as redwood and deodar are suitable for removing the most dangerous highway pollutants from diesel and smoking cars near roadways according to the study released last month.

STATS: January 1, 2008 - March 31, 2008

ATC Applications Received	60	Complaints Investigated	17
ATC Applications Processed	38	Inspections Performed	288
PTO Applications Received	48	Notices of Violation (NOVs)	53
PTO Applications Processed	46	Notices to Comply (NTCs)	19

FUGITIVE DUST

Fugitive dust is caused when soil is disturbed through digging, earthmoving, excavation and vehicle traffic. Fugitive dust contributes to particulate matter pollution that is primarily 10 microns and smaller, or PM10, a harmful mix of soot, chemicals, dust, salts, dirt, metals, smoke and toxins. PM10 also includes PM 2.5, fine particles that can bypass the body’s natural defenses and lodge deep in the lungs. Exposure to particulates can trigger heart attacks, increase lung cancer risk, aggravate conditions such as asthma and bronchitis and reduce lung function.

The following measures help to manage fugitive dust:

- Apply water to unpaved surfaces and areas.
- Use non-toxic chemical or organic dust suppressants on unpaved roads and traffic areas.
- Limit or reduce vehicle speed on unpaved roads and traffic areas.
- Maintain areas in a stabilized condition by restricting vehicle access.
- Install wind barriers.
- During high winds, cease outdoor activities that disturb the soil.
- Keep bulk materials sufficiently wet when handling.
- Store and handle materials in a three-sided structure.
- When storing bulk materials, apply water to the surface or cover the storage pile with a tarp.
- Don’t overload haul trucks. Overloaded trucks are likely to spill bulk materials.
- Cover haul trucks with a tarp or other suitable cover. Or, wet the top of the load enough to limit visible dust emissions.
- Clean the interior of cargo compartments on emptied haul trucks prior to leaving a site.
- Prevent trackout by installing a trackout control device.
- Clean up trackout at least once a day. If along a busy road or highway, clean up trackout immediately.
- Monitor dust-generating activities and implement appropriate measures for maximum dust control.

For any dust-generating activity, monitor operations, control dust when necessary, and do not cause a nuisance. By controlling fugitive dust emissions, you help to protect the public health and the health of your workers.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR

CoolCalifornia.org is a new web-based portal that provides consumers and eventually businesses with the information they need to take actions to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The carbon footprint calculator, designed specifically for California households and businesses, can be used to evaluate both direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases from a variety of sources including the transportation choices we make, how we consume energy at home and at work, and which goods and services we choose.

The tools on CoolCalifornia.org will help determine specific actions individuals can take by:

- Comparing their carbon footprint with the state average.
- Finding the best strategies to reduce their carbon footprint
- Estimating emission reductions from the strategies.
- Finding how to proceed to implement a reduction strategy.
- Finding rebates and financing available for energy efficient appliances and vehicles.

The purpose of the footprint calculator is to provide an innovative statewide carbon footprint calculator for California households, individuals and communities, including links to useful solutions for improving energy efficiency, and for reducing one’s overall carbon footprint. The calculator provides information, suggestions and solutions to help individuals reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

CoolCalifornia.org stands apart from other GHG calculators because of its focus on California users. The portal provides emissions estimates for personal transportation, housing, food, goods, and services as well as resources that can help users make more climate friendly choices. The Cool California Calculator is an evolving tool. A more advanced calculator along with additional tools and links to help you reduce your GHG footprint is planned for later this year. Your feedback on how the current calculator functions and what you would like to see in the next version is highly valued.

To access, go to CoolCalifornia.org and begin reducing your footprint.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a public health agency, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District’s role is to protect human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution.

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Board meetings are held at 9 a.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the YSAQMD office. The public is welcome to attend. For a current agenda go to www.ysaqmd.org or call (530) 757-3650 or (800) 287-3650.

Mat Ehrhardt, P.E.
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