

UPDATES

CALENDAR CONTEST

As part of the district's education and outreach program, we sponsor an annual calendar contest for students in grades K - 12. It is a hands-on way to get them involved in air quality and things that they can do to make a difference.

Entries were received from students throughout our air district and 12 finalists were chosen by the Yolo-Solano AQMD Board of Directors at the June board meeting. Each of these students receive \$50 and a copy of the calendar. If you would like to receive a 2008 poster calendar, contact the district office. Congratulations to the winners:



Clean Air = Happy Planet submitted by Kelsey G. of Davis for the 2008 calendar.

| <u>Winner</u> | <u>City</u> | <u>Winner</u> | <u>City</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Molly S. | Woodland | Daysi M. | Woodland |
| Kelly G. | Davis | Eliana K. | Davis |
| Madison T. | Davis | Vanessa G. | Woodland |
| Hannah S. | Davis | Emily C. | Vacaville |
| Sarah U. | Woodland | Arnon E. | Davis |
| Erica G. | Woodland | Kelsey G. | Davis |

CALENDAR

July 11, 2007 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

August 8, 2007 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

September 12, 2007 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

Public Workshop
Rule 2.31 Solvents
TBD - Check our website in August for details.

October 10, 2007 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

October 31, 2007
End of Spare the Air Ozone season.

November 1, 2007
PM 2.5 season and Don't Light Tonight begins.



AIR AWARE

A Publication of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District

Summer 2007

"By encouraging businesses and individuals to apply for these grants we accelerate the process of meeting our goal under the Clean Air Act and minimize the environmental and health burdens associated with poor air quality," according to Mat Ehrhardt, P.E., executive director.

"Any project that reduces emissions and educates the public about the benefits of clean air practices is an improvement to the quality of life in our region."

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
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CLEAN AIR GRANTS

At the June meeting, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District's board of directors announced the recipients of funding for 19 Clean Air projects. Through the District's Clean Air Funds (CAF) program, \$630,000 will be distributed for the purposes of encouraging the use of clean technology, low emission vehicles, alternative transportation, transit services and public education.

The CAF program offers incentive funding for projects that reduce air pollution from motor vehicles and advance the goals of the Clean Air Act. The funding comes from a portion of the annual Department of Motor Vehicles registration fee and from AB 8 property tax proceeds for Solano County projects.

Funding is awarded on a competitive basis. The District is interested in achieving the greatest amount of emission reductions for the money awarded, maximizing cost effectiveness. The District also looks at other factors such as:

- overall project cost
- potential for broad application of the project to other jurisdictions, agencies, and businesses
- matching funds provided by outside sources or the applicant
- regional benefits

Applications receiving funding in the following categories were:

Clean technology/low emission vehicles

City of Davis – Retrofit of three heavy-duty diesel trucks

City of Rio Vista – Retrofit of three Delta Breeze diesel buses

City of Vacaville - Lease of electric fleet vehicles

City of Woodland – Purchase of two low emission vehicles

Esparto Unified School District – Engine replacement for one school bus

Unitrans – New bus engine for one diesel bus and catalytic converters for 10 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses

University of California, Davis – Plug-in hybrid vehicle demonstration project

Yolo County, Planning, Resources and Public Works – Replacement of diesel dump truck

Solano Co. Dept of Resource Management, Public Works – Retrofit of four heavy duty diesel trucks

Alternative transportation

Yolo County Transportation District – increase bike capacity on buses

Solano County – Construction of Vacaville-Dixon Bikeway

City of Vacaville - Extension of Nob Hill Bike Path and Ulatis Creek Bike Paths

Transit services

Yolo County Transportation District – Subsidies for Summer Sizzler and Spare the Air days programs

Public education

Breathe California – Clean Air awareness for high school students

WAVE TV 21 – Promotional video to encourage carpooling



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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TIPS FOR CLEAN AIR:

- Conserve energy—at home, at work, everywhere.
- Follow gasoline refueling instructions for efficient vapor recovery. Be careful not to spill fuel and always tighten your gas cap securely.
- Keep car, boat, and other engines tuned up according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Be sure your tires are properly inflated.
- Carpool, use public transportation, bike, or walk whenever possible.
- Use environmentally safe paints and cleaning products whenever possible.
- Some products that you use at your home or office are made with smog-forming chemicals that can evaporate into the air when you use them. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for use and properly seal cleaners, paints, and other chemicals to prevent evaporation into the air.

