

News Release

For immediate release

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Attn: local news and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Free lawn care conference offers technology, grant information

Speakers, panel round out March 21 Fresno event

Emission-reducing landscaping practices are the focus of a free March 21 conference in Fresno sponsored by the Air District.

“Lawn Care, Landscaping and Air Quality” takes place at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The daylong event will showcase developments in leading-edge, low-emission lawn care technology, and feature speakers and panel discussions by industry professionals.

“Lawn care practices contribute to the Valley’s air quality challenge and consequently, are a new area of focus by the Air District as it seeks new strategies for meeting tougher federal ozone and particulate (PM 2.5) standards,” said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District’s air pollution control officer and executive director.

Building on the District’s Clean Green Yard Machines program based on cordless, electric lawn mowers, District staff will unveil a \$500,000 grant program to reduce air and noise pollution by helping commercial landscapers switch from gas-powered equipment to cordless, zero-emission equipment.

The agenda includes Jamie Rust, general manager of ACLS in Fresno, whose company is the first in California to begin converting its existing lawn mowers from gasoline to propane, and Dan Mabe, president of The Greenstation of Woodland Hills. Mabe will talk about The Greenstation’s work to develop and manufacture cordless electric equipment and to bring new strategies to landscaping maintenance practices that reduce air and noise pollution, gasoline use and hazardous waste disposal.

Michael McKinney Black, CEO of Mow-n-Edge and president of the local chapter of the California Landscape Contractors’ Assn., and Scott Miller, CEO of Gazebo Gardens in Fresno, will head a panel discussion on key obstacles to reducing emissions from the lawn care sector, and how to overcome them. The health and air quality impacts of lawn care emissions also will be presented along with potential options for reducing these emissions.

A vendor court will feature mowers and other eco-friendly equipment, such as a new, cordless leaf blower developed by STIHL.

The event is free and includes lunch; however, registration is required by Mon., March 19, at www.valleyair.org. For more information, call 559-230-6000.