



Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

Santa Barbara County Air Quality News • Issue 84 • Fall 2005

On the Air

Guide to a Clean-Air Ride

In November, APCD launched a "Guide to a Clean-Air Ride" campaign to help consumers buy vehicles that are more fuel efficient, and pollute less.

"This is for everyone. No matter what kind of vehicle you are looking for—new or used, big or small—you can compare vehicles and make a choice," notes Bobbie Bratz, APCD Public Information Officer.

The outreach effort terms common misconceptions about new cars "tailpipe hype." Says Bratz, "For example, some people who have heard about hybrids think that that's the only way to go if you want to buy a cleaner, more fuel-efficient car. But there are important differences between vehicles in every category—whether they're hybrids or not. And some gas-only cars are extremely clean and very



fuel efficient. Our goal is to help people make choices at all levels that are better for our air."

All new vehicles less than 8500 pounds (this includes most light trucks and Sport Utility Vehicles, as well as cars) are required by law to display "Smog Index"

readings on the sticker on the vehicle window. The stickers also list fuel efficiency of vehicles in miles per gallon. The "Clean-Air Ride" outreach effort suggests buyers look for the lowest possible Smog Index reading, and the highest miles per gallon numbers. Vehicles that are fuel

efficient not only save money on gasoline, they also reduce the pollution that contributes to global climate change. Consumers can also significantly improve gas mileage through driving and car maintenance strategies (see article page two).

Used vehicles also differ significantly in air pollution and fuel efficiency ratings, and cars that are model year 1999 or newer have had to meet more stringent air pollution regulations. Cars that are 1996 and newer use a coolant that's better for the environment.

2005 and 2006 model trucks and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) have different air pollution standards from cars, and air pollution classifications have different meanings for these vehicles. For example, a 2006

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Climate Change: New Findings and Effects on Air Quality

A new study by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory projects that air quality in the western U.S., including California, will worsen by 2050 due to temperature increases associated with global climate change.

The modeling study, funded by the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, is one of the first to project effects of climate change on air quality. The study predicted a temperature increase of up to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit by the fall of 2050 that would result in more bad-air days in West — from the Rockies west to the coastal mountains. According to the study, air quality would

worsen slightly in Texas, but could improve in the Midwest, due to increased cloud cover in that region. The findings reinforce the view that effects of global climate change will vary significantly from region to region.

Results of another major study published in November indicate

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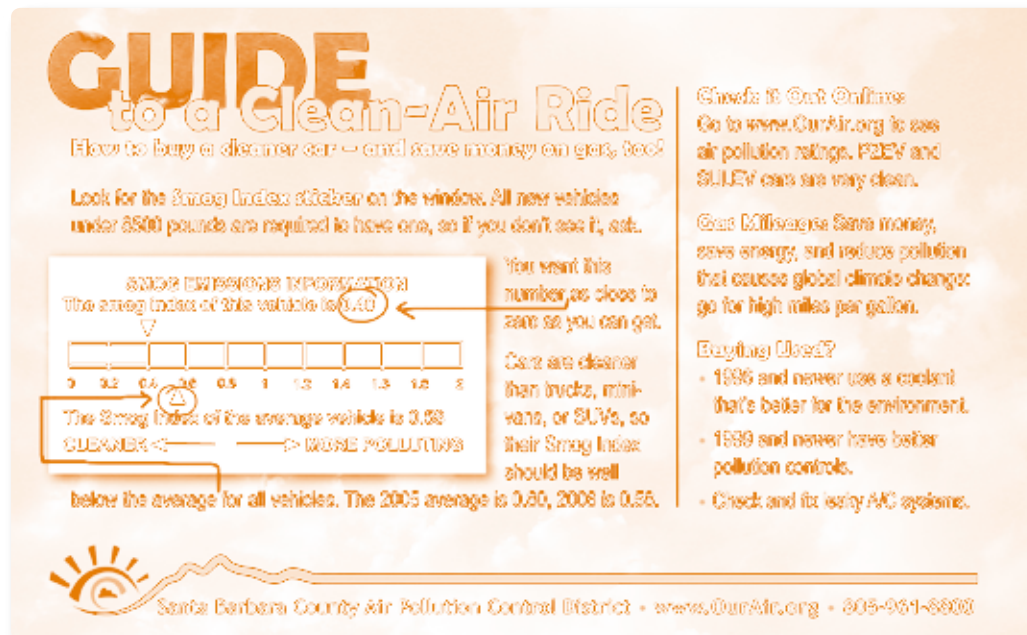
Annual Reports Due

