

Free emissions testing on Saturday

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On Saturday, Nov. 22, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and Valley Clean Air Now will host a "Tune In & Tune Up" car clean-up event at San Joaquin County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It's not to wash the car. Tune In & Tune Up is a vehicle emissions clean-up program that identifies and helps repair older, out-of-tune vehicles that impact the air quality throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

At Saturday's event, Stockton-area drivers who have had their car for at least six months will receive a free vehicle emissions test.

"This event is a great resource for the community and helps eliminate mobile source pollutants generated by older, 'out of tune' cars in the San Joaquin Valley," says Samir Sheikh, director of the Valley Air District's Strategies and Incentives department.

More than 4,000 cars have been repaired to state smog standards by Valley Clean Air Now's Tune In & Tune Up program since 2003. Tune In & Tune Up has been shown to be among the most cost-effective methods to reduce vehicle emissions attempted to date in California, the air district says.

[Letter to the Fresno Bee, Sat., Nov. 22, 2014:](#)

Help clear the air

Fresno's air is very concerning. This may not be readily evident. Like me, you may have seen deceiving signs outside allergy centers stating the air quality on a given day is "good." While in reality, they were probably only addressing a small aspect of the bigger picture.

The bowl-shaped Valley collects and holds emissions caused by the activities of the Valley's 3 million residents and their 2 million vehicles, as well as vehicles from other areas on Highway 99 and Interstate 5. Farming and industrial activity also play significant roles in the bad air. Fortunately, there are causes of air pollution that we can avoid if we choose to.

Checking the daily Real time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to determine the forecast before pursuing activities such as wood burning is one way. Getting our cars smogged, minimizing idling time, carpooling, biking, walking and switching to electric cars can significantly improve the air.

Ultimately, we owe it to our kids to create an environment where they can safely play outside without exposing themselves to serious health conditions.

Nitika Dhir, Fresno