

# Happy Holidays from the APCD!

SLO County APCD's E-Newsletter

2010

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## Upcoming Board Meetings

December 1 @ 9am

All APCD Board meetings are held at the SLO County Government Center in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.



## SLO County Youth Making a Difference!

APCD Announces the 2010 Pollution Prevention School Challenge Winners

The APCD wrapped up the 2010 Pollution Prevention School Challenge by recognizing three schools for taking proactive steps to develop and implement projects that reduce air pollution at their schools. Below are descriptions of the award categories and winning projects:

### Most Inspirational Award

Trinity Lutheran School, Paso Robles: Mrs. Fairbank and Ms. Mockler's Kindergarten class created a book filled with illustrations designed by students showing how air pollution affects your health and ways to reduce the impacts. The class also produced a video of their Pollution Solution song.

### Community Involvement Award

Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo: The "Green Team" developed a transportation challenge program titled "However You Go, Keep Your Carbon Low" designed to engage their school community in a fun competition to think about the environmental effects of transportation.

### Sustainable Business Award

Liberty High School, Paso Robles: The "Green Works Club" developed a sustainable business plan called "Soy D'Light". The main premise of their plan is to manufacture clean burning soy wax candles and sell them to individuals throughout the community to improve indoor air quality impacts.

The public is invited to come and see the winners receive their awards at the APCD Board Meeting on December 1 at 9am in the SLO County Government Center.



## Tips for a "Green" Holiday Season

With a 25% increase in waste generated during the holiday season, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) urges individuals to reduce holiday waste, save money and reduce greenhouse gas

emissions.

You can protect natural resources and save money by conserving energy, reusing and recycling holiday wrapping materials and purchasing recycled and recyclable gifts. Each holiday season, residential energy consumption increases while thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills. Both activities contribute to greenhouse gas emissions due to the increased energy used to process waste and illuminate those merry light bulbs. Here are a few tips to eliminate waste, cut energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Reduce the number of bags you consume and throw away by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping.
- Use energy efficient / LEW lights and turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.
- Plan your shopping in advance. Consolidating your shopping trips saves fuel and aggravation.
- Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts and consider giving a battery charger as well.
- Give gifts that do not require much packaging, such as event tickets.
- Send electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.
- Recycle your tree instead of sending it to a landfill or buy a potted tree and plant it after the holidays. Check with your community solid waste department and find out if they collect and mulch trees.
- Instead of wrapping gifts for the kids, hide the presents, plant clues to where they're hidden and make the kids' search into a treasure hunt.
- Reduce "Food Miles" and buy food products that come from within a 100 miles of your home.
- When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it's made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.

*For more tips visit:*

[EPA's winter fun facts](#) or [Use Less Stuff.com](#)



**AIR POLLUTION  
CONTROL DISTRICT**  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

### **10 Tips for Safer and Cleaner Woodstove & Fireplace Burning**

Chimney fires can cause emergencies, and breathing wood smoke is bad for our health. Please consider the following clean burning tips to keep you and our community safer and healthier:

1. Do not burn trash. Never burn: plastics, chemicals, wrapping paper, magazines, or colored or coated papers (including newspaper inserts, junk mail, etc.). Also do not burn charcoal, coal or holiday greens.
2. Be a good neighbor and notice your smoke. Build small hot fires rather than large smoldering ones. Use seasoned hard woods that burn hot and provide complete combustion. Avoid "roaring" fires, they can start chimney fires and can lead to overheating of wall or roof materials.
3. Save your fireplace or woodstove for special occasions.
4. Use a gas insert if you can.
5. Clean your chimney.
6. Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors can explode.
7. Do not allow small children near the fireplace.
8. Never leave a fire unattended. Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
9. Be sure no flammable materials hang down from or decorate your mantel.
10. Make sure you have basic fire safety equipment. Keep a type ABC fire extinguisher near the fireplace, install a screen that completely covers the fireplace opening, equip your house with smoke detectors, and use spark arrester on top of your chimney.

For more information on safe and clean burning, see [www.slcleanair.org](http://www.slcleanair.org)

### **Climate Change Curriculum**

The APCD, in partnership with the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department and Strategic Energy Innovations, Inc., is recruiting school teachers grades K-12 to implement a science based climate change curriculum in their 2011 lesson plans. The October 16, 2010 workshop trained six teachers in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. The next training session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2011 from 5 pm to 9 pm. The curriculum explores the science behind the causes and solutions to climate change and is linked to California State Standards, as well as California's Environmental Principles and Concepts. Participating teachers receive a stipend, teacher manual,

curriculum, lesson plans, visual materials and supplies for the experiments. A Cal Poly student intern will also provide classroom assistance with the lessons and experiments. Space is limited to 16 teachers. Interested teachers should contact Gary Arcemont at [garcemont@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:garcemont@co.slo.ca.us).



### Final Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report

In November of 2005, the APCD Board adopted a Climate Protection Plan designed to reduce local emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) that contribute to global climate change, and to increase public awareness of the issue and actions that can be taken now to help prevent significant future impacts. In 2008, the Board allocated mitigation funding for the development of the GHG emission inventories for all seven incorporated cities and the compilation of a comprehensive countywide GHG emissions inventory. The GHG inventories for both the municipal operations and communitywide sources have now been completed for all seven cities. The County of SLO also completed a GHG inventory for all unincorporated areas of the county as part of the preparation of their Conservation and Open Space Element. The city and countywide GHG inventories provide the foundation for policy and program development by estimating baseline emission levels against which future reductions can be measured. By identifying and quantifying the major sources of emissions, they provide valuable insights into where the greatest opportunities for emission reductions lie. The information will inform all local jurisdictions as they move forward and develop Climate Action Plans to focus policy and program development on the most cost-effective strategies that best suit their communities. The APCD will be brought the final report-- "*San Luis Obispo Countywide 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory*" to their Board at the December 1 meeting.