Annual Report forms are due March 1, 2006. Download forms from APCD's website on this page: www.sbcapcd.org/eng/dl/dl08.htm. For more information, call APCD's Business Assistance Line at 961-8868.

Guide to a Clean-Air Ride (cont'd)

SUV that's classified as "super ultra low emissions vehicle" (SULEV) can pollute ten times more than a car that's a SULEV.

Starting in January 2007, new vehicles in California will be required to display information on greenhouse gas emissions along with the information on smog emissions, in an "air pollution rating" on the vehicle sticker that will replace the Smog Index sticker. Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide (as N₂O, nitrous oxide), and hydrofluorocarbons, trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere in a "greenhouse" effect. California's Greenhouse Gas Rule requires reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles of model year 2009 or later.



GUIDE to a Clean-Air Ride
How to buy a cleaner car — and save money on gas, too!

Look for the Smog Index sticker on the window. All new vehicles under 8500 pounds are required to have one, so if you don't see it, ask.

SMOG PERFORMANCE INFORMATION
The smog index of this vehicle is 0.40

The Smog Index of the average vehicle is 0.98
SUCKER! —> MORE POLLUTION

You want this number as close to zero as you can get.

Cars are cleaner than trucks, mini-vans, or SUVs, so their Smog Index should be well below the average for all vehicles. The 2005 average is 0.90, 2006 is 0.85.

Check It Out Online:
Go to www.OurAir.org to see air pollution ratings. P2EV and SULEV cars are very clean.

Gas Mileage: Save money, save energy, and reduce pollution that causes global climate change: go for high miles per gallon.

Buying Used?

- 1996 and newer use a coolant that's better for the environment.
- 1999 and newer have better pollution controls.
- Check and fix leaky A/C systems.

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District • www.OurAir.org • 805-961-8600

For more information, and to look up air pollution and fuel efficiency ratings, see www.sbcapcd.org.

Save Money and Fuel

You can make a difference in the fuel efficiency of your vehicle. Here's how.

❖ **Look at the road ahead,** and accelerate and brake gradually. Aggressive driving can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

❖ **Follow the speed limit.** Gas mileage decreases rapidly at

speeds above 60 miles per hour (mph). In fact, each 5 mph that you drive over 60 is like paying an additional 21 cents per gallon for gas. Using cruise control can also help maintain a constant speed and save gas.

❖ **Drive a lighter vehicle** when you have a choice, and don't keep extra weight in your vehicle.

❖ **Don't idle.** Excessive idling

wastes fuel, produces extra air pollution, and can be bad for your engine.

❖ **Keep tires pumped up,** check and replace air filters, and keep your car tuned up.

❖ **Drive less.** Combine car trips, carpool, vanpool, walk, bike, or take the bus or train. Start by trying to eliminate just one extra car trip a week.

For more information on fuel economy, driving less, and how to buy a clean-air car, visit APCD's website at www.sbcapcd.org.

Climate Change (cont'd from page 1)

there is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than at any time in the last 650,000 years. This study, by the European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica, analyzed tiny air bubbles preserved in Arctic ice for hundreds of thousands of years.

Carbon dioxide is considered a principal greenhouse gas, involved in the "greenhouse effect" of trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The world's temperature is up 1°F over the past century; some of the coldest, most remote spots have warmed up much more. This

phenomenon is referred to as global warming, or global climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that the global climate is changing at a rate unmatched in the past one thousand years, and that this change is due to human activity, primarily the

burning of fossil fuels, producing a buildup of greenhouse gases.

For more information on global climate change, see www.sbcapcd.org/sbc/climatechange.htm.

