



AB 617 Community Air Protection Incentives

NSCAPCD is inviting our community to submit comments and input on the Community Air Protection Program. