

Frito-Lay targets near-zero emissions at its Modesto plant

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Frito-Lay –a division of PepsiCoInc. (NASDAQ: PEP) –says it plans to replace all of its existing diesel-powered freight equipment with zero-emission (ZE) and near-zero emission (NZE) technologies at its Modesto manufacturing site.

The project is to transform the 500,000-square-foot site –one of Frito-Lay's largest in the U.S. –into an industry-leading showcase for environmentally sustainable manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, the snack maker says.

It's a first-of-its-kind for PepsiCo and Frito-Lay and is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that uses billions of cap-and-trade dollars. CCI funding is awarded by several state agencies including the California Air Resources Board.

“We hope this work will become an operating model for all of our facilities across the U.S., and that we act as the catalyst to accelerate adoption of alternative fuel vehicles across the industry, says Michael O'Connell, vice president of supply chain, PepsiCo.

Expected to be completed in 2021, the \$30.8 million Modesto project will integrate an array of commercially available and pre-commercial ZE and NZE technologies in numerous applications, among them fleet vehicles and supporting infrastructure, on-site renewable energy generation and energy storage systems. The Modesto project will also contribute to industry knowledge of the emerging technologies by funding data collection and reporting of the project results.

The project is the result of a partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which received a grant from CCI –matched by investments from Frito-Lay and American Natural Gas, as well as in-kind contributions from Café Coop –to support the Modesto sustainability initiative.

“Bravo to Frito-Lay for its commitment to improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions as an integral part of their business model,” says Alexander Sherriffs, CARB board member and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District board member. “These are the goals of CCI, putting cap-and-trade dollars back into communities to improve health, promote economic development and address climate change.”

The current ZE and NZE project is a continuation of the Modesto facility's sustainability initiatives. The Modesto site sends less than 1 percent of its waste to landfill and leverages improved technologies, the company says.

New incentive funding available for commercial landscapers

By Cassandra Melching

The Bakersfield Californian, Sunday, October 6, 2019

Public agencies and private entities in the valley air basin portion of Kern County may receive up to \$25,000 annually through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Clean Green Yard Machines: Commercial Voucher Program.

The program provides incentives for the replacement of landscape maintenance equipment to lawn care providers.

Applicants can switch their gas- or diesel-powered professional landscape maintenance equipment used for their daily operations to a zero-emission, all-electric battery equivalent.

Funding for this program is on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify, 100 percent of landscape maintenance operations must occur within the geographic area of the San Joaquin Valley air basin.

This is a voucher program; one must obtain approval from the Valley Air District by submitting a completed application before purchasing or disposing of any eligible equipment.

In order to test out the new battery-operated electric equipment to determine its viability for their business, an interested agency may apply for a piece of equipment and then reapply later the same year for additional pieces.

Funding will be limited to \$25,000 annually per applicant. Refer to the chart for funding breakdown.

To participate in this program, visit www.valleyair.org/grants/cgym-commercial.htm to review application and program guidelines. New equipment must be of the same type as the old equipment and is funded on a 1-to-1 replacement ratio (i.e., one old gas-powered edger for one new electric-powered edger).

Old equipment must be fully functional and surrendered to an approved dismantler for permanent destruction.

For more information, contact the Bakersfield District Office at 661-392-5500.

Cassandra Melching is an outreach and communications representative with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.