SPARE THE AIR DAY TIPS:

- Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner at a higher temperature.
- Choose a cleaner commute—share a ride to work or use public transportation. Bicycle or walk to errands when possible.
- Defer use of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment or go manual or electric.
- Combine errands and reduce trips.
- Limit unnecessary engine idling – anytime over 30 seconds is a waste of fuel and money and can be bad for your engine.
- Use household, workshop, and garden chemicals in ways that keeps evaporation to a minimum, or try to delay using them when poor air quality is forecast.
- Refuel your vehicle in cool hours and don't top off the tank.

OZONE 101

It's that time of year when reports on air quality talk about ozone levels. Air monitors throughout the region register how high it is especially on hot summer days. It helps to understand what ozone is and how it is created in order to protect our health.

Ozone is a colorless gas that can be found in the air we breathe. Each molecule of ozone is composed of three atoms of oxygen, one more than the oxygen molecule we need to breathe to sustain life. The additional oxygen atom makes ozone extremely reactive. Ground-level ozone is formed by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) in the presence of sunlight. Sources of VOCs and NOx include:

- automobiles, trucks, and buses
- large industry and combustion sources such as utilities
- small industry such as gasoline dispensing facilities and print shops
- consumer products such as paints and cleaners
- off-road engines such as aircraft, locomotives, construction equipment, and lawn and garden equipment.

While ozone exists naturally in the Earth's upper atmosphere or stratosphere, where it shields the Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays, it is the ozone found close to the Earth's surface we are concerned about. This ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant and a major element of urban smog.

Environmental Effects

In an area where agriculture is a significant part of our economy, it is important to know that ground-level ozone can have detrimental effects on plants and ecosystems. These effects include:

- interfering with the ability of sensitive plants to produce and store food, making them more susceptible to certain diseases, insects, other pollutants, competition and harsh weather;

- damaging the leaves of trees and other plants, negatively impacting the appearance of urban vegetation, national parks, and recreation areas; and
- reducing crop yields and forest growth, potentially impacting species diversity in ecosystems.

Health Effects

Even at relatively low levels, ozone may cause inflammation and irritation of the respiratory tract, particularly during physical activity. The resulting symptoms can include breathing difficulty, coughing, and throat irritation. Breathing ozone can affect lung function and worsen asthma attacks. Ozone can increase the susceptibility of the lungs to infections, allergens, and other air pollutants. Medical studies have shown that ozone damages lung tissue and complete recovery may take several days after exposure has ended.

People that are sensitive to ozone include children and adults who are active outdoors, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma. Sensitive people who experience effects at lower ozone concentrations are likely to experience more serious effects at higher concentrations. Even healthy adults involved in moderate or strenuous outdoor activities can experience the unhealthy effects of ozone. Numerous scientific studies have linked ground-level ozone exposure to a variety of problems, including:

- lung irritation that can cause inflammation much like a sunburn;
- wheezing, coughing, pain when taking a deep breath, and breathing difficulties during exercise or outdoor activities;
- permanent lung damage to those with repeated exposure to ozone pollution;
- aggravated asthma, reduced lung capacity, and increased susceptibility to respiratory illnesses like pneumonia and bronchitis.

For daily air quality status, sign up for free Air Alerts at www.sparetheair.com.

