

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - June 2013

## Air District reopens lawn mower exchange program



Back by popular demand, the Air District's Clean Green Yard Machines program is now open with more funding and more lawn mower options than ever before.

The program removes older, polluting, gas-powered lawn mowers from use and replaces them with zero-emission, cordless, electric mowers at a significantly 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," said Samir Sheikh, the Air District's director of incentive programs.



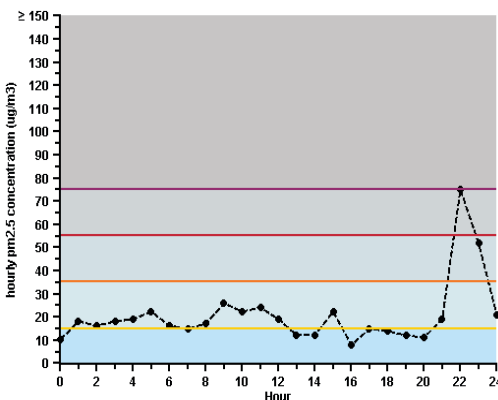
Clean Green Yard Machines has been retooled from a voucher-based incentive program to a rebate program, and consumers can select from a wide range of mowers to replace their gas-powered mowers.

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 a 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.

Electric lawn mowers remove a significant amount of emissions from the air basin; for example, using a gas-powered mower for one hour can produce emissions equivalent to driving 40 late-model cars for the same period of time.

For complete program guidelines, lists of eligible mowers and authorized dismantlers, visit the Air District's website at [www.valleyair.org/lawnmowers](http://www.valleyair.org/lawnmowers) or call the District's grants program at 559-230-5800.



The graph above shows PM levels reaching "Very Unhealthy" at 10 o'clock on the evening of July 4, 2012. This data from the Air District's monitoring station in Hanford.

## Emissions from fireworks pose preventable health risk

As the Fourth of July approaches Valley residents are asked to consider the effect of fireworks on their own and their neighbors' health.

Fireworks emit large quantities of dangerous particulate matter (PM), pumping airborne material, including soot, ash and metals into the Valley's air. This type of pollution causes serious effects, including lung infections, bronchitis and cardiac illness. People with existing respiratory conditions, elderly people and small children are especially susceptible.

The increase in PM also jeopardizes the Valley's progress in meeting health-based air-quality standards.

During summer months, the Valley is often at risk of reaching unhealthy levels of ozone pollution. Fireworks compound the Valley's already-existing air-quality issues. In fact, monitors throughout the Air District regularly capture readings of high spikes in PM during and after fireworks displays (see attached graphic).

"There are many ways to show your patriotism on Independence Day without polluting our Valley's air," said Jaime Holt, the Valley Air District's Chief Communications Officer.

One way to minimize the effect of fireworks on the Valley's air is to forego individual fireworks at home or in your neighborhood and attend one of the large community sponsored events.

Having a thousand people watch one fireworks show is less harmful to the air than having those same thousand residents set off mini fireworks shows in their neighborhood. Plus the community sponsored events are much safer and less likely to result in injury or damage.