The Air Alert email notification system continues to provide residents of the Sacramento region with air quality information they can depend on to make health and behavior decisions.

At the end of each Spare The Air season the AQMD sends out a quick online survey to the 14,268 Air Alert subscribers to learn how they’ve used the service.

Below are some of the answers input by respondents:

Q: Why did you decide to sign up for Air Alert?
• “I am in the high risk pulmonary group.”
• “I’m a severe asthmatic.”
• “To protect students enrolled at this school.”
• “Daughter has asthma. To prepare for asthma issues.”
• “As Public Health Officer, Air Alert helped with my health advisories to community.”
• “Director, child care center – limit outside time when needed.”
• “I am a PE teacher and high school football coach.”

Q: How did you Spare The Air this summer?
• “Advocate to relatives to carpool.”
• “Avoided driving, stayed home, avoided errands & trips.”
• “I drive an electric car.”
• “Limit time outdoors depending on pollution index.”
• “Changed PE activities to low impact.”
• “Rescheduled errands.”
• “Limited toddler outside playtime.”

Q: What health benefits did you experience because of the Air Alerts?
• “Limited outside exposure due to air particles/smoke.”
• “We use this to be proactive in our care for students with breathing issues.”
• “Protect my health and immune system by staying out of bad air or limiting exposure to polluted air.”
• “I have asthma and these alerts helped me immensely to know when I could exercise outdoors.”
• “Reduced breathing problems.”
• “Helped me to understand why I might have greater trouble breathing.”

To sign up for Air Alert, visit www.sparetheair.com/airalert.cfm.

WANTED: Clean Air Champions

Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails is accepting applications for the 2014 Clean Air Awards.

Do you know a business, group or individual in the Sacramento region who is actively working to keep our air healthy?

If so, nominate them for a Clean Air Award at www.sacbreathe.org. Awards will be given in three categories:
• Sustainability
• Leadership
• Innovative Strategy

All nominations will be reviewed by the Breathe California Blue Ribbon Panel and winners will be recognized at the 2014 Clean Air Awards luncheon in May.

For more information, contact Jana Greenberg at (916) 444-5900, ext 217 or jgreenberg@sacbreathe.org.

Green California Summit

The annual Green California Summit will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on April 8 – 9, 2014.

This conference focuses on the state’s sustainability goals and the strategies, best practices and technologies that are helping state and local government achieve them. It’s the largest gathering of public sector decision makers, and their private sector partners, who are working to ensure a green future for California.

For more information on registration or to become an exhibitor, visit www.green-technology.org or call (626) 577-5700.
NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

Since we have entered a new year, here are some key 2014 District projects:

WOOD SMOKE. Obviously the record dry spell we were in during 2013 had an impact on air quality. During normal fall and winter months we usually have many storm systems that come into California. These blow our pollution from the valley and provide good mixing in the atmosphere leading to good air quality conditions. The lack of storms and stagnant air movement caused a long series of poor air quality days, frustrating those who want to burn wood and those who are impacted by poor air quality.

While we can certainly hope for stormy conditions in January and February, the AQMD staff will review all our associated programs to see what measures might help both groups of people. Some areas we will investigate are options to acquire more incentive money for wood stove and fireplace changeouts, further explain to the public the important reasons for the program and evaluate our attainment status after we get verified readings from December 2013.

BIKE SHARE. The Regional Bike Share Coalition received funding from SACOG to proceed with planning for a system in the Sacramento region. That effort will get underway in earnest early in 2014 with at least three actions. First we will look further at how low income communities can have regular and effective access to a system located in the region. Second we will evaluate and summarize the pros and cons of current bike share technology. Third we will look at where future system enhancements might go into communities beyond those evaluated in the published business plan. At the same time, an RFP will be developed for a contractor to deploy and operate a system, possibly as early as mid-year 2015.

LOCAL GREENHOUSE CREDITS.
Air districts in California have been developing an electronic platform for GHG credits verified from local California projects to be posted and available for CEQA requirements that California projects might be required to fulfill. The purpose of this “registry” is to encourage viable projects in California that reduce GHG emissions, keep the funds generated from such credits in California, and provide incentives for future in state projects. The registry recently rolled out and will grow over time as more projects are certified and as we better understand the need for CEQA credits against city and county environmental requirements for projects. Visit www.AirQuality.org to find out more information.
3rd Quarter 2013
(July, August, September)*

The following information reports the number of days that state and federal air quality standards were exceeded in Sacramento County during third quarter 2013 compared to third quarter 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ozone – State</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ozone – Federal (8-hr.)</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PM10 (24-hour) – State</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM10 (24-hour) – Federal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM2.5 (24-hour) – Federal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary data, subject to revision or deletion.

