

Air district offers electric mowers

Bakersfield Californian, Wednesday, April 13, 2011

The Valley Air District's popular electric lawn mower trade-in program is back with new funding and a simplified voucher request process.

Beginning this week, valley residents can replace their polluting, gas-powered mower with a clean, electric Neuton mower for \$50 for a 14-inch blade model or \$100 for the 19-inch mower, shipping included, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District said in a release.

"This is our most popular consumer program, and one that pays off in big clean-air dividends for everyone in the valley," Seyed Sadredin, the district's executive director, said in the release.

Local funding for the program was authorized by the district's governing board in combination with a state grant for residents of the San Joaquin Valley. The district also partnered with the Sierra Club and the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment in Kern County to provide additional vouchers for residents in the valley portion of Kern County.

New, regional phone numbers dedicated to Clean, Green Yard Machines will streamline and simplify the voucher request process, organizers promised.

Residents in Tulare County and the valley portion of Kern County can order by calling 392-5685

Vouchers must be requested by phone in advance and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Limit one per household or three per business.

After receiving a voucher, applicants must turn in a working, gas-powered mower at an authorized recycler in their county. A list of recyclers is available at Valleyair.org.

Participants can then phone Neuton at a toll-free number and order their new, cordless, electric lawn mower, which will be delivered to their door.

Trading in a gas-powered mower for an electric mower is one way to reduce personal emissions and clean up the valley's air, air district officials say. Emissions from using a gas-powered mower for one hour are equivalent to driving 40 late-model cars for the same length of time.

Air district offers County residents a new incentive to get rid of gas-powered lawn mowers

By Luis Hernandez

Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register, Wednesday, April 13, 2011

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is offering Tulare County residents a deal that swaps gas-powered lawn mowers for electric mowers.

Air district staff member Maricela Velasquez says the program has been well-received in the past. Funding has run out quickly in previous years.

"Every single year, we see interest," she said. "It's a good thing people want to make a change."

The program seeks to entice people to get rid of gas-powered lawn mowers — and air pollution they create.

"This is our most popular consumer program, and one that pays off in big clean-air dividends for everyone in the Valley," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "We're very pleased to be able to offer this program again this year and to more residents than ever."

Air district officials say emissions from using a gas-powered mower for one hour are equivalent to driving 40 late-model cars for the same length of time.

To participate in the exchange program, residents must obtain a voucher and then take a working gas-powered lawn mower to a recycling center.

Participants can get an electric, cordless mower. For one with a 14-inch cutting blade, participants must pay \$50, while \$100 will land participants a 19-inch-blade model.

A battery's charge is enough to power the mower for about an hour. Charging the mower's battery is similar to running any typical household appliance.

The board offers one per household and three for businesses.

"They're highly regarded mowers," Janelle Schneider said. "I have been here for eight years and I haven't heard any complaints."

Schneider is a public information representative with the air district.

Velasquez said the mower adds about \$4 to the household's yearly electric bill.

Changing to an electric mower could be the move for home occupants. But lawn services might have a more difficult time adjusting, said James Gowin of Gowin Green landscape maintenance and sprinkler repair.

"For the average homeowner, this is a good way to go," Gowin said. "We mow six hours a day. We couldn't be able to do that."

To remove all doubts, Gowin suggested businesses could have a trial with the electric mowers. He praised the mower-swap program, calling it a way to improve the air.

"It's one way to go green," he said.

The program is being offered on a first-come, first-serve basis to Valley residents and requests will be honored until funding runs out.

Visalia's Art Palomino says thanks, but no; he's keeping his gas-powered lawn mower.

Taking a break after cutting the grass at a South Visalia home Tuesday afternoon, Palomino says his 2-year-old Honda lawn mower is the one for him.

"As long as you have them well-tuned, they're not much of a polluter," he said.

Lawn mower program begins

Stockton Record, Wednesday, April 13, 2011

The San Joaquin Valley's popular cheap lawn mower program resumed Monday, giving residents the chance to give up their gas-powered mowers in exchange for new electric ones.

The new mowers cost \$50 for a model with a 14-inch blade or \$100 for one with a 19-inch blade. That's more than they cost during a similar promotion last year but is still significantly less than retail value.

Residents must first call to request a voucher. Then they must turn in a gas-powered mower at a designated recycler. After that, they'll be able to call and order a new, cordless electric mower.

To request a voucher, call the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District at (209) 557-6485.

Lawn mower program returns

Staff Reports

Turlock Journal Tues., April 12, 2011

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is hoping that new funding and a simplified, regional voucher request process will make clean, electric lawn mowers available to more Valley residents through the Clean, Green Yard Machine program that began Monday.

"This is our most popular consumer program, and one that pays off in big clean-air dividends for everyone in the Valley," said Seyed Sadredin, the district's executive director and air pollution control officer. "We're very pleased to be able to offer this program again this year, and to more residents than ever."

Local funding for this program was authorized by the district's Governing Board in combination with a state grant for residents of the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, the district partnered with the Sierra Club and the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment in Kern County to provide additional vouchers for residents in the Valley portion of Kern County.

The lawn mower trade-in program replaces old, polluting, gas-powered mowers with clean, electric Neuton mowers for just \$50 (14 inch cutting blade) or \$100 (19 inch cutting blade), including shipping, with the trade-in of an older, gas-powered mower.

New, regional phone numbers dedicated to Clean, Green Yard Machines will streamline and simplify the voucher request process:

- Residents in Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties: 661-392-5685
- Residents in Fresno, Kings and Madera counties: 559-230-6185
- Residents in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties: 209-557-6485

Vouchers must be requested by phone in advance and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Limit one per household or three per business. Program participants must be residents of the San Joaquin Valley air basin: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern counties.

After receiving a voucher, the applicant must turn in a working, gas-powered mower at an authorized recycler in their county (a list of recyclers is available at www.valleyair.org).

Then, they can phone Neuton at a toll-free number and order their new, cordless, electric lawn mower, which will be delivered to their door.

Trading in a gas-powered mower for an electric mower is one way to reduce personal emissions and clean up the Valley's air. Emissions from using a gas-powered mower for one hour are equivalent to driving 40 late-model cars for the same length of time.

For complete details about the program, visit www.valleyair.org or call a regional District office: Fresno, 559-230-6000; Bakersfield, 661-392-550; or Modesto, 557-6400.