




air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Item: D-2
Agenda Date: August 19, 2021
Agenda Placement: Admin
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Lorena Saldana, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, (805) 961-8853

SUBJECT: District Grant and Incentives Program Activity

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the following:

1. An update on the Old Car Buy Back Program for vehicles retired during the period of June 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021;
2. An update on the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program Year 2 for zero-emission landscape equipment vouchers during the period of November 16, 2020 through July 31, 2021; and
3. Summary of the emission-reduction grant agreements approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer for the period of June 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021 in accordance with Board Resolution Number 09-14.

DISCUSSION:

This item provides an update on three grant programs and the activity that has occurred since your last Board meeting. Grant fund allocation reports for the District's Old Car Buy Back Program and Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund Program identify funding allocation to date, remaining fund balance, and project location. Your Board expanded the authority of the Air Pollution Control Officer to issue grants for emission reduction projects up to \$250,000 provided your Board had authorized an overall umbrella program for each type of project. The attached summary sheets describe the grants approved since our last report.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Old Car Buy Back Program Update
- B. Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund Program Update
- C. Grant Agreement Approval Forms

ATTACHMENT A

Old Car Buy Back Program Update for the period of
June 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021

August 19, 2021

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93110



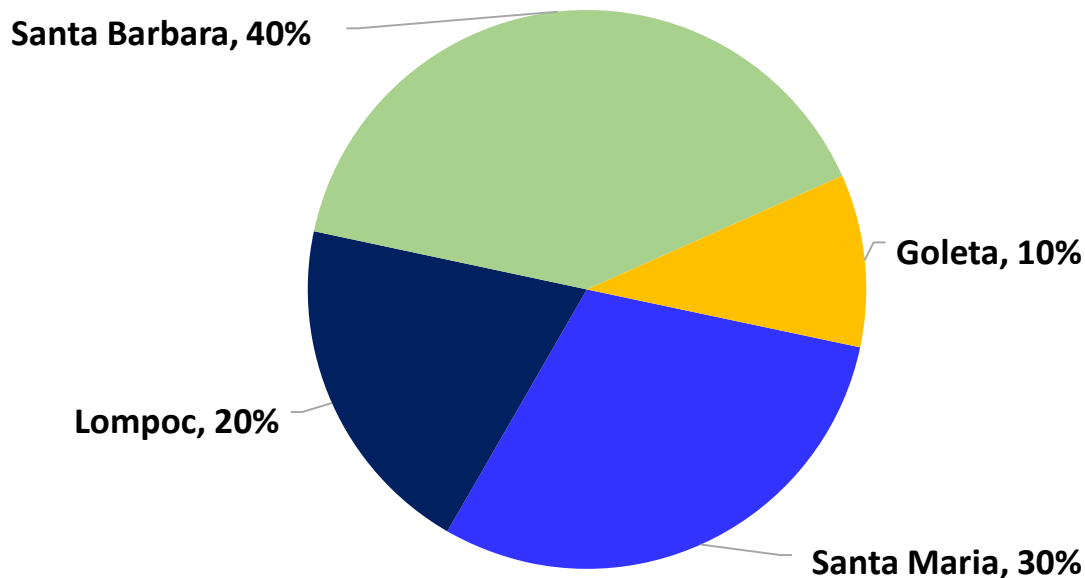
Old Car Buy Back Program Update

The District's Old Car Buy Back Program currently pays Santa Barbara County vehicle owners \$1,000 to voluntarily retire their fully legal and operational 1997 or older, light or medium duty car, truck, van, or SUV. The regional dismantlers receive \$250 for each vehicle that they permanently retire. Currently, the total program cost is \$1,250 to retire a vehicle.

The program accelerates the improvement of air quality by removing high polluting vehicles from the road, quicker than normal vehicle attrition. Funding for the program is derived from \$2 DMV registration surcharge funds. Below is the program data for the most recent reporting period and the entire fiscal year.