NEW DIESEL REGULATION

A proposed mandate by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) would require owners of diesel fueled equipment to clean up or replace some of the most polluting equipment driven at construction sites, airports and ski resorts. Bulldozers, backhoes, snowcats, airport baggage and other kinds of off-road vehicles comprise the state's second-largest source of diesel-generated particulate pollution, a toxic group of soot, ash and other compounds that embed themselves deep in lung tissues.

This proposed action is part of a state diesel strategy to reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, which are blamed for thousands of premature deaths each year. According to more than 20 years of research, the two pollutants - particulate matter and nitrogen oxides - lead to premature death and increased asthma and heart attacks. The new standards are projected to prevent 4,000 premature deaths, 110,000 asthma-related cases, 680,000 lost work days and 9,200 cases of acute bronchitis over 20 years, according to an analysis by the board.

The proposed requirements would also save up to \$26 billion in health care costs by 2030, according to the board's projections. By 2030, the board estimates that the tighter controls would cut nitrogen dioxide by 187,000 tons and particulate matter by 33,000 tons. Such aggressive reductions would help the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California meet federal air standards.

The proposed rules do not impose specific emission requirements on individual machines, but set an average pollution target for entire fleets each year. Small companies and some rural counties would face looser requirements than large industrial fleets with more horsepower.

If approved by CARB, the process would begin by 2010 to help California clean up its smoggy skies. The pollution targets would eclipse all diesel emission regulations adopted by CARB since 2000.

For more information, visit <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/ordiesel.htm> or contact the diesel hotline at (866) 634-3735.

TIER 0 PORTABLE ENGINES

Operation of portable engines over 50 HP (excluding vehicles and agricultural engines which are both exempt per District Rule 3.2) requires either a permit or registration. Common examples of this type of portable equipment are generators, air compressors, cranes, and drilling rigs.

For engines which are not EPA certified (Tier 0 engines), if the units were not registered by 2006, they can no longer get into the Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP), and therefore any use within our District is in violation of our rules.

Some operators continue operating illegally with the risk of the District staff catching them operating unpermitted equipment and issuing a Notice of Violation (NOV) which carries a monetary penalty.

However, the latest amendments to the PERP regulation and the state ATCM did give some flexibility for Districts to permit or register Tier 0 engines for a limited period of time. The Yolo-Solano AQMD has worked with neighboring Districts to develop a regional Tier 0 policy, which our board approved on May 9, 2007. The policy was developed regionally so that if an operator enters an agreement with any of the participating districts (initially Placer and Sacramento), they have coverage in the other local Districts without having to enter multiple compliance agreements.

The Tier 0 policy allows for limited term usage of resident Tier 0 engines if a company enters a compliance agreement and pays a penalty to settle the violation of not having a required permit. The agreements require that the engines comply with some operating conditions and also that the engines must be replaced with an ATCM compliant engine by December 31, 2009.

For owners/operators that have portable engines which are in violation, we encourage you to contact the district voluntarily because the penalty amounts will be less than if District staff catch you operating in the region. For more information about entering a compliance agreement, contact Paul Hensleigh at (530) 757-3665.

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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Councilmember, Winters

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Mayor Pro-Tempore, Davis

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Councilmember, Dixon

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Helen Thomson
Supervisor District 2, Yolo County

John Vasquez, Vice-Chair
Supervisor District 4, Solano County

Jan Vick
Councilmember, Rio Vista

Mariko Yamada
Supervisor District 4, Yolo County

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 for more information call (530) 757-3650 or (800) 287-3650.

Mat Ehrhardt, P.E.
*Executive Director/
Air Pollution Control Officer*

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Editor: Kathy Coulter

Contributing writers:

Paul Hensleigh
Matt Jones

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| STATS 04/01-06/30/07 | ATC Applications Received | 61 | Complaints Investigated | 10 |
| | ATC Applications Processed | 54 | Inspections Performed | 342 |
| | PTO Applications Received | 60 | Notices of Violation (NOVs) | 61 |
| | PTO Applications Processed | 57 | Notices to Comply (NTCs) | 107 |