Asbestos (AMENDMENTS TO RULE 902)
Clarifies the rule’s intent with more precise language, establishes more specific sampling provisions to avoid ambiguity, reduces repetition, and clarifies the roles of consultants and contractors in rule compliance. The proposed changes will make it easier for owners, operators, consultants and contractors to interpret the requirements for demolition and renovation of facilities that contain asbestos. The changes are consistent with the District’s current implementation and enforcement practices and do not impose new requirements. Public workshop tentatively scheduled for March or April 2014. Contact: Joe Carle, (916) 874-4838.

Internal Combustion Engines
(AMENDMENTS TO RULE 412)
Sets more stringent emission limits for engines larger than 50 horsepower located at major sources of NOx. Expands the rule applicability to include engines at non-major sources, with an exemption for low-use engines. Public workshop tentatively scheduled for March or April 2014. Contact: Joe Carle, (916) 874-4838.

How to Reduce Air Quality Impacts from Leaf Blowing

The Sacramento area is known for its big, beautiful trees. During the fall months, however, our beautiful trees can create quite a mess in our streets and lawns as leaves fall to the ground. Leaf blowers are used by many to facilitate clean up. Unfortunately, if this equipment is used without regard to the impacts of others and adjacent properties, leaf blowing can create annoying conditions by raising dust and blowing material from one property to another.

While the District has no regulations controlling the use of leaf blowers specifically, there are some simple things to do in order to minimize this activity’s air quality impacts:

1. Consider using electric leaf blowers over gasoline powered ones. This reduces to zero the combustion contaminants from this type of equipment.
2. Whenever possible, avoid using a leaf blower over exposed dirt or other dusty surfaces. If not possible to avoid, consider applying water to the surface beforehand to reduce the amount of dust generated by the blower.
3. Do not clean lots by simply blowing debris to other lots. This just increases the need for additional leaf blowing activity and cleanup work for other property owners.
4. Where practical, attempt to blow debris to the center of the lot being cleaned. This will prevent dust from impacting adjacent properties.
5. Collect and containerize material blown as soon as possible. Simply blowing material into a pile and leaving it unattended allows the wind to eventually redistribute the material causing it to have to be picked up again. This unnecessarily increases leaf blowing activity and costs to others.
6. Be courteous to pedestrians and others who may be crossing through a leaf blowing job by turning down the blower and not directing debris into the faces of individuals or passing cars.
7. Consider other options. There are leaf brooms and leaf vacuum devices that may be employed for certain jobs to reduce the generation of dust. In addition, the traditional tools for this job – a broom and/or rake – can always be considered to avoid impacting anyone.
Refuse Truck and Agricultural Tractor Replacements

The AQMD will use a recently awarded EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant of $391,614 to reduce emissions from heavy-duty engines. The project, which is a partnership between the AQMD, Atlas Disposal Industries and participating farmers, will replace three heavy-duty diesel refuse trucks with compressed natural gas (CNG) trucks running on Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) made from food waste.

The funds will also be used to replace eight heavy-duty diesel agricultural tractors at participating farms in the area with engines that meet or exceed the most stringent exhaust emission standards.

In addition to the DERA grant, the AQMD will provide $705,830 and Atlas Disposal Industries will provide $386,761 to complete all replacements in the project.

The vehicle and equipment replacements will substantially reduce ozone-forming emissions and particulate emissions compared to the existing, diesel-powered on-highway trucks and uncontrolled agricultural equipment operating in the Sacramento region.

**CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN – NOVEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY**

The law requires you to Check Before You Burn in your indoor or outdoor fireplace, wood stove or pellet stove. Wood smoke is a serious health threat and burning will be restricted or prohibited when air pollution is forecast to be high.

- Visit [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org)
- Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765)
- Go to [Twitter.com/aqmd](http://Twitter.com/aqmd)
- Sign up to receive daily Air Alert emails at [www.SpareTheAir.com](http://www.SpareTheAir.com) (input your zip code and select the Daily Air Quality Forecast box)

To report a complaint or suspected violation, or for more information, call the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District at 1-800-880-9025.

Over 309,000 Sacramento County utility customers received this flyer in their latest bill.