

## **Rebates offered to replace some mowers**

Stockton Record, Saturday, May 27, 2017

People who want to replace their highly polluting gas- or diesel-powered lawn mowers could receive rebates up to \$250 from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

In order to qualify, people need to purchase a new electric mower and take the operational gas or diesel mowers they are replacing to an authorized program dismantler.

Such machines in use for one hour can produce emissions equal to that produced by 12 late-model cars in the same time.

Rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. For electric mowers costing \$200 or less, the rebate is up to 50 percent of its value; for mowers costing \$201 to \$350, the rebate is \$150; and mowers costing \$351 or more, the rebate is 50 percent of the value up to a rebate of \$250.

Applications can be submitted by mail to the Air Pollution Control District, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA, 95356.

For complete guidelines, a list of eligible electric mowers, and a list of authorized dismantlers, go to [valleyair.org/lawnmowers](http://valleyair.org/lawnmowers) or call the district's grant program at (559) 230-5800.

## **Central Valley now has more electric car charging stations than any rural area**

Central Valley Times, Wednesday, May 24, 2017

The Central Valley's first solar electric vehicle charging station project was switched "on" on Wednesday in formal ceremonies in Fowler.

With locations in all of Fresno County's rural cities, this project marks the largest deployment of chargers in the Valley and highlights the region's efforts to establish a footprint for clean technology. It is being called the nation's largest deployment of charging stations in a rural area.

"The Valley continues to be a national leader in innovative projects designed to improve our air quality," says Seyed Sadredin, executive director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. "These types of innovative partnerships will be instrumental as the Valley works hard to meeting increasingly stricter federal air quality goals."

In all, 13 transportable solar EV Level 2 Dual Port charging stations are now actively in use throughout Fresno County. They are known as electric vehicle autonomous renewable chargers.

The charging system is a product of Envision Solar of San Diego and features a patented sun tracking system that allows for optimal electricity generation by following the natural course of the sun throughout the day. Each unit also contains integrated off-grid battery storage which delivers up to 200 "e" miles daily and allows use during the day, night, and during power outages. The charging stations do not require any permits, foundations, or electrical connections and can be easily moved to a new location within minutes.

An electric vehicle powered by the California electricity grid, on average, on a total cycle basis, emits about one third of the greenhouse gas emissions as a comparable size gasoline car. When an electric vehicle is recharged by solar panels, the total emissions level is effectively zero.

The solar powered charging stations will provide no-cost charging for Valley EV drivers, helping to make electric cars more affordable for Fresno County residents. Twelve of the 13 units are located in disadvantaged communities.

Each dual port charger will not only provide public charging access but also have a dedicated charging port for transit systems and utility vehicles. These units are located in Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Reedley, San Joaquin, Kerman, Coalinga, Huron, Parlier, Orange Cove, Mendota, Firebaugh and Sanger.

The total cost of this project was \$800,000 with the Valley Air District providing \$78,000 through a program that is funded through locally generated DMV fees and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency incurred the remaining balance through a Caltrans grant.