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The Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Local Government Climate Newsletter

May 2024

If you are a local government working on a climate-related plan or project, we'd love to chat about how we can help support you. Contact us at climate@baaqmd.gov.

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AIR DISTRICT UPDATES

Board Adopts Path to Clean Air Plan for Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo



**Air District Board approves Richmond -
North Richmond - San Pablo *Path to Clean Air*
Community Emissions Reduction Plan**



The Air District Board of Directors has voted to adopt the [Path to Clean Air \(PTCA\) Community Emissions Reduction Plan for Richmond - North Richmond - San Pablo](#)! It will now be considered by the California Air Resources Board for final adoption. The plan covers the cities of Richmond and San Pablo and several unincorporated areas in Contra Costa County, including North Richmond, that are impacted by air pollution sources including fuel refining,

ships, marine terminals, industrial manufacturing facilities, railways, and vehicle and freight traffic. The plan, which identifies critical air quality and public health concerns and offers actionable solutions to address them, was created in partnership with the PTCA Community Steering Committee. The PTCA was developed as a requirement of AB 617, a state law which directs local air districts to work with heavily impacted communities on emission reduction programs and/or air quality monitoring campaigns.

**Arsenio Mataka Appointed as Air District Deputy
Executive Officer for Equity & Community Programs**



On Earth Day, the Air District announced the appointment of prominent environmental justice leader Arsenio Mataka as Deputy Executive Officer for Equity & Community Programs. After an extensive nationwide recruitment, Arsenio was selected for the position by a panel comprised of Air District officials and notable Bay Area community leaders. In this role, he will oversee the agency's community engagement, strategic incentives, technology implementation and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Arsenio will serve as the primary liaison for environmental justice matters both internally and externally on behalf of the Air District. His wealth of experience and commitment to tackling environmental disparities will be invaluable as we work

to create healthier communities and a more equitable future for all Bay Area residents.

Air District and MTC Updated the VMT Data Portal



The Air District and MTC have worked together to update the [VMT Data Portal](#), which can be found [here](#). Jurisdictions in the Bay Area will find this site useful for developing and updating their greenhouse gas inventories, supporting climate planning activities, tracking progress, and understanding their community's transportation emissions within the broader context of the region. The data provided in this portal is consistent with the travel outcomes associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's long-range

transportation plan. [Register here](#) to attend a walkthrough webinar for the updated portal on **June 17, 2024**.

Marie Harrison Environmental Justice Scholarship



The Air District's [Marie Harrison Environmental Justice Scholarship](#) supports college students who are passionate about improving environmental health and air quality for overburdened frontline communities in the Bay Area. The scholarship honors the life of Marie Harrison, an environmental justice leader and supporter of impacted youth, who worked to bring environmental, health and social justice to the Bayview Hunters Point community in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Find out more about the scholarship and how to apply [here](#). Applications are due by **May 31, 2024**.

AIR DISTRICT FUNDING

Clean HEET Program



The Air District's [Clean Heating Efficiently with Electric Technology, or Clean HEET, Program](#) provides grants that can help to offset the cost of switching from a wood-burning stove or fireplace insert to an electric heat pump. The program is designed to improve air quality in communities by replacing polluting woodburning heating devices with cleaner heating options. The Clean HEET Program offers qualifying homeowners up to \$6,500 to replace an eligible device and applicants may request additional funding if they participate in a qualifying low-income assistance program or if they will be replacing a second eligible device. The application deadline has been extended to **July 18, 2024**. See the [program page](#) for more details.

Clean Cars for All Program



CLEAN CARS FOR ALL



The Air District's [Clean Cars for All program](#) (CCFA) remains open to the entire Bay Area within the Air District's jurisdiction, with more than \$28 million in California Air Resources Board funding available. CCFA now offers up to \$12,000 for income-qualified residents to retire older, more polluting vehicles (vehicle model years 2007 and older) and replace them with a new or used hybrid, plug-in hybrid, electric or fuel cell vehicle, or receive a prepaid transit card or e-bike and bike accessories. Additionally, up to \$2,000 is available for home charging equipment when purchasing a plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle. Find more information on the [program page](#).