Old Car Buy Back Program Activity		
	6/1/2021-7/31/2021	FY 2021-22
Vehicles retired	24	10
Funds committed @ \$1,250/vehicle	\$30,000	\$12,500
Total tons reduced [NOx+ ROC + PM]	1.85	0.71
Average project cost-effectiveness	\$16,674/ton	\$18,041/ton

Vehicle Owner Location (FY 2021-22)



ATTACHMENT B

Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Update for
the period of
November 16, 2020 – July 31, 2021

August 19, 2021

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93110

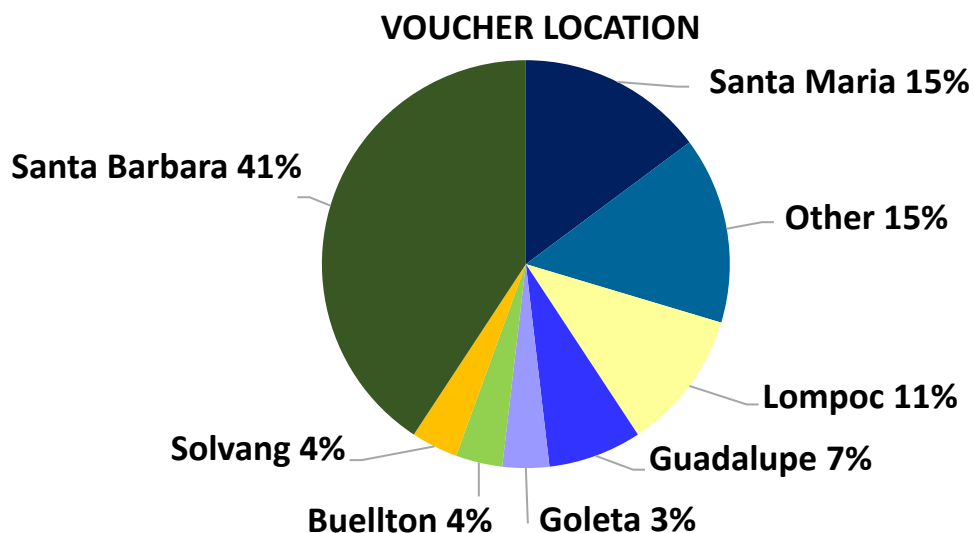


Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program Year 2 Update

The LEEF Program offers vouchers to help landscape businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, and schools that perform their own landscape maintenance services and are located in or do business within the county, to adopt the use of zero-emission electric landscape equipment. Year 2 of the program is funded with \$100,000 from the District's Clean Air Fund that the District Board approved on October 15, 2020. Eligible organizations can receive a voucher of up to \$7,000 for the purchase of electric landscape equipment and up to \$500 for the voluntary disposal of gasoline landscape equipment that will be replaced by electric equipment purchased through the program. The voucher covers up to 60% of the purchase price for landscape equipment, including mowers, leaf blowers and vacuums, edgers, trimmers, chainsaws, pole saws, batteries, and chargers. Vouchers were issued based on a ranking system that included priority to applicants on last year's waiting list, location in a low-income community, and new applicants.

The program helps reduce gasoline- and diesel-powered landscape equipment emissions, including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants. The program also helps community members, businesses, and employees experience the health and environmental benefits of cleaner technology that may ultimately lead to greater use of zero-emission landscape equipment throughout the county. Year 2 of the program incorporates lessons learned from a successful pilot program that operated during the spring and summer of 2020.

LEEF Program Year 2 Voucher Incentives (November 16 th 2020– July 31 st 2021)					
Organization Type	Applications Received		Vouchers Issued		\$ Expended to Date
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
Business	13	\$58,483	11	\$50,177	\$51,936
Nonprofit	9	\$21,960	9	\$21,071	\$17,025
Public Agency	6	\$27,625	6	\$27,559	\$23,477
School	2	\$1,193	2	\$1,193	\$616
Total	30	\$109,261	28	\$100,000	\$93,054
				Program Budget	\$100,000
				Program Balance	\$6,946

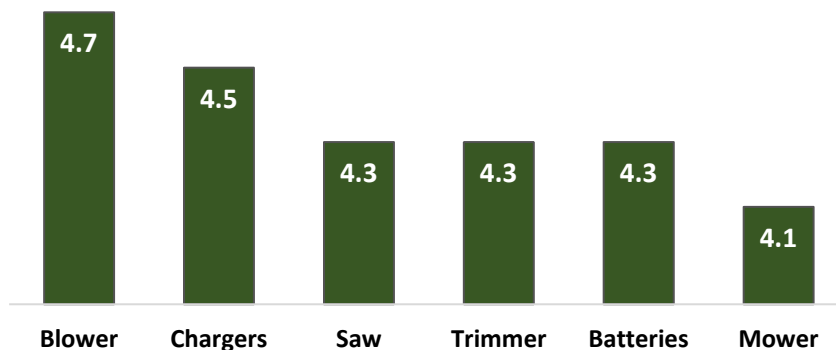




LEEF Program Year 2 Participant Survey Results

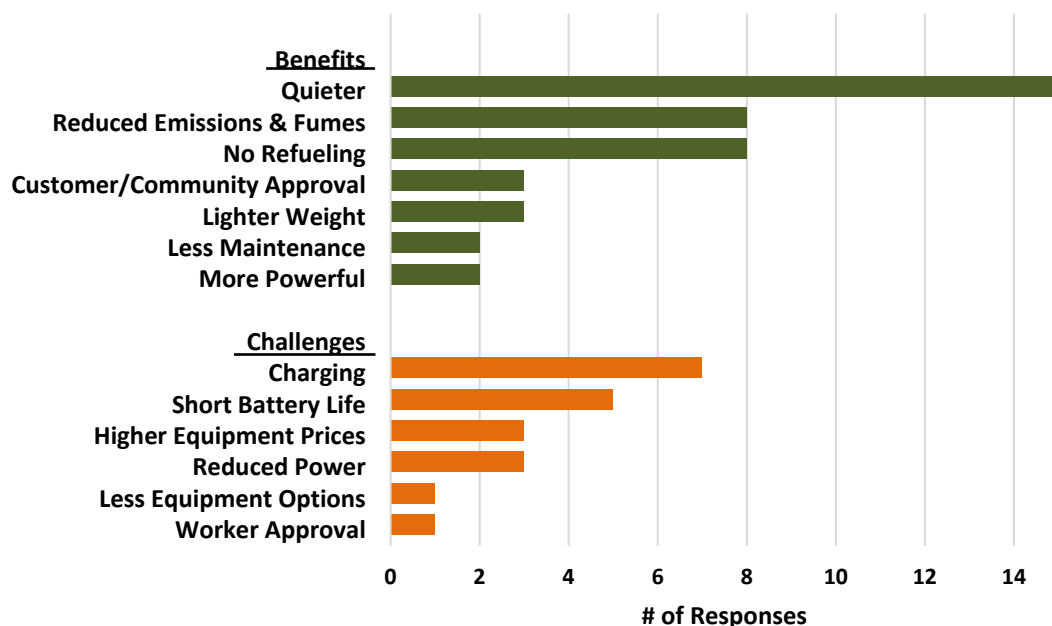
On June 15, the District sent a survey to LEEF Program Year 2 participants to receive feedback on their operation of the electric landscape equipment and how the LEEF Program may be improved in the future. Sixty percent (17 of 28) program participants responded, including public agencies, nonprofits, schools, and landscape businesses. Overall, satisfaction with the electric equipment is rated higher than 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest. Blowers are the most highly rated equipment type at 4.7 and mowers are rated the lowest at 4.1. The average rating of 4.4 across all equipment categories and the order of ranked equipment compares to the positive feedback we received from the LEEF Pilot Program survey conducted in 2020.

Overall Rating of Equipment by Type (1 to 5)



The participants are experiencing both benefits and challenges using their new electric equipment. The most common benefits are that the electric equipment is quiet, produces no exhaust, and does not require refueling. The most frequently cited challenges are difficulties with charging the equipment, including time and infrastructure required to charge, and short battery life.

Benefits & Challenges of Electric Equipment Use





Participants are very pleased overall with the program and expressed an interest in the continued availability of funding in the future. For program improvements, many participants said that the program should not limit the number of batteries eligible for funding, as some equipment requires multiple batteries to complete a large job.

We received some great testimonials about participants' experiences with their new equipment. Some participants are interested in working with us to promote the program and the use of electric landscape equipment in our county.

"The use of battery-operated equipment has helped us in allowing our crews the opportunity to see and feel the difference, side by side with gas power. Also, the customers appreciate the reduced noise from machines we normally operate near windows and doors. When clients or their neighbors see us using the battery powered units, they know we are open to new cleaner, quieter tools and are willing to invest and still be able to provide a good quality of service." ~Nishimori Landscape & Design (Santa Maria)

"The LEEF Program grant enabled us to purchase equipment we otherwise might not have funded, and has furthered our school's goal of modeling environmental stewardship." ~Santa Ynez Valley Charter School

"We were surprised at the performance and longevity of the equipment. Field staff was hesitant about the program at first, but have expressed satisfaction with the equipment." ~City of Guadalupe

"The generous grant allowed our organization to increase the safety to the residents of our homes as well as our maintenance team by reducing noise, fumes in vehicles, and keeping flammables away from homes and vehicles. We are also finding that the electric equipment is safer considering no idling of engines are required." ~Tri-Counties Community Housing (County-wide)

All but one of the participants have removed some of their gasoline equipment from service even if they did not participate in the program's voluntary disposal incentive, which offered \$30 for the destruction of each piece of gasoline equipment. Some participants said they are saving their gasoline equipment to use as backup, or when needed due to specific job constraints. Encouragingly, all the participants said they would purchase more electric equipment in the future.

Survey Responders Say...

16 out of 17 have taken gasoline equipment out of service

17 out of 17 will purchase more electric equipment in the future

ATTACHMENT C

Grant Agreement Approval Forms for the Period of
June 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021

August 19, 2021

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Board of Directors

GRANT AGREEMENT APPROVAL FORM

To: Air Pollution Control Officer
Staff Contact: Mike McKay
Date: 07/08/2021
Grant Program: Community Air Protection – Year 3 funds
Category: Off-Road

GRANT INFORMATION

Grantee: Innovative Produce (AP202125)
Project Location: Santa Maria Valley
Grant Agreement Amount: \$70,000
Old Equipment: 1995 John Deere Agricultural Tractor 102hp (Tier 0)
New Equipment: 2021 John Deere Agricultural Tractor 145hp (Tier 4F)
Grant Cost-Effectiveness: \$13,141
Cost-Effectiveness Limit: \$30,000
Project Life: 3 Years
Project Lifetime Emission Reductions: 5.442 tons (1.814 tons/yr)

FUND INFORMATION

Community Air Protection – Year 3 Budget: \$833,979.30
Encumbered Grant Agreements: \$833,979.30 (Including current grant)
Community Air Protection – Year 3 Balance: \$0.00

Approved: 
Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: 8 July 2021

Please contact the Board Clerk to review this grant agreement

GRANT AGREEMENT APPROVAL FORM

To: Air Pollution Control Officer
Staff Contact: Alex Economou
Date: 06/29/2021
Grant Program: Community Air Protection – Year 3 funds
Category: Infrastructure

GRANT INFORMATION

Grantee: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (AP202129)
Project Location: Santa Ynez Reservation
Grant Agreement Amount: \$34,878
New Equipment: Three (3) dual port Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations
Grant Cost-Effectiveness: Not Applicable for Infrastructure
Cost-Effectiveness Limit: Not Applicable for Infrastructure
Project Life: 3 Years
Project Lifetime Emission Reductions: Not Applicable for Infrastructure

FUND INFORMATION

Community Air Protection – Year 3 Budget: \$833,979.30
Encumbered Grant Agreements: \$760,422.30 (Including current grant)
Community Air Protection – Year 3 Balance: \$73,557

Approved: 
Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: 1 July 2021

Please contact the Board Clerk to review this grant agreement