

VALLEY AIR NEWS

November 2018



Two grant programs open

The Valley Air District is excited to announce the launch of two new programs - the Electric School Bus Incentive Program and the Zero Emission Ag Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Voucher Program.

The Electric School Bus Incentive Program provides up to \$400,000 in monetary incentives to replace existing diesel yellow school buses that transport public school children, with all electric school buses. Eligible applicants are public school districts, Joint Power Authorities and privately-owned yellow school buses that are contracted with a public school to transport public school children.

The Agricultural UTV Voucher Program provides incentives up to 75% of the eligible cost of new, zero-emission UTVs to replace existing diesel or gasoline-powered UTVs. Eligible costs may include base vehicle, roof, windshield, doors and an extended warranty, but not attachments, such as winches, storage bins, plows, cab heaters, or additional batteries.

For more information about these two grant programs, visit valleyair.org/grants.

Check Before You Burn

During the winter, smoke from burning solid fuel puts dangerous materials into the air that can hurt your health. Check Before You Burn season began November 1, and a number of counties have already had days declared “No Burning Unless Registered” or “No Burning for All”. The curtailments are part of the Residential Wood Burning Rule 4901 to limit particulate matter emissions from wood-burning fireplaces, wood-burning heaters and outdoor wood-burning devices.

There are several ways that Valley residents can check the daily residential wood-burning status:

- Visit checkbeforeyouburn.org
- Sign up to receive daily emails
- Use the “Valley Air” app
- Call 1-800-SMOG-INFO (766-4463)

The status applies to a particular county each day, from midnight to midnight. Residents found in violation can be fined. Exemptions are made for those who live in an area where there is no natural gas service or wood-burning is the only source of heat.

Steering committee applicants sought

In October, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) announced that the City of Shafter and the community of South Central Fresno, including Calwa and Malaga, were among a list of ten communities throughout the state being prioritized for additional air quality funding and investment.

To better understand the concerns of the two communities selected for the new AB 617 Community Air Protection Program, the Valley Air District recently held informational meetings to kick off the establishment of steering committees for each community.

Deadline for interested residents, businesses and other members of the communities to apply for the steering committee has been extended to November 16. To learn more about this new program or apply for a community steering committee, visit valleyair.org/community.

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