

VALLEY AIR NEWS

August 2023

Fireplace & Woodstove CHANGE-OUT

District's Change-Out program can help residents upgrade their home heating

The weather might be hot right now, but soon enough, the cooler nights of winter will be here and people will be eagerly looking for ways to warm up their homes. For those who use wood-burning fireplaces or older wood/pellet stoves, the District encourages them to upgrade their home heating now and take advantage of its Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out Program. With the program's enhanced incentives, people who switch to an electric heat pump will also be able to cool their homes during the hot summer months.

Residential wood burning is one of the Valley's largest sources of wintertime PM2.5 emissions and has shown to have a direct effect on neighborhood air quality. The Change-Out program provides up to \$5,000 to residents who want to upgrade their open-hearth fireplace or wood/pellet stove to a cleaner device, such as an electric heat pump, natural gas insert or (in certain areas) certified wood-burning device.

More about the Change-Out program: valleyair.org/change-out

Back-to-School season can lead to higher emissions

For many children around the Valley, lazy summer nights have turned to early morning risings as a new school year starts. As students head back to school, the increase in vehicle traffic as parents drop off and pick up their children can contribute to a temporary, uptick in ground-level ozone in the Valley. Limiting vehicle idling at schools will help to reduce air pollution and student exposure to vehicle emissions.



Parents can further help reduce emissions and protect public health by incorporating some of the following practices:

- Turn off your engine at school – When you are stopping to drop the kids off in the morning and waiting to pick them up at the end of the school day, please do not idle.
- Coordinate a carpool or rideshare to get kids to-and-from school.
- Drive less – Look for ways to leave your gasoline vehicle at home more often by linking your trips.
- Walk or bike with your children to-and-from school (as air quality allows).
- Drive zero-emission or low-emission vehicles (The District offers a cash rebate to go electric: valleyair.org/drivecleaninthesanjoaquin/rebate.)
- Keep your vehicle well maintained – It will pollute less. (The District's [Tune In Tune Up](#) program helps residents receive up to \$500 to repair emission-related issues.)
- Avoid the use of drive-through services – Turn off your engine and go inside instead of idling in the drive-through.

To minimize pollution associated with school-site vehicle idling, the District has partnered with hundreds of Valley schools through its Healthy Air Living Schools program, providing bilingual “no-idling” signs and other resources that remind parents to turn off their car engines while waiting to pick up or drop off students. To learn more about Healthy Air Living Schools, request bilingual No Idling signs or enroll into the program, visit healthyairliving.com/schools.



Calendar entries wanted

Calling all student artists! The District is looking for artwork with clean air themes from students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade for its annual Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Contest. The deadline for 2024 calendar entries is Sept. 29, 2023. For contest rules, entry form and more info, visit the [calendar contest website](#).

FOR THE LATEST NEWS, CONNECT WITH US, SEARCH “VALLEY AIR”:



 **San Joaquin Valley**
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
www.valleyair.org