

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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>>Local news, features, and
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Conference, lawnmower trade-in and biking events highlight national Air Quality Awareness Week

(Fresno, CA) – Several air-quality events throughout the San Joaquin Valley will help highlight the national celebration of Air Quality Awareness Week, which starts today.

Sold-out research conference

More than 200 scientists, policymakers and others interested in air-quality issues will gather at a conference Wednesday to discuss the results of two recent air-pollution studies on ozone and particulate matter. The sold-out conference, “Central California Air Quality Research: How Science is Charting a Path to Cleaner Air,” takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Piccadilly Inn, University in Fresno.

The conference is sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the California Air Resources Board and the Central California Air Quality Studies Government-Private Sector Partnership. Info: www.valleyair.org or (559) 230-6000.

Lawnmower retirement program

The Air District launches its annual lawnmower trade-in at 9 a.m. Saturday in Bakersfield.

The Clean Green Yard Machines program allows residents to retire gas-powered lawnmowers in exchange for a 60-percent discount on an air-friendly electric, cordless mower. The Neuton electric mower normally retails for \$369, but will cost \$150, including tax, through the retirement program. Quantities are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program also will be held in Visalia on June 13, Fresno on June 10, Merced on June 17 and Stockton on June 24. More info: www.valleyair.org or (559) 230-6000

Bike-to-Work days

Several Valley cities are promoting a healthy, air-friendly commute alternative during national Bike to Work Week, which shares the calendar with Air Quality Awareness Week.

The City of Modesto’s Bike to Work Day is Thursday. The event offers bicycling commuters a free continental breakfast, prizes and a police escort through downtown Modesto. Info: www.modestogov.com/pwd/ride.

Fresno Area Express is partnering with the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition to encourage people to ride their bicycles to work by offering free fares for cyclists on Bike To Work Day on Friday. A bike-to-work corporate challenge also gives local businesses and their employees a fun and competitive way to participate. More info: <http://fresnobike.org/>.

National Air Quality Awareness Week is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service. More info: <http://www.airnow.gov/airaware.cfm> or (866) 372-9378.

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