

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
April 2011

Spring; the greenest time of the year

There is no shortage of environmentally-related events in April and May, providing the opportunity for all to learn and even experience a variety of ways to be more green.

Even if you've missed the Earth Day celebration closest to you, there are many more such events scheduled throughout the Valley.

Valley residents still have time to gain insight on cleaning the air and water, understanding organic agriculture, protecting rivers, investigating alternative energy, improving health and riding your bike to reduce traffic congestion, and save gas and money.

Mark your calendars for these exciting and interesting events:

April 28 – Fresno, Earth Day Sustainability at Fresno State, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Location: Fresno State Student Union

April 30 - Fresno, Fresno Earth Day 2011, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m., Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

April 30 – Orange Cove, Earth Day Celebration, noon-3 p.m., Location: Eaton Park, 633 6th St., Orange Cove

April 30 – Bakersfield, Celebrate CSUB! from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Location: Cal State Bakersfield

May 7 - Merced, World Asthma Day Health Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Location: Mercy Hospital, 333 Mercy Ave., Merced

May 7 – Arvin, Tune In & Tune Up Car Clean-Up Event, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Location: Arvin High School

May 10 - Stockton, University of the Pacific's Bike to Work Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Location: University of Pacific

May 14 - Modesto, Modesto's Family Cycling Festival, All day Location: Downtown Modesto

May 14-15 – Bakersfield, Bike Bakersfield Cycle Fest, Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Location: Mill Creek Park

May 16 - Lodi, Bike to Work Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Location: Postal Plaza, Lodi

May 17 – Modesto, Bike to Work Day, 6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m., Amgen Tour, 10 a.m. plus all-day festival, Location: 10th St. Place, Downtown Modesto

May 17 - Bakersfield, Bike to Work Day, 6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m., Location: Bike path at Beach Park, Manor & Denise, Stockdale & Don Hart East

May 18 - Stockton, Bike to Work Day, 6:30 a.m.-9 a.m., Location: Janet Leigh Plaza, Downtown Stockton

May 19 – Tracy, Bike to Work Day, 6:30 a.m.-noon, Location: Tracy Transit station

May 20 - Merced, Bike to Work Day, time TBA, Location: City-wide

May 23-27 – Bakersfield, California State University, Bakersfield Green Week, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Location: Cal State Bakersfield Student Union

The Air District has attempted to the best of its ability to provide a complete list of events. Please contact us if you would like your event listed on www.healthyairliving.com.

Air monitoring stations key tool for pollution control

The Valley Air District operates an extensive network of air quality monitors throughout the San Joaquin Valley to support its mission of improving and protecting public health. District staff use the hourly readings from real-time monitors to generate daily air quality forecasts for each of the Valley's eight counties, and communicates these forecasts on the District website, the District's Smog Info line (1-800 766 4663), in Valley media, and through the school air quality flag program. This information allows Valley residents to take air quality into account when planning outdoor activities.

The District also uses real-time air quality data to manage prescribed burning, agricultural burning and residential fireplace use to ensure that these activities do not make air quality worse.

As part of the District's long-term efforts to improve public health, air monitors collect samples that are rigorously analyzed by laboratory technicians and District staff. This data determines the Valley's attainment status for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health-based air quality standards. The data is also fundamental in the Valley's efforts to achieve improved air quality and attainment of the EPA's health-based standards as quickly as possible.

The map below shows all air monitoring locations used in the San Joaquin Valley air monitoring network. Sites operated by the Air District are underlined. Other sites are operated by the California Air Resources Board.

