



NEWS

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Air District expands Vehicle Buy Back Program

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is increasing the amount of money paid to residents who trade in old higher polluting cars to \$1,000 and extending the vehicle eligibility date to 1989 and older.

“Pollution from automobiles is the biggest piece of the air pollution pie in the Bay Area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “The Vehicle Buy Back Program is a win-win solution for residents and for air quality.”

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is increasing the amount paid for older, higher polluting vehicles from \$650 to \$1,000 beginning July 1st. The expanded program also extends the age requirement for eligible vehicles from 1987 to 1989 and older. The voluntary program is available to owners of light-duty vehicles in the Air District’s nine county jurisdiction that meet requirements established by State regulations.

The Vehicle Buy Back program targets older vehicles because they lack modern emission-control systems and therefore typically emit more pollution. Since 1996, the Vehicle Buy Back Program has scrapped over 42,887 vehicles, with a reduction of 390 tons per year of air pollutants. Last year, the program retired 4,494 vehicles, and it is estimated that the expansion of the program will double that number over the next year.

For each vehicle that is scrapped, an estimated average of 150 pounds per year of air pollutants are prevented from being emitted into the air. Among the air pollutants reduced by scrapping old vehicles are fine particulates and those that form ozone—the main ingredient in smog. These pollutants contribute to respiratory diseases and even increased mortality rates. Emissions of greenhouse gases, which have been linked to climate change, will also be reduced.

The public can get additional information about the Vehicle Buy Back program by calling 1-888-690-CASH (690-2274) or visiting www.baaqmd.gov/vbb.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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