

Air district offering rebates to promote electric mowers

Staff reports

In the Fresno and Modesto Bees and other papers, Tuesday, June 4, 2013

MERCED — Going green doesn't just mean adding solar panels to the house, recycling used items or driving a hybrid vehicle.

It can be as simple as altering how those routine weekend chores are done by switching from gas-powered lawnmowers to electric models.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District hopes to get more people to make the change from gas to electric mowers through its Clean Green Yard Machines rebate program.

The district announced Tuesday it's offering \$1 million in rebates as an incentive to get more people to go electric when cutting the lawn. The program was retooled from the earlier voucher-based system, officials said.

"This is by far our most popular consumer program, and with this historic funding level, we're able to help more valley residents," said Samir Sheikh, the district's coordinator of incentive programs.

Rebates of as much as \$250 are granted on a sliding scale depending on the price of the new electric mower. That will allow consumers to purchase larger, more costly models that better fit their needs, officials said.

Program participants must be residents of the eight-county district, which includes Merced and Stanislaus. Other requirements include:

- Purchase must be made from manufacturer-authorized dealers and retailers, including hardware and home improvement stores.
- Applicants must replace a functioning gas- or diesel-powered mower with a new, cordless, battery-powered mower by surrendering the old one to a program-authorized dismantler.
- Electric mowers must be new, not previously owned or used.
- Rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

District officials said the program is important because electric mowers dramatically reduce emissions from the air basin.

For complete guidelines, lists of eligible mowers and authorized dismantlers, go to the district website at www.valleyair.org or call (559) 230-5800.

People can contact the nearest regional office: (559) 230-6000 for the Fresno area and (209) 557-6400 for the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

Air District offers \$1 million for electric mower purchases

Staff reports

Central Valley Business Times, Tuesday, June 4, 2013

If all goes as planned, the San Joaquin Valley will hear more of the muted whine of electric lawn mowers and a lot less of the put-putting and air pollution from gasoline-powered mowers.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's "Clean Green Yard Machines" program opens June 4 with more funding and more lawn mower options than in previous years.

The program removes older, polluting, gas-powered lawn mowers from use and replaces them with emission-free, cordless, electric mowers at reduced cost to Valley consumers.

"This is, by far, our most popular consumer program, and with this historic funding level, we're able to help more Valley residents," says Samir Sheikh, the Air District's director of incentive programs.

The program has been retooled from a voucher-based incentive program to a rebate program, and consumers can select from a range of mowers to replace their gas-powered mowers. Rebates are granted on a sliding scale up to \$250, depending on the price of the new mower. Program participants must be residents of the eight-county air basin.

Additional requirements include:

- Purchase must be made on or after June 4 from manufacturer authorized dealers and retailers. These may include local hardware and home improvement stores.
- Applicants must replace a functional, existing gas- or diesel-powered lawn mower with the new, cordless, battery-powered mower by surrendering the old mower to a program authorized dismantler.
- Electric mowers must be new and not previously used or owned.
- Rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Using a gas-powered mower for one hour can produce emissions equivalent to driving 40 late-model cars for one hour, the Air District claims.

Drilldown

For more information: www.valleyair.org

Air District offers rebates for buying electric lawn mowers

by Laura Liera, staff writer

Bakersfield Californian, Tuesday, Jun. 4, 2013

It's a portable 31-pound electric lawn mower that can be picked up with one hand. It's powered by a battery that charges in 35 minutes and lasts up to 25 minutes, the perfect amount of time to mow about 3,200 square feet of lawn.

This orange and white lawn mower is part of the San Joaquin Valley Air District's Clean Green Yard Machines program. It removes older, polluting, gas-powered lawn mowers from use and replaces them with emission-free, cordless, electric lawn mowers.

The program started in 2001 but this year, it has been relaunched from a voucher-based incentive to a rebate. There's \$1 million available to be given in rebates.

"We heard from the public and customers that they wanted it to be a little easier to participate in the program so for the last year we have been working extremely hard to create this rebate program for our customers," Jaime Holt, chief communications officer for Valley Air District, said Tuesday during a news conference promoting the rebates.

Program participants must replace a functional, existing gas or diesel powered lawn mower with the new, cordless, battery-powered mower. They can take their gas powered lawn mower to an authorized recycling center and must then submit a completed application, found online, to the Valley Air District, along with the receipt for the purchased lawn mower and a verification document for the recycled lawn mower. The new lawn mower must be bought on or after June 4 from an authorized retailer or dealer.

The rebate, up to \$250, varies based on the price of the lawn mower. If the mower cost \$200 or less, the rebate would be up to \$100. It's one rebate per household.

"This is an ideal equipment piece to have in your household because it's zero emission exhaust and you're helping the environment, which is always a plus," said Charles Kim, territory manager of STIHL, a manufacturing company that has joined the valley district in the program.

Electric lawn mowers remove a significant amount of emissions from the air basin. Using a gas-powered mower for one hour can produce emissions equivalent to driving 40 late-model cars for one hour, Holt said.

One significant feature Kim hopes customers will appreciate is the battery that is used to run the lawn mower.

The battery is lithium-iron technology, which means it has a memory of its own and won't lose memory as it's in use, Kim said.

"If you don't use all the battery life in one day, and you keep it in your garage for two months without using it, when you do come back to power it up, it won't be dead like most battery-powered objects," Kim said. "The battery charge will be in the same place it last was."

The electric lawn mowers are not for customers who have more than one acre of lawn. They are designed for urban residential use.

For more information on the program and to apply, visit www.valleyair.org/lawnmowers or call 559-230-5800.

Valley air district offering rebates for buying electric lawnmowers

By David Castellon, staff writer
Visalia Times-Delta, June 5, 2013

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is offering rebates up to \$250 to people who replace their gas-powered lawnmowers with electric ones.

District officials announced today that they have \$1 million to continue their Clean Green Yard Machines program, which started today.

This program is different from in the past, as this time consumers can select from a list of electric mowers that don't emit pollutants to replace their gas-powered mowers. Those electric brands include STIHL, Neuton and Toro.

The rebates are available on a sliding scale, so the rebate amount can vary, depending on which model is bought.

Participants have to live in one of the eight Valley counties the air district covers, including Tulare County, and they have to surrender their working, gas-powered mowers to an authorized dismantler.

The rebates will be given on a first-come basis, until the money runs out.

To get a list of the electric mowers and other information about the program, go online to www.valleyair.org or call 230-5800.

Air district offering rebates to promote electric mowers

Staff reports
Sacramento Bee, June 5, 2013

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