

# VALLEY AIR NEWS



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## Air District seeks advanced technology

The Valley Air District is seeking new emission-reduction proposals through its Technology Advancement Program (TAP).

The latest funding cycle offers \$4 million for projects focusing on renewable energy, waste solutions or mobile sources. Emission reductions from these projects will help the Valley air basin meet its air quality goals. This is the fourth cycle for TAP.

“This program continues to be very popular,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “We are pleased to offer this kind of encouragement for innovation and to support the Valley’s technology community.”

The current cycle is administered by the District with local funding and contributions from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Clean Air Technology Initiative.

Proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15 and competitively scored based on objective criteria.

For more information and to download the Request for Proposals for TAP14-01, please visit: <http://www.valleyair.org/TAP>.

Interested parties may also contact District Grants staff at (559) 230-5800 or e-mail [tech-nology@valleyair.org](mailto:technology@valleyair.org).



The city of Manteca’s hybrid hydraulic refuse trucks were developed through the Technology Advancement Program.

## District keeps Valley residents updated on wildfires



San Joaquin Valley residents can now access the most current wildfire information available through a new page on the Air District’s website.

Extremely dry conditions due to drought created an early wildfire season this year. Wildfires in and around the San Joaquin Valley can affect air quality and public health by creating particulate matter and the ground-level ozone precursor, nitrogen oxide.

The new wildfire page provides current details on fires that may impact the Valley, as well as health-related information about the effects of smoke from wildfires.

This resource also includes a direct link to wildfire-related Air District press releases, other health and emergency service agencies and the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), which provides hourly, localized air quality information.

To view the District’s new Wildfire Information page, visit <http://valleyair.org/wildfires.htm>.

## Consider a rake or broom

The drone of leaf blowers is an all-too-familiar sound throughout the Valley during warm months and one that brings with it inconvenience and irritation for many residents.

Although leaf blowers are considered by some an indispensable tool for landscape maintenance, they also create some unfortunate side effects, including emissions from gasoline combustion and clouds of localized dust, creating particulate concentrations and a cause for health concern.

Although small engines used in yard-care equipment such as leaf blowers appear as though they would not have a heavy impact on air quality, gas-powered equipment – including leaf blowers – are not equipped with the same type of pollution controls as passenger vehicles and actually pollute more than late-model cars.

Leaf blowers are not currently regulated by the Valley Air District. However, use of the devices has been restricted in many communities throughout California. These restrictions are typically the result of appeals to local governments, such as city councils, to draft ordinances strictly regulating or even banning the use of leaf blowers.

There are alternatives to using a leaf blower, such as using a rake or broom to move leaves. Other options, such as planting a low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscape, greatly minimize the need to use devices such as leaf blowers.

