



NEWS

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Air District Announces Winners of Great Race for Clean Air

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air District is announcing the results of the Great Race for Clean Air, a two-month friendly competition between Bay Area employers to see who could reduce the most carbon dioxide or CO₂, a greenhouse gas.

The Great Race competition encourages the use of commute alternatives such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking and bicycling rather than driving solo to work.

"Participants in the Great Race showed that we all can find alternatives to driving alone to work," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "When employees shift their commute, they can save time, money and stress while sparing the air."

During the months of September and October, 1,619 employees from 189 companies logged in their daily air-friendly commutes. Approximately 435 tons of CO₂ were saved by employees who chose not to drive to work alone.

The companies with the largest amount of CO₂ savings per capita were:

- Herrero Contractors, San Francisco County
- Gilead Sciences, San Mateo County
- Adobe, Santa Clara County
- Agilent Technologies, Sonoma County
- U.S. Coast Guard, Alameda County
- AT&T, Contra Costa County
- Fireman's Fund, Marin County

The Great Race for Clean Air challenged employees and employers from small to large companies to commit to finding alternatives to commuting by car alone for two full months. CO₂ savings were calculated based on the length of the employee's commute, their vehicle's gas mileage and the number of miles that were traveled using one of the commute alternatives.

Winners were chosen in several categories, including highest CO₂ savings per capita and highest percentage of employee participation per small, medium and large company.

A complete list of regional winners is available at <http://www.sparetheair.org/Get-Involved/Your-Community/Great-Race-2011.aspx>.

The Great Race for Clean Air began as a project of the Air District's Tri-Valley Air Quality Resource Team. The competition was originally held in the Tri-Valley area but in 2010 was expanded Bay Area-wide.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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