




air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Item: E-2  
Agenda Date: December 5, 2024  
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) 979-8282

SUBJECT: District Grant and Incentives Program Activity

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the following grant program related activity:

1. An update on the Old Car Buy Back Program for vehicles retired during the period of July 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024;
2. An update on the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program for zero-emission landscape equipment vouchers during the period of July 11, 2024, through October 31, 2024; and
3. An update on the Clean Air Grants Program through October 31, 2024.

### DISCUSSION:

This item provides an update on grant and incentive programs and activities that occurred since your last Board meeting.

#### Old Car Buy Back Program:

The Old Car Buy Back Program update includes the number of vehicles retired, funds allocated, emissions reduced, average cost-effectiveness of program, and vehicle owner location. During the first three months of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, 12 vehicles were retired. Relative to prior years of operation, this is a low participation rate, primarily due to the rising cost of used vehicles and owner reluctance to sell them. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved modifications to their Carl Moyer Program Guidelines on October 24, 2024, which will now allow the District to provide an increased incentive amount to program participants and raise the

cost-effectiveness threshold which would allow the program to accept a wider range of vehicle model years and provide improvements that will benefit county residents.

Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund Program:

The Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program provides voucher incentive funds to businesses that operate gasoline powered landscape equipment in Santa Barbara County and voluntarily replace them with zero-emission landscape equipment. The LEEF Program launched on July 11, 2024 and the District employed a wide range of bilingual outreach tools including postcards sent direct mail, email outreach list to almost 500 organizations, news-releases, social media posts, community newsletters, public presentations, and an equipment demonstration event. The LEEF program is currently funded with approximately \$303,000 from the CARB Carl Moyer Program State Reserve fund and \$300,000 from DMV surcharge revenue. Over the past 15 weeks, 100% of the LEEF Program funds have been allocated to 62 projects.

Clean Air Grants Program:

The 2024 Clean Air Grants program was open to receive applications from July 29, 2024 to September 6, 2024, and the District budgeted approximately \$3 million in CARB grant funds and DMV surcharge revenue for projects. The District is currently in the process of offering grant funds and executing grant agreements for 49 projects. Of these 49 projects, there are 36 off-road replacements, 11 alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, one (1) agricultural water pump, and one (1) marine engine repower. The District will prioritize zero-emission technology projects, along with projects operating in low-income and disadvantaged communities throughout Santa Barbara County, as defined by this map:

<https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/>. Successful projects will be eligible to receive a grant within a range from \$10,000 to \$250,000.

For the 2023 Clean Air Grants program, the District executed grant agreements for 43 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$3.7 million in CARB grant funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 43 projects, there are 28 off-road equipment replacements, 10 alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, four (4) marine engine repowers, and one (1) electric school bus fleet expansion. Currently, 63% of the 43 projects have been completed with the remainder in the implementation process.

For the 2022 Clean Air Grants program, the District is currently implementing 57 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$3.9 million in CARB grants funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 57 projects, there were 37 off-road equipment replacements, 12 alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, three (3) marine engine repowers, two (2) on-road heavy-duty vehicles, two (2) electric school bus fleet expansions, and one (1) agricultural water pump. Currently, 81% of the 57 projects have been completed.

For the 2021 Clean Air Grants program, the District is currently implementing 31 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$2.7 million in CARB grants funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 31 projects, there were 19 off-road equipment replacements, nine (9) alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, two (2) electric school bus fleet expansions, and one (1) marine engine repower. Currently, 84% of the 31 projects have been completed.

For the 2020 Clean Air Grants program, the District is currently implementing 23 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$1.8 million in CARB grants funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 23 projects, there were 17 off-road equipment replacements, four (4) alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, one (1) electric school bus fleet expansion, and one (1) marine engine repower. Currently, 96% of the 23 projects have been completed.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Old Car Buy Back Program Update.
- B. Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund Program Update.

