
NEWS RELEASE

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Annual youth conference encourages action for clean air

Free Youth for Environment and Sustainability Conference to be held February 24 in Oakland

SAN FRANCISCO — The annual Youth for Environment and Sustainability, or YES, Conference, returns to the Bay Area from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Laney College, 900 Fallon Street in Oakland.

The free day-long regional conference will bring together middle and high school students from the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties to discuss topics ranging from climate change and public health to transportation and air pollution. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission co-sponsor the annual conference.

“Now more than ever, it’s important that our next generation of leaders is well-informed about the public health and climate challenges we face,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “The YES Conference provides an opportunity for Bay Area teens to present innovative ideas and develop solutions to our most pressing challenges in the region and beyond.”

“The YES Conference has always been a fun way for our future leaders to think about new ways to solve problems,” said MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger. “We’re happy to continue the tradition and to get another fresh jolt of teenage energy.”

Registration for the event is now open at <http://bit.ly/2l3a9zB>.

“The YES Conference is an amazing way for students to learn about what’s happening to their environment and what they can do to help,” said Alyssa Goldfield, 7th grader at Lincoln Middle School in Alameda. “It’s a fun and exciting day of learning and networking where you can meet new people who are willing to take charge and to do what’s right for the environment.”

At the YES Conference, hundreds of Bay Area students come together to discuss better ways to get to school or work and participate in leadership workshops put on by other teens. Students learn about paid internships, the latest climate science and technologies, enjoy photo booths, bike blenders, bike repair workshops, art, music, and win fun prizes.

The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and driving by increasing walking and biking as a transportation mode among youths and their families thereby improving air quality in their communities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

A call for presentation proposals invites pioneering students, youth-leaders, teachers or youth advisors to present at the annual YES Conference. The deadline to submit a proposal is Wednesday, January 3, 2018. The online proposal submittal form is <http://bit.ly/2zjapRj>

There is no cost to attend the conference and breakfast and lunch will be provided for participants. Parents and teachers are also welcome. Students are required to have their parents' permission to attend. For complete conference details, visit <http://bit.ly/2zjapRj>.

For more information about the YES Conference, email Raquel Trinidad at rtrinidad@baaqmd.gov.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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