New Engineer at APCD

APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the August and October board meetings.

August

- Appointed Robert Saperstein to the APCD Hearing Board.
- Approved \$250,000 in funding allocation for the Lower Emission School Bus Replacement Program.
- Approved \$300,000 in additional funding for the Off-Road Diesel Repower Program.
- Approved \$150,000 in additional funding allocation for the Marine Diesel Engine Repower Program.
- Adopted a resolution proclaiming September 19 – 25, 2005 National Pollution Prevention Week affirming the Air Pollution Control District's continued commitment to pollution prevention.

October

- Authorized a grant agreement with Cuyama Joint Unified School District for \$119,466 towards the purchase of a new school bus under the Lower Emission School Bus Replacement Program.
- Adopted the schedule of dates and locations for the year 2006 APCD Board meetings.
- Received and filed the 2004 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Annual Report.

Kaitlin Ergun started with the APCD in September as an Air Quality Engineer, and will be working on diesel emergency/standby engine permits, as well as other types of permits. She has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB). She is a member of the UCSB chapter of Engineers without Borders, and traveled to Araypallpa, Peru in the summers of 2004 and 2005.



Araypallpa has no electricity, and in 2004 the group installed solar panels and a battery that is charged by the solar power at an elementary school there. The battery provides power to

light two classrooms at night, so the children can take classes then, since they work in the fields during the day. The group tested the drinking water system in 2004, and found that it was

contaminated, so in 2005 they installed a sand filter system on one of the tanks, and trained local community members to monitor and maintain the system. They plan to return in 2006 to install filters on the other water tanks and continue the training process.

Ergun notes, "Engineers without Borders really opened my eyes to the environmental side of engineering. When I heard about the position at APCD, it sounded like something I could do with my engineering degree that would make a difference."

Carbon Monoxide Winter Threat

Every winter some people are exposed to toxic levels of carbon monoxide (CO) from improperly vented or leaking furnaces, ovens and fireplaces.

Proper use and maintenance of any appliances that produce a flame such as gas furnaces, gas and propane space heaters and small barbecues, can prevent exposure to lethal levels of CO.

California law prevents the use of kerosene or propane space heaters, charcoal grills and unvented gas logs indoors, because of the danger of poor ventilation.

People who heat with propane appliances, older wall or floor gas furnaces and fireplaces should be especially careful. Fireplaces and wood stoves should be checked for damage and cleaned each year before use.

If you are concerned about the safety of your gas furnace or oven, contact your local utility provider or utility-certified heating contractor, and request a Combustion Appliance Safety Test.

WWW.sbcapcd.org New On The Web

❖ Reducing Diesel Pollution from School Buses

Information resources designed to help school communities, environmental officials, and others reduce harmful diesel emissions from school buses. See "School Bus Toolkit."

❖ Diesel Engines and the State's Air Toxics Control Measure

Expanded information for businesses — see "Diesel Engine Permits."

❖ Emissions from Large Container Ships

Documents, downloads and links — see "Marine Shipping."

APCD Board Calendar

Board of Directors

Supervisor Salud Carbajal
First District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Susan Rose
Second District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Brooks Firestone
Third District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Joni Gray
Fourth District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Joe Centeno
Fifth District
Santa Barbara County

Mayor Russ Hicks
City of Buellton

Councilmember Donna Jordan
City of Carpinteria

Councilmember Margaret A. Connell
City of Goleta

Mayor Lupe Alvarez
City of Guadalupe

Councilmember Will Schuyler
City of Lompoc

Councilmember Dan Secord
City of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Marty Mariscal
City of Santa Maria

Councilmember Edwin Skytt
City of Solvang

All meetings start at 2 p.m. For final meeting agendas, call the APCD Board Clerk, 961-8853.

January 19

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

March 16

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

May 18

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

June 15

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Linda Beard, 961-8853.

Top Five Tips for Cleaner Fireplace Burning

Wood smoke contains dust, soot, and cancer-causing chemicals. Breathing wood smoke reduces lung function, and aggravates heart and lung diseases, and can trigger asthma. Take some of the steps below for the sake of your health and safety—and that of your neighbors.

1. Clean your chimney. A dirty chimney full of creosote is a chimney fire waiting to happen.

2. Don't burn trash. Burning trash can cause toxic chemicals to go into the air, and into your lungs. Don't burn any of these: plastics, chemicals, wrapping paper, magazines, or any coated papers (including newspaper inserts, junk mail, etc.).

3. Be a good neighbor and notice your smoke. Burn dry, seasoned wood, and build small hot fires rather than large smoldering ones. Burn safely in your fireplace. Keep your fireplace screen closed to keep sparks from landing on the carpeting, and have a spark arrester on top of your chimney to keep sparks from landing on the roof and causing a roof or attic fire.

4. Save your fireplace or woodstove for special occasions. Fireplace fires are not a very efficient way to produce heat. The safest way to heat your home, and the cleanest for the air, is through a central heating system.

5. Use a gas log if you can, and NEVER burn wood in a fireplace that was designed for a gas log. Decorative fireplaces are not built to handle wood fires. Burning wood in one of these fireplaces is asking for trouble, and could create a dangerous situation.

Office

260 N. San Antonio Rd. Suite A
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1315

Business Assistance

(805) 961-8868

Daily Air Quality Report

www.sbcapcd.org

Complaints/Public Information

(805) 961-8800

World Wide Web

www.sbcapcd.org

E-Mail

apcd@sbcapcd.org

On the Air is a quarterly newsletter published by the Community Programs Section of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. For further information on items in this newsletter, or to be added to our subscription list, please call Bobbie Bratz, 961-8890 or Email bratzb@sbcapcd.org.



Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Celebrating Green Business Leaders

Over the past twelve years, the Green Award Consortium has recognized some sixty companies in the county with Green Awards for outstanding environmental efforts. In September the Consortium, made up of APCD, Santa Barbara County Public Works Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, SBCAG/Traffic Solutions, the Community Environmental Council, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, announced the 2005 Green Award winners.

The Goleta Union School District was honored for innovative transportation, waste management, energy use, and landscaping programs. The District runs its bus fleet on compressed natural gas and ultra-low sulfur diesel, and has installed pollution controls to reduce diesel exhaust pollution.



Willie Brown (left), Executive Director of Housing and Residential Services at the University of California at Santa Barbara, a 2004 Green Award winner, congratulates Jay Sullivan, Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation for 2005 Green Award winner Goleta Union School District.

The District also has a comprehensive recycling program, uses integrated pest management, and is trying to become the first pesticide-free school district in the county.

The Isla Vista Food Cooperative was recognized for advanced recycling and composting programs, designed to reduce waste and unnecessary packaging. The Cooperative also works to offer organic and fair trade choices to consumers.

Midland School in Los Olivos was honored for a variety of programs, including a solar installation and education project, recycling and planting programs, and for its work towards building a compressed earth block faculty house, the first of its kind permitted in California.

Santa Barbara Contractors Association Education Foundation was recognized for its Built Green Santa Barbara program, with more than forty member companies, including contractors, builders, developers, architects, material suppliers, financial institutions, and local government agencies, all working to promote development, design and construction that incorporate energy and water conservation, reduction and management of construction waste, and environmentally-sensitive site planning.

Spiritland Bistro in Santa Barbara was recognized for using organic ingredients, conserving resources, supporting pesticide-free farms, and emphasizing local purchasing.

For more information on the Green Award, see www.greendifference.org.

Marian Medical Center Honored for Environmental Efforts

In October, Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria received a Mercury Elimination Leadership Program Award from the California Department of Health Services for virtually eliminating the use of mercury in the hospital. The Center is the first hospital in Santa Barbara County to receive this award.

Marian has been reducing mercury use since 2000, and last year sponsored a mercury-reduction workshop led by the state's Department of Toxic

Substances Control. Stephen Kubo, Staff Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Health Services, presented the award, and thanked Marian Medical Center for being an environmental role model in hosting the workshop and achieving the goal of becoming virtually mercury free.

Mercury is a toxic substance, and when mercury-containing equipment used in hospitals, including fever thermometers,



Stephen Kubo (on left), Staff Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Health Services, presents the award to Dennis Daniel, Marian's Manager of Plant Operations, as members of Marian's Partners for the Environment Committee look on. Pictured (from left, behind Kubo and Daniel), Donna Fulton, Charles J. Cova (President of Marian Medical Center), Katerina Zamora, Craig Miller, Sister Janet Corcoran (Committee Chair, and Vice President of Mission Services) and Linda Ingram.

(continued on back)



Business Focus

Requirements for Portable Engines

Businesses that use portable engines of 50 horsepower (hp) or greater must register the engines with the state through the Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) or obtain local permits for the engines through APCD.

The state's registration program for existing engines closes at the end of December. After that time, all existing unregistered engines will be required to obtain a permit with APCD or to have additional emissions controls to

qualify for the state program. Operation of unregistered and unpermitted engines after December 31, 2005 will result in additional penalties. Engines covered by the PERP program are in a range of types of equipment, including: cranes; pumps; diesel pile-driving hammers; welding equipment; service or work-over rigs; well drilling; dredges on boats or barges; wood chippers; and tactical support equipment. Portable equipment units include the following: confined and

unconfined abrasive blasting operations; concrete batch plants; sand and gravel screening, rock crushing and pavement crushing and recycling operations; and tub grinders and trommel screens.

For more information about the statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program, see www.arb.ca.gov/portable/perp/perp.htm - or call the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Information Line at (916) 324-5869 (24 hours), or (during business hours) contact Jon Pederson at (916) 327-5981.

Marian Medical Center (cont'd)

blood pressure cuffs, and other types of equipment, becomes waste, the mercury can leach into groundwater, potentially polluting drinking water, and harming fish, plants, and animals.

Said Dennis Daniel, Manager of Plant Operations at Marian, "After the workshop, we went back out and looked at out inventory and saw that we could reduce our mercury use even more." In the last year, Marian maintenance staff inspected every room, in every facility, on every hospital site, to eliminate equipment containing mercury.

Charles J. Cova, President of Marian Medical Center, thanked Dennis Daniel for his efforts in achieving the 98 percent reduction in mercury use at the hospital. Cova also thanked Sister Janet Corcoran, Vice President of Mission Services, for her environmental leadership. Sister Corcoran is Chair of Marian's Partners for the Environment Committee, which supports numerous environmental efforts at the center.

Marian Medical Center received the Green Award in 1999 for superior waste reduction and

recycling efforts, and went on to receive several additional environmental awards: the "Completing the Cycle" Award from Engle & Gray in 2001, and the WRAP (Waste Reduction Awards Program) Award from the California Integrated Waste Management Board in 2001 and 2002. In 2002 Marian was selected from the 2,152 California businesses receiving the award that year, to be one of the top ten "WRAP of the Year" award winners in the entire state.

APCD Grants for Local Businesses

Close to \$1 Million for Cleaner Engines

Applications for APCD grant funds for cleaner engines are now available. Equipment that is eligible for grants for repowers or retrofits includes:

On-Road Vehicles

Off-Road Vehicles/ Equipment

Agricultural Water Pumps

School Buses

Marine Engines

Other (Forklifts, Locomotives and more)

Contact Information:

Gary Hoffman at (805) 961-8818, gah@sbcapcd.org or

Anthony Fournier at (805) 961-8874 adf@sbcapcd.org.

For more information visit: www.sbcapcd.org/itg/itg.htm.

APCD's Business Assistance Program



Our Business Assistance Representatives offer help to businesses over the phone and by email, and we also provide educational site visits to help owners understand and comply with our rules and requirements. The site visits are educational, not regulatory, and are conducted by a business assistance representative, not an APCD inspector. A site visit can help business owners: understand and comply with our permit conditions, rules and record keeping requirements; learn about new regulations that might be coming up; and find out about ways to prevent pollution.

Find out more:

Visit this page on our website: www.sbcapcd.org/biz/business.htm

Call the Business Assistance Line at 961-8868, Email business@sbcapcd.org.