# ATTACHMENT A

## Old Car Buy Back Program Update

December 5, 2024

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

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



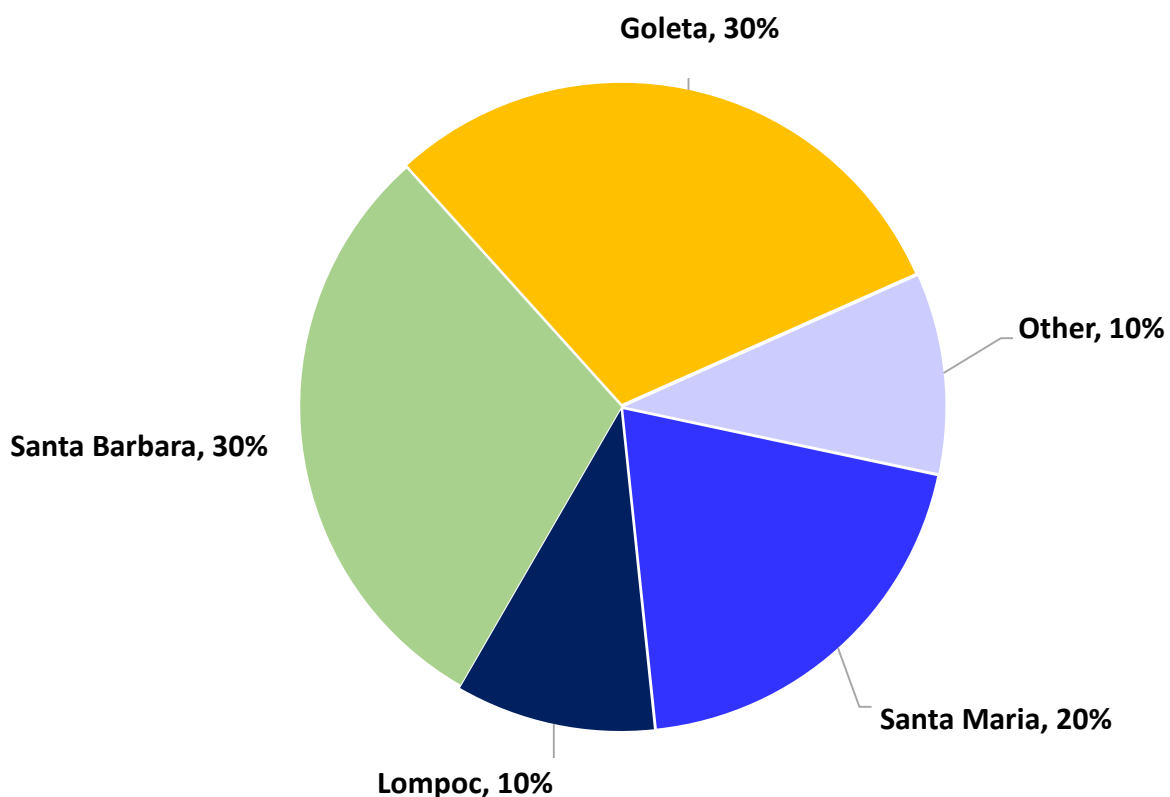
## Old Car Buy Back Program Update

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 earn \$250 for each vehicle that they help 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		
	10/1/24 – 10/31/24	FY 2024 - 2025
Vehicles retired	2	12
Funds committed @ \$1,250/vehicle	\$2,500	\$15,000
Total tons reduced [NOx+ ROC + PM]	0.17	0.95
Average project cost-effectiveness	\$14,659/ton	\$15,727/ton

### Vehicle Owner Location (FY 2024-2025)



## ATTACHMENT B

### Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund Program Update

December 5, 2024

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 Update

The LEEF Program offers vouchers for the trade-in of gasoline landscape equipment for zero-emission electric landscape equipment. Businesses, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and public schools that perform their own landscape maintenance services, and that are located in or conduct business within Santa Barbara County, are eligible to participate in the LEEF Program. The current cycle of the LEEF Program is funded with \$303,443 from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and \$300,000 from DMV surcharge revenue for a total of \$603,448 available for projects. The voucher covers a large portion of the purchase price for new equipment, including mowers, leaf blowers, edgers, trimmers, chainsaws, batteries, and chargers. Vouchers are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The program reopened on July 11 and has been very popular with community members. This round of the LEEF Program closed on November 15. Approved voucher applications that exceeded the total allocated CARB funds were funded with DMV surcharge revenue.

The program helps to reduce gasoline 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.

LEEF Program Voucher Incentives (July 11 – October 31, 2024)				
Organization Type	Applications Received	Vouchers Issued		Funds Expended
	Number	Number	Funds Issued	
Business	41	34	\$391,788	\$302,758
Public Agency	3	2	\$7,180	\$6,540
School	6	5	\$79,925	\$59,800
Non-profit	7	6	\$99,195	\$93,723
Total	57	47	\$578,088	\$462,821

### VOUCHERS ISSUED BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

