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Technology Advancement Project – Zero Emission Electric Yard Tractor

IKEA, TransPower, Valley Air District and EPA host open house to demonstrate new technology

The Technology Advancement Program (TAP) is the Valley Air District's strategic approach to encouraging innovation and development of new emission reduction technologies. The TAP consists of an ongoing review of new technology concepts, interagency partnerships, funding for technology advancement programs, and collaborations to build and expand local capacity for research and development in the San Joaquin Valley. TAP supports technology development in critical areas which will assist the San Joaquin Valley in meeting stringent air quality goals.

“Despite major reductions in emissions, the Valley continues to face difficult challenges in meeting federal air-quality standards”, stated Seyed Sadredin, the Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer of the Valley Air District. “It is virtually impossible for the Valley to attain the new standards for ozone and particulates without these significant advancements in low-emission technologies through TAP projects.”

Through the Clean Air Technology Initiative, US EPA Region 9 provides annual funding to support the Valley District's Technology Advancement Program. The Initiative seeks to align available resources and research efforts to accelerate the demonstration and deployment of advanced clean air technologies in California's San Joaquin Valley and South Coast air basins, the only two extreme ozone nonattainment airsheds in the nation. Through this partnership, US EPA and the Valley Air District are able to implement a variety of innovative clean air technology demonstration projects.

“The San Joaquin Valley offers many opportunities for testing advanced clean air technologies”, said Kerry Drake, Air Division Associate Director for US EPA's Pacific Southwest Region. “By continuing to work together to develop new technologies, such as this electric yard tractor in operation at IKEA's main California distribution center, we can move toward our ultimate goal of bringing healthier air to Valley residents.”

This project was located at the IKEA Tejon, Distribution Center south of Bakersfield and involved converting a diesel powered yard tractor into a new zero emission electric tractor. Over the course of the year-long demonstration, the new yard tractor proved to be capable of operating up to 3 shifts per day and more than 100 miles per day moving trailers full of goods into position at the large facility. This demonstration was the first long-term trial of an electric yard truck at any IKEA facility worldwide and will result in estimated annual emission reductions as follows:

- Nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 1.3 tons annually,
- Coarse particulate matter (PM10) by .04 tons annually,
- Hydrocarbons (volatile organic compounds/Reactive Organic Gases) by .05 ton, and
- Carbon dioxide (CO2) by 51 tons.

The project will also conserve 4,800 gallons of diesel fuel annually.

The total cost of the this project is \$1,215,644 with the Valley Air District providing \$500,000 through the Technology Advancement Program which is funded in part through EPA Region 9. The remainder was provided by TransPower and IKEA.