



NEWS

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Bay Area Air District Receives U.S. EPA Environmental Achievement Award

SAN FRANCISCO -- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District today is being honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with an Environmental Achievement Award for its innovative Climate Protection Grant Program.

The District committed \$3 million dollars in this first-in-the-nation program for climate protection projects in the nine county Bay Area region.

"We developed this program out of recognition by the District and our Board that we needed to find a way to continue to educate the public by funding innovative climate protection projects in the Bay Area," said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. "We are honored to receive this prestigious award for our Climate Protection Grant Program. We believe other programs throughout the state will be able to use the framework we've developed to foster additional climate protection programs throughout California."

Last December, the Air District awarded \$3 million to fund 53 projects to reduce the Bay Area's carbon footprint. This represents the largest single source of funding available for climate protection projects in the Bay Area and makes the Air District one of the top funders of climate protection activities in the country.

A wide range of projects were selected including projects that will establish standards for reducing traffic in new developments, train high school students to install energy-saving upgrades in affordable housing and develop innovative financing systems to help residents purchase solar power.

With more than 130 nominations to choose from, the EPA selected the Air District's Climate Protection Grant Program based on numerous criteria, including the program's ability to address an environmental problem or need, ability of the program/activity to be replicated or widely shared, collaboration with others and long term benefits for the environment.

The awards ceremony will take place at 75 Hawthorne Street in San Francisco on Monday, April 14, from 2 – 4 p.m.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is committed to achieving clean air to protect the public's health and the environment. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.

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