

San Joaquin Valley air district opens grants for electric car chargers

Lodi News Sentinel, Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Businesses and public agencies can receive up to \$6,000 per electric vehicle charger through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's new Charge Up! grants program.

The new grant program follows the district's popular Drive Clean! clean-air vehicle rebate program, which offers up to \$3,000 for the purchase of a qualifying battery electric, hydrogen fuel cell or plug-in electric hybrid vehicle.

Charge Up! awards up to \$5,000 for a single-port, Level 2 charger and up to \$6,000 for a two-port charger that will be available for public use. There is an annual funding cap of \$50,000 per applicant, and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Eligible projects not selected for initial funding will be placed on hold pending additional funding. The first round of funding is \$2 million.

For more information or to apply, visit www.valleyair.org/chargeup or call the District's Grants Program at 559-230-5800.

Air District offers grants for electric vehicle charger stations

Central Valley Business News, Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Businesses and public agencies in the San Joaquin Valley can get as much as \$6,000 per electric vehicle charger through a new program.

"We're pleased to offer what Valley businesses, agencies and the public have asked for: convenient access to charging devices for the growing population of electric vehicles," says Sheraz Gill, grants director for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in Fresno.

The new grant program follows the District's "Drive Clean" clean-air vehicle rebate program, which offers up to \$3,000 for the purchase of a qualifying battery electric, hydrogen fuel cell or plug-in electric hybrid vehicle.

The "Charge Up" program awards up to \$5,000 for a single-port, Level 2 charger and up to \$6,000 for a two-port charger that will be available for public use.

There is an annual funding cap of \$50,000 per applicant, and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Eligible projects not selected for initial funding will be placed on hold pending additional funding. The first round of funding is \$2 million.

This is not a rebate program, the Air District says. Contracts must be executed before chargers are purchased and installed.

Car clinic event coming to Tulare

By Luis Hernandez

Visalia Times Delta, Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Valley Clean Air Now's Jose Marin said there is no harm in attending the Tune In Tune Up car clean-up scheduled for June 13 at the International Agri-Center.

If a driver's vehicle is running in tip top shape and a free smog test can prove it, that's great, Marin said. But if the vehicle is not and repairs can be made, drivers will receive a \$500 voucher.

"I recommend every San Joaquin driver attend this event," he said. "Every resident is exposed to air pollution. Everybody should take advantage of this free testing event."

Marin continued: "You may walk away with a \$500 voucher."

The voucher is to be used at pre-selected mechanic shops and typically covers cost for all repairs, Marin said.

"Some drivers might be out of pocket \$200," he said.

The shops are selected from around the county.

"We want to make sure people have access to a shop close to where they live," Marin said.

In hosting the car clinic event, organizers are helping clean up local air quality, Marin said.

This is the seventh year a Tune In Tune up is held in Tulare. Over the years, depending on funding, there have been as many as three similar events in Tulare County. Since 2005, the Tune in Tune Up program has helped in fixing 13,000 vehicles.

"It's the best way of helping the environment," Marin said.

The car clinic gets about 500 vehicles, a good turnout for such event.

Marin said drivers can expect at least a two-hour wait. Local charities will hand out food and water for those in attendance.

Local participation is key to continue having similar events, Marin said.

"It's important to attend when these programs exist," he said. "They disappear because there's no participation and people don't take advantage of them."

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and Healthy Air Living are co-sponsoring the car clinic.

How to attend

What: Tune In Tune Up car clean-up event

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 13.

Where: International Agri-Center, 4500 S. Laspina St.

Online: www.valleyair.org; wwwhealthyairliving.com; www.valleycan.org.