NEWS AND RESOURCES

New Air District Report: Installation Costs for Zero-NOx Space & Water Heating Appliances



Installation Costs for Zero-NOx Space and Water Heating Appliances

The Air District's [Building Appliances Implementation Working Group \(IWG\)](#) is a multistakeholder, multiyear effort that meets to develop information, recommendations, and solutions to support a smooth, accessible, and equitable technology transition and implementation of the Air District's zero-NOx space and water heating rules in order to improve air quality and public health in the Bay Area. The IWG is working with external consultants to conduct research and analyses and is posting these work products online when they become available, such as the new [Installation Costs for Zero-NOx Space and](#)

[Water Heating Appliances](#) report. The report was conducted by Rincon Consultants and Energy + Environmental Economics and provides a summary of the latest installation costs for zero-NOx space and water heating appliances.

MCE & Renewable America Create 1 Megawatt Solar Farm in Tomales, CA



In April, MCE and Renewable America (RNA) unveiled a [new 4.5-acre solar farm in Tomales, Marin County](#). The local energy project generates an estimated 2,300 megawatt hours annually, powers 400 homes each year, and

over its lifecycle will reduce emissions equivalent to taking 400 gas powered vehicles off the road. The project was financed by Sunwest Bank and was built through local wage-prevailing labor. RNA has also committed \$20,000 to MCE for local workforce development.

FEDERAL FUNDING

USEPA's Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) launched the nearly [\\$1 billion Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program](#) to fund the replacement of certain polluting heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission vehicles. Funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, USEPA will award competitive grants for projects that will reduce climate and air pollution from heavy-duty vehicles, support good-paying jobs, and improve air quality for communities across the country, particularly those overburdened by air pollution. The Notice of Funding Opportunity includes two separate sub-program competitions:

- The School Bus Sub-Program for applicants replacing school buses (approximately 70% of available funding).
- The Vocational Vehicles Sub-Program for applicants replacing non-school bus Class 6 and 7 vehicles – including box trucks, refuse haulers, dump trucks, street sweepers, delivery trucks, bucket trucks, and utility trucks (approximately 30% of available funding).

Eligible applicants for both competitions include States, municipalities (including school districts), Tribes, territories, and nonprofit school transportation associations. The application deadline is **July 25, 2024**. USEPA expects to announce awards by the end of this year. [Learn more here](#).

USDOE's Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (LGEP C-SITE)

The graphic features the USDOE logo and SCEP (State & Community Energy Programs) logo on the left. The main title is "Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) Funding Opportunity", with "Powered by the Local Government Energy Program (LGEP)" below it. At the bottom, three icons represent solar panels, an electric car, and a field with a sun, each with a corresponding text label: "Deliver Local Benefits", "Advance Energy Priorities", and "Spark New Investments".

Funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) Office of State & Community Energy Programs' Local Government Energy Program, [Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy \(C-SITE\)](#) is offering \$18 million in competitive funding to advance community identified energy priorities. Funded projects may span a variety of technology areas including, but not limited to, building efficiency and/or electrification, electric transportation, energy infrastructure upgrades, microgrid development and

deployment, renewable energy, resilience hubs, and workforce development. The deadline to apply is **May 31, 2024**. Find [answers to FAQs here](#).

NREL's Clean Energy to Communities



The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)'s [Clean Energy to Communities \(C2C\) program](#) provides communities with expertise and tools to achieve their clean energy goals through [In-Depth Partnerships](#), [Peer-Learning Cohorts](#), and [Expert Match](#). C2C connects local governments, Tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations with national laboratory experts and customized, cutting-edge analysis to achieve clean energy systems that are reflective of local and regional priorities. Community stakeholders, including representatives from local governments, regional agencies, and more, can [apply now for Expert Match](#); the next [Peer-Learning Cohort](#) application will

open fall 2024; and In-Depth Partnership proposals [are due on SAM.gov](#) by **June 14, 2024**.

USDOE's Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)



USDOE's [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#) is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. EECBG provides \$550 million in formula funding for a wide variety of activities. The application deadline for local governments has been extended to **Oct 31, 2024**. Find more details on the [program page](#).



Newsletter Feedback Form

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