

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

August 2022



## Clean Air Center Pilot Program reopens for more applicants

The Valley Air District has opened a third solicitation period for the Clean Air Center Pilot Program. Applications are being accepted now through September 17, 2022. Applicants may be eligible to receive portable air cleaners and replacement filters at no cost to operate as a Clean Air Center during their normal hours of operation.

Existing cooling centers, businesses, schools and other facilities are encouraged to apply!

To apply, visit: [www.valleyair.org/cleanaircenters](http://www.valleyair.org/cleanaircenters). Contact program staff at [grants@valleyair.org](mailto:grants@valleyair.org) or 559-230-5800 with any questions.

## Help protect students from emissions on school campus

It's that time of the year again when schools begin to fill with excitement as students return to campuses. Along with the smiles and laughter that come with students starting their first days of the school year are emissions from gas-powered vehicles that parents drive to drop off and pick up their children. With the increase of vehicle traffic, the back-to-school season often contributes to temporary, higher levels of ground-level ozone in the Valley.

Parents can help reduce emissions and protect public health by incorporating some of the following practices:

- Coordinate a carpool or rideshare to get kids to-and-from school.
- Drive less – Look for ways to leave your gasoline vehicle at home more often by linking your trips.
- Walk or bike with your children to-and-from school (as air quality allows).
- Drive zero-emission or low-emission vehicles (The District offers a cash rebate to go electric: [www.valleyair.org/drivecleaninthesanjoaquin/rebate](http://www.valleyair.org/drivecleaninthesanjoaquin/rebate).)
- Keep your vehicle well-tuned – It will pollute less. (The District hosts Tune In Tune Up events to help residents check to see if their vehicles will pass emissions tests.)
- Avoid the use of drive-through services – Turn off your engine and go inside instead of idling in the drive-through.
- Turn off your engine at school – When you are stopping to drop the kids off in the morning and waiting to pick them up at the end of the school day, please do not idle.

To help ensure continued progress and minimize pollution associated with school site vehicle idling, the District has partnered with hundreds of Valley schools through its Healthy Air Living Schools program, providing bilingual “no-idling” signs and other resources that remind parents to turn off their car engines while waiting to pick up or drop off students.

To learn more about Healthy Air Living Schools, request bilingual No Idling signs or enroll into the program, visit [www.healthyairliving.com/schools](http://www.healthyairliving.com/schools).

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