



NEWS

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Air District offers commercial lawn and garden equipment exchange program

SAN FRANCISCO – To reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, the Bay Area Air Quality Management is offering a commercial lawn and garden equipment exchange program for public agencies such as schools, city public works and parks departments.

Funding of \$517,000 is available to scrap and replace older lawn and garden equipment and replace it with a new, battery-powered electric equivalent. Funding for this program is from legal settlements with Conoco Phillips, which requires that penalties be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“The new generation of commercial electric lawn and garden equipment makes switching from polluting gas to clean battery power a smart choice for public agencies,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Cleaner air, less noise and significant cost savings will benefit communities that participate in the program.”

Commercial lawn and garden equipment are used much more frequently than residential equipment. There are an estimated 300,000 pieces of this equipment in the Bay Area, which emit about 135 tons of greenhouse gases daily. Replacing this equipment with cleaner, battery-powered equipment could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from this source.

Among the equipment targeted are lawn mowers, leaf blowers, sweepers, chainsaws, line trimmers and hedge trimmers. In addition to funding the purchase of equipment, funds will be available for the purchase of two batteries for each piece of electric equipment and one battery charger.

While the cost of the lighter, electric hand-held lawn and garden equipment is comparable to conventional equipment, the larger push and riding lawn mowers are more expensive than their conventional counterparts. By providing financial incentives for the purchase and use of the pioneering battery-electric equipment, public agencies can become familiar with the improved performance, lower maintenance and operational savings of switching from fossil fuel to battery-powered electric.

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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