



NEWS

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CONTACT: Tom Flannigan
415.749.4900

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 competition between Bay Area companies to see whose employees could reduce the most carbon dioxide, or CO₂, by ridesharing, vanpooling, biking, walking or riding transit to work instead of driving solo.

Driving alone to work continues to be one of the region's largest sources of air pollution. The Great Race for Clean Air challenges commuters to try out commute alternatives that help improve regional air quality and reduce commuter traffic. This is the fourth year of the Bay Area-wide commuting competition.

“The Great Race for Clean Air proves that we can make a big difference just by changing the way we get to work,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “As our economy grows and congestion on Bay Area roads becomes a greater concern, alternatives to driving alone become even more important for helping us achieve cleaner air, and less commute gridlock.”

During March and April, 1,007 employees from 70 companies logged in their air-friendly commutes by carpooling, using public transit, biking, or telecommuting. Approximately 773,225 lbs. of CO₂ were saved by employees choosing not to drive to work alone. This savings is equivalent to preventing more than 835,000 miles from being driven on Bay Area roads by an average passenger vehicle. The winners for the Great Race for Clean Air are listed below.

The companies with the highest overall CO₂ savings were:

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1 st Place | County of Alameda |
| 2 nd Place | Nektar Therapeutics, Inc., San Francisco |
| 3 rd Place | Gilead Sciences, Inc, Foster City |

The companies with the highest participation rates (categorized by company size):

Mini (1-25 employees)

- 1st Place – three-way tie:
- Moffett Park Business Group, Sunnyvale
 - Hacienda Owners Association, Pleasanton
 - Trinity Consultants, Oakland
- 2nd Place - tie
- Livable City, San Francisco
 - Climate Protection Campaign, Sonoma
- 3rd Place
- Alexa Internet, San Francisco

Small (26-100 employees)

- 1st Place
- HDR Architecture, Inc., San Francisco
- 2nd Place
- Interior Architects, San Francisco

3rd Place

- Flixster, Inc., San Francisco

Mid-size (101-500 employees)

1st Place

- Nektar Therapeutics, Inc., San Francisco

2nd Place:

- Virgin America, Burlingame

3rd Place

- City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton

The companies with the highest average of “clean commute days” per participant:

1st Place

- SF Maritime National Historical Park

2nd Place

- Trinity Consultants, Oakland

3rd Place

- Alexa Internet, San Francisco

Winners were chosen in several categories, including highest CO₂ savings, highest percentage of “clean commute days” logged, and highest percentage of employee participation. 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. Highest average “clean commute days” were calculated by dividing the employer’s total clean commute days by the number of participants.

A complete list of winners is available at <http://www.sparetheair.org/Get-Involved/Great-Race-for-Clean-Air/Great-Race-Winners.aspx>.

The Great Race for Clean Air was sponsored by the Air District in partnership with 511 Rideshare, 511 Contra Costa, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance and the San Francisco Department of the Environment.

The Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program now requires employers in the Bay Area with 50 or more full-time employees to register and provide commuter options for their employees. Employers subject to the program will be notified by mail by the Air District and must register at 511.org, click on Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program and select and implement their program by September 30, 2014. Visit 511.org for more information.

The single most effective way for residents to reduce smog is to drive less. According to recent census data, more than 37 percent of Bay Area employees commute alone to work each day. Air District survey results find that Bay Area employees are more likely to adopt alternatives to driving alone when encouraged to do so by their employer. Furthermore, research shows that employers can reduce vehicle trips to their worksites by promoting alternative commute modes, such as transit, ridesharing, bicycling, walking, and telecommuting.

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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