



VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - May 2013

May is National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, and the Valley Air District supports bicycling as a viable, environmentally friendly, cost-saving commuter choice.

To highlight bicycling as a fun, practical and emission-free method of commuting, Bike-to-Work events are held throughout the Valley every May during Bike-to-Work week. This year, with the help of local bike coalitions, rideshare agencies, local government and the Valley Air District, the number of events doubled. More Valley residents are discovering cycling as a way to get fit, save time and money.



Commuters showed their support and participated in Fresno, Bakersfield, Visalia, Stockton, Modesto, Oakdale, Turlock, Patterson, Escalon, Newman and Merced events.

Local officials were also involved, as some cities held "Ride with the Mayor," police-escorted bike rides.

Bike-to-Work events in the Valley are an opportunity for non-cycling residents to see what it's like to get out of their cars. The goal is more people cycling and removing harmful emissions from the Valley's air.



Ozone season is here

Longer, sunnier days are perfect for ozone formation in the San Joaquin Valley, and vehicle emissions are a chief contributor to ozone formation.

As summer approaches, the Valley Air District has some tips on how Valley residents can help reduce ground-level ozone and improve public health:

- Find ways to drive less, by carpooling, bicycling, walking, taking the bus and shopping online.
- Switch from a gas lawn mower to electric.
- Barbecue with propane, not charcoal.
- Use a pump spray rather than aerosol.
- Reduce electricity use when possible.
- When shopping for a vehicle, keep emission ratings in mind.
- Don't idle your vehicle when picking up your children from school.
- Turn off your engine and go inside the restaurant or coffee house rather than idling in the drive-through lane.

You can also protect yourself and family members from unhealthy air when planning outdoor activities by checking current air quality with the RAAN (Real-time Air Analysis Network) Program. RAAN provides real-time air-quality readings, directly from the monitoring station closest to you. For the most accurate, up-to-the-hour air quality updates, visit: www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm and find out what the air quality is in your area, right now!



2012-13 Report to the Community now available

The Valley Air District's Annual Report to the Community is available to the public, free of charge. Produced by the District, it conveys important information about the Valley air basin's progress toward attaining healthy air.

The 46-page report includes progress recaps of the past 12 months and details successes in reducing levels of pollutants in the Valley's air. Among the information in the 2012-13 issue:

- Exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard continue to decline, from more than 50 in 2002 to just two in 2012.
- Ozone (smog) exceedances for the 1997 and 2008 8-hour standard have dropped by 55 percent and 34 percent, respectively, since 1992, the year the District formed. *(Decreases in ozone pollution are shown in the graph below, taken directly from the Annual Report)*
- The District's grants program continues to expand. In 2012, the District awarded about \$100 million in grants and incentives to every sector of the Valley.
- News on the 2012 PM2.5 Plan, which incorporates a "risk-based" strategy (prioritizing clean-up strategies according to achieving the greatest health benefits).
- Healthy Air Living Schools, the District's latest public health campaign
- The District's new iPhone app
- New air pollution research

The report is available online at <http://www.valleyair.org/2012-13AnnualReport.pdf>. To request a hard copy, call a District office at 559-230-6000 (Fresno), 209-557-6400 (Modesto) or 661-392-5500 (Bakersfield), or email public.education@valleyair.org.

