

VALLEY AIR NEWS

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Online tool helps you find clean vehicles

In the San Joaquin Valley, motor vehicles are the largest source of smog-forming emissions. One of the best ways to reduce air pollution in the Valley when shopping for a new car is to choose the vehicle that will make the smallest impact on the Valley's air.

There is now an excellent online tool to aid California residents shopping for a new or used vehicle. Whether you are looking to reduce your impact on air quality in the Valley or save money on gas, the Environmental Performance Label (EP Label) makes it easy to compare the efficiency and environmental impacts of vehicles.

The EP Label is now required on all cars sold in California and shows both the Smog Score and Global Warming Score of each vehicle, using a scale from one to 10, 10 being the cleanest and most efficient.

VRRRM



To apply for VRRRM, visit the Foundation for California Community College's website at www.foundationccc.org or call 1-800-622-7733.

The Smog Score rates cars on their nitrogen oxide emissions, making those with the highest score the smallest contributors to ozone pollution, one of the biggest concerns in regard to Valley air quality.

The Global Warming Score is based on a car's greenhouse gas emissions, identified as the CO2-equivalent value. Those with the highest scores also tend to be the most fuel efficient, saving the consumer the most money on gas.

For those interested in doing their research before actually stepping onto the car lot, www.driveclean.ca.gov, a website developed and maintained by the California Air Resources Board, provides the scores of all vehicles sold in California. This gives shoppers the ability to compare all cars and pickups being considered.

While advancements in clean technology have made new cars significantly cleaner than ever before, new vehicles still vary tremendously in how much they pollute.

If buying a new car is not an option, there are ways to make your current car as efficient and clean-running as possible. Follow these steps:

- Keep your car well serviced. How well your car is maintained affects its emissions. Getting regular oil changes, replacing spark plugs, timing belts, hoses and filters affect how well a car runs and how much it pollutes.
- Keep your tires properly inflated. Underinflated tires not only cause uneven wear, but also make the engine work harder, burn more gas and create more emissions.
- Watch how you drive. Going easy on the gas and brake pedals, and reducing idle time can reduce a vehicle's emissions by as much as 10 percent.
- Link your trips. Plan multiple errands into one vehicle trip, rather than taking several individual trips. This will reduce the cold-engine starts cutting down emissions by as much as 70 percent.



Don't Qualify for PASS? Try VRRRM

Auto dismantlers in the San Joaquin Valley are working with the Foundation of California Community Colleges to repair, retire and replace high-emissions vehicles to help improve air quality.

Consumers who do not qualify for the Valley Air District's Polluting Automobile Scrap and Salvage (PASS) Program may be eligible for the Vehicle Repair, Retirement and Replacement for Motorists Program (VRRRM). VRRRM offers an incentive of \$3,500 to eligible participants with high-emitting vehicles, or vehicles from 1995 or older, to replace them with newer, low-emitting vehicles.

VRRRM aims to retire and replace about 1,000 vehicles with lower-emission models in the San Joaquin Valley and South Coast air basins.

District Adopts amendments to dairy rules

As part of the Air District's commitment to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from dairies and other confined animal facilities (CAFs), in October, the District adopted amendments to strengthen Rule 4570.

Amendments to this rule came after the District worked closely with researchers and stakeholders, finding that a large majority of livestock emissions are generated from feed rather than animal waste.

New requirements include lowering threshold limits, which increase the number of permitted facilities and focus more on livestock feed and feed handling.

Among many feed-handling options is to decrease the exposed surface areas of piles so that ethanol emissions can be reduced. Additional measures on covering feed and silage compaction are also required.

See lower threshold permitting scale below for all CAFs:

Livestock Category	2006 regulatory threshold for CAFs	2010 regulatory threshold for CAFs
Dairies	1,000 milking cows	500 milking cows
Beef Feedlots	3,500 beef cattle	3,500 beef cattle
Other cattle facilities	7,500 head	7,500 head
Poultry Facilities		
Chickens	650,000 chicken	400,000 chickens
Ducks	650,000 ducks	400,000 ducks
Turkeys	100,000 turkeys	100,000 turkeys
Swine Facilities	3,000 head	3,000 head
Horse Facilities	3,000 head	3,000 head
Sheep and Goat Facilities	15,000 head of sheep, goats, or any combination of the two	15,000 head of sheep, goats, or any combination of the two
Any livestock facility not listed above	30,000 head	30,000 head

Approximately 560 dairies in the San Joaquin Valley are currently subject to Rule 4570. It is estimated that 340 additional dairy operations will be brought into regulation under new permitting threshold requirements. These facilities are required to submit permit applications by April 21, 2011.

For the complete information regarding rule 4570, Confined Animal Facilities, visit the Air District website at: http://www.valleyair.org/rules/currentrules/R4570_1010.pdf.