



WINTER NEWSLETTER

INFORM-EDUCATE-ENGAGE

2024



SILVER LINING

Beyond the gray winter clouds lies the button blue sky. Look up! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Silvie, our cloud mascot bringing you news from the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance team. We look forward to helping our neighbors care for the air and advocate for the climate in 2024!



Plane taking off from the Livermore Airport. Photo courtesy of Terry Chang

WE SUPPORT UNLEADED AVGAS AND ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWERS

From the Chair, Ron Baskett

The last several months TVAQCA has focused on two key local issues to improve our air quality. First, we have spoken at many Livermore City Council meetings regarding eliminating leaded gasoline in piston aircraft that fly out of Livermore. While the EPA removed lead from automobiles decades ago, it has taken decades for the petroleum producers to formulate unleaded aviation gas, aka, avgas. Currently 94 octane unleaded avgas is available and very soon 100 octane. We concur with [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) that it's time for all 22 municipall airports in the Bay Area to

convert as soon as practical. In 2022, based on studies that showed high exposure to children within a half a mile of Reed-Hillview Airport in San Jose, Santa Clara County led the way. Fortunately, Livermore Airport has a half-mile buffer zone on the east side, downwind of the runway, so exposures in the neighborhoods beyond the airport boundary should be less than at Reid-Hillview, but still of concern. The Livermore City Council passed a policy to buy unleaded tanks within 2 to 7 years (the FAA deadline). If California Senator Menjivar's proposed Bill 1193 introduced on February 14 passes, more general aviation airports in the state will be required to supply unleaded avgas in 2 years. **We encourage Livermore to spend the \$300K tank cost out of their \$8 million annual budget sooner than later!** More information about this topic can be found on the City's page about unleaded fuel at LVK.

Second, we supported the Pleasanton City Council 4-1 decision on December 5, 2023, to ban gas-powered leaf blowers effective June 1st this year. This ban has three key benefits: it reduces noise pollution, it diminishes exposure to the workers, and it lessens the creation of ozone in the Tri-Valley. **Gas-powered landscaping equipment emissions now exceed those from automobile traffic in the Tri-Valley!** (see Appendix G). A dozen other communities in the Bay Area have also banned gas-powered equipment with the same goals in mind. We understand the cost and operation issues landscapers will face. Last year,



Pleasanton Parks Division crew member using an electric leaf blower. Photo courtesy of Laurene Green

the California Air Resources Board CORE project provided \$27M statewide for landscaping companies to convert. To put money where our mouth is, over the last several years TVAQCA gave up to \$7,500 in matching funds to a dozen landscapers in the Tri-Valley to buy electric. We hope landscaper operators will embrace the fact that the improvement to our environment and public health protection is well worth the transition that will benefit our communities across the board. Recently, our high school intern Siddhan Shah summarized the issue in a PtownLife article.

For more about TVAQCA, see the Hacienda Pulse article and look for us on TV30 in March. We would enjoy discussing our program with you at our booth at the up-and-coming Quest Science Innovation Fair, April 13th at the Alameda fairgrounds in Pleasanton!

2024 STATE CLIMATE LEGISLATION WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON



By Van Rainey

SB 233 (Skinner) Bidirectional Electric Vehicle Charging

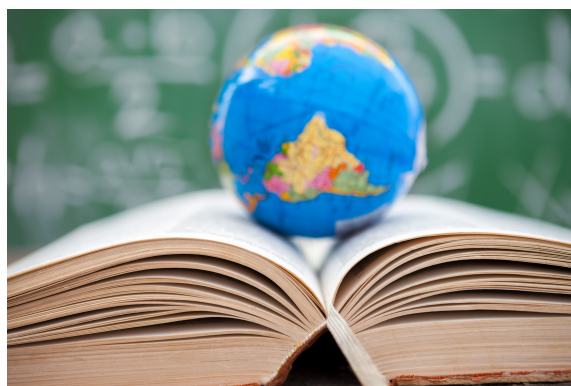
Mandating that all electric passenger vehicles and school buses sold in California by model year 2030 have bidirectional charging capability.

AB 45 (Boerner Horvath) Blue Carbon Demonstration Projects

This bill would authorize the Commission to authorize blue carbon demonstration projects in order to demonstrate and quantify the carbon sequestration potential of these projects to help inform the State's natural and working lands and climate resilience strategies.

AB 285 (L. Rivas) Climate Science Education

AB 285 would require the science area of study to include an emphasis on the causes and effects of climate change and methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The bill would require that appropriate coursework including this material be offered to pupils as soon as possible, commencing no later than the 2024–25 school year. The bill has been approved by the governor's office October 2023!



AB 408 (Wilson) The Climate-resilient Farms, Sustainable Healthy Food Access, and Farmworker Protection Bond Act of 2024

This bill would enact the Climate-resilient Farms, Sustainable Healthy Food Access, and Farmworker Protection Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,365,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law, to finance programs related to, among other things, agricultural lands, food and fiber infrastructure, climate resilience, agricultural professionals, including farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers, workforce development and training, air quality, tribes, disadvantaged communities, nutrition, food aid, meat processing facilities, and fishing facilities.

NEW EPA PM2.5 STANDARD

By JuNelle Harris & Terry Chang

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District Advisory Council found in 2020 that PM2.5, along with diesel PM, represents the “most important health risk driver in Bay Area air quality.” A new EPA final rule aims to protect health by lowering the average annual level of PM2.5 allowed under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The new standard sets the annual limit level at 9 micrograms per cubic meter, compared to the annual limit level of 12 micrograms per cubic meter set in 2012. Although this is an improvement to increase public health protection, the World Health Organization recommends the target of annual average of 5 micrograms per cubic meter.

Why does this new standard matter? With the impact of climate change, a higher frequency of intense wildfires and wildfire smoke is anticipated. Fine particle pollution or PM2.5 will be on the rise. A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) noted studies that showed indoor PM2.5 concentrations increased during wildfires. In buildings, such as schools closed to a major roadway, indoor PM2.5 concentrations were also found to be elevated. Indoor PM2.5 exposure results from intrusion of polluted outdoor air as well as from indoor sources such as gas appliances, smoking tobacco, and wood-heating stoves.

Whether the source is outdoor or indoor, exposure to PM2.5 pollution negatively affects your health. Short-term exposures can cause shortness of breath and asthma attacks, and have been linked to heart attacks. Long-term exposure to PM2.5 has been linked to heart and lung conditions, asthma, cancer, dementia, premature death, stroke, and more. What can you do to protect yourself and your family from unhealthy exposure? Be air aware! Remove the source or move away from the source as best as you can, ventilate your room when there’s no wildfire, use an air cleaner, and if necessary, use an N95 or P100 protective mask.

Read more about the EPA updated PM2.5 standard here and for the NAS report, check out this 2-page summary.

PM2.5

PM2.5 refers to fine particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in size.

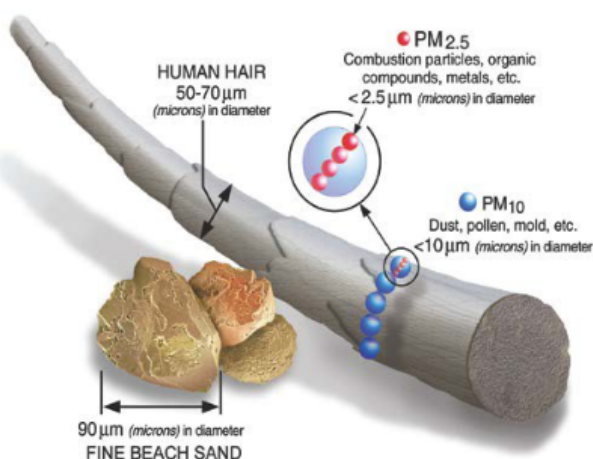


Image courtesy of the U.S. EPA



AIR QUALITY AWARENESS COMES TO OUR SCHOOLS

By Ann Brown

Students and their families across the Tri-Valley are growing their awareness of Air Quality issues and how to protect themselves from the health impacts of poor air quality. Here are some of TVAQCA's Schools Outreach efforts:

- A presentation of our programs, lessons, and resources to the Parent Club Information Council of the Livermore School District. The aim is to visit school parent organization meetings and events with more of our quality information.
- Outreach tables with our interactive Airshed Model, wind turbine investigation, and informational materials at the Green Ribbon School Tour, Livermore Science Odyssey and Dublin Elementary School.
- In-class lessons to all freshmen at Amador Valley High School's Health classes
- Virtual lesson to Vineyard Alternative School's Health class
- Mentorship and support for the planning and production of the first annual Livermore Youth Climate Summit, with partners from Quest Science Center
- Continuing mentorship and support for the resulting Tri-Valley Youth Climate Action Projects (TVYCAP)
- Mentorship of 3 high school students participating in the first cohort of the California Youth Climate Policy Leadership Program
- Consultation with Livermore School Garden Leads on Native Plant Gardens and the Miyawaki Forest model.
- Committee Chair for Climate Literacy, Livermore Advocates for Public Education



Our interactive airshed model. Photo courtesy of Phil Bowman

We know climate change and air quality are connected and complicated topics. The team is here to help you learn, engage, and take actions to protect your home, health, and neighborhoods. We welcome your comments and questions and hope to you see at our outreach events.

-TVAQCA Team

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TVAQCA is member of the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance