

April 2011

Valley Clean Air Now



Valley CAN Goes Green for REXPO VII

On March 9, the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce's Green Team San Joaquin and Valley CAN hosted the seventh annual REXPO conference. Grounded in the belief that environmental consciousness and business prosperity can go hand-in-hand, REXPO provides a forum for idea-sharing and an opportunity for green businesses to establish long-lasting partnerships. With a focus this year on "Sustainable Collaboration," the event brought together businesses and agencies for a day filled with energy-efficiency, recycling, water conservation and air quality best practices. The event included panel discussions ranging from clean energy collaboration and the benefits of being a leader in climate change, to grant programs and financing.

Together with the Green Team San Joaquin of the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Valley CAN staff was on site to help encourage improving of the quality of both the business and physical environment in the San Joaquin Valley.

Keeping Bakersfield (and the Valley) Beautiful



Volunteers help clean-up the freeway

Valley CAN regularly partners with Keep Bakersfield Beautiful, a nonprofit environmental organization located in Bakersfield that is dedicated to improving the ecological and aesthetic value of the city. Since the start of the year, Valley CAN staff has participated in the monthly local freeway cleanup, led by Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall, to help keep the city clean and promote environmental stewardship. Most recently the team participated in the Great American Clean Up on April 9. Valley CAN is proud to be part of this team of volunteers that helps make a positive difference in the community.

Valley CAN's involvement in Kern County also includes participating in Blue Sky Partners meetings and helping plan and participate in events with the Bakersfield American Lung Association of California. The efforts not only help keep Bakersfield beautiful, but the whole Valley as well.

Reaching Out Through Greater Fresno Chamber's

Valley Business Conference

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber hosted its Annual Valley Business Conference & Awards Luncheon on March 9, a day-long business networking and recognition event. Each year the Chamber and its partners recognize committed, highly talented individuals with a legacy of public service to their communities, through presentation of the Leon S. Peters Award and the Entrepreneur Award.

Leon S. Peters was born to immigrant parents on a small farm southeast of Fresno in 1905 and, over his lifetime, overcame great hardship to become one of the San Joaquin Valley's top business leaders. His brother, longtime businessman and community advocate, Dr. Pete P. Peters, was the 2011 Leon S. Peters Award recipient. At 94 years of age, Dr. Peters continues to work humbly and tirelessly to see that his brother's legacy continues. Many organizations throughout the valley have been touched by the generosity of Dr. Peter's charitable foundation, The Pete P. Peters Foundation. The Foundation is guided by the words of Pete's late father: "Give back to the community."



Valley CAN staff Paula Farris and Diana Jackin host a booth at the Annual Valley Business Conference & Award Luncheon.

Four entrepreneur awards were presented to the following innovative businesses:

- High School Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Vernave Medrano of Vernave's Pottery
- College Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Dirk Johnson, Ben Nagels and Adam Shor of Simple Solar Cleaning Systems
- Rising Star Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Mike Dodson and Jeff Doolittle of Lotpath, Inc.
- Harold Zinkin Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Gary Bongiovanni and Gary Smith of Pollstar.

Valley CAN supported this year's event with a silver sponsorship and hosted a booth and connected with local air quality stakeholders attending the lunch event.

Tune In & Tune Up

Valley CAN's Tune In & Tune Up (TI&TU) program for 2011 is off to a great start, with four successful events in Stockton, Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto in less than four months.

Through a grant from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, funded by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, Valley CAN will host 15 of these popular and important clean air events during the next year.

The goal of TI&TU is to eliminate pollutants generated by

Arvin Tune In & Tune Up

May 7, 2011
Arvin High School
900 Varsity Road
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

older cars in the San Joaquin Valley. TI&TU has been shown to be among the most cost-effective methods to reduce vehicle emissions attempted to date in California. The events provide free emissions testing that detects whether vehicles are high polluters.

The Valley is known not only for its impacted air quality, but also for the high volume of older vehicles that contribute to the problem. TI&TU events provide an opportunity for vehicle owners to get their cars tested and, should they qualify, up to \$500 in funding to repair their vehicles. With the necessary repairs, vehicle owners can bring their car up to smog compliance and update their vehicle registrations while the entire Valley benefits from removing a harmful emissions source from the road.



Cars line up at the Fresno TITU event on February 26

Over 1,300 vehicles have been tested at the first four events, and more than 900 repair vouchers handed out. Each event is an opportunity to identify and repair more "dirty" cars throughout the Valley. (See box for upcoming event dates.)

Together with our local Valley partners, Valley CAN, the Valley Air District and the Foundation for California Community Colleges are empowering local communities to improve their air quality one vehicle at a time.

Upcoming Events

Northern Valley

- Senior Awareness Day, Stockton — April 26
- Lodi Street Fair, Lodi — May 1
- Planet Party Day, Manteca — May 5

Central Valley

- Fresno Chamber of Commerce: Business After Hours, Fresno — April 21
- Clovis Chamber Mixer, Clovis — April 21
- Fresno Earth Day, Fresno — April 30

Southern Valley

- American Lung Association of California Fight for Air Walk, Bakersfield — April 16
- Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce Energy Luncheon Forum, Bakersfield — May 4

Valley Clean Air Now Grant Program

2011 Grant Submission Deadlines

May 5, 2011

August 4, 2011

Valley CAN is seeking innovative approaches and demonstration projects that highlight pragmatic solutions to a range of air quality problems, from reducing diesel and wood fireplace emissions to reducing dust and reduce emissions from older vehicles. Funding amounts range from \$5,000 to \$30,000. If more is requested it will be determined on a project-by-project basis. Valley CAN does not grant funds to cover staff time, salaries, or overhead.

For more information about 2011 Grant Applications, please visit: www.valley-can.org or e-mail info@valley-can.org.

Contact

Valley Clean Air Now

Valley Clean Air Now

2300 Tulare Street, Suite 210

Fresno, CA 93721

Toll free number: 1-800-806-2004

Email: info@valley-can.org

www.valley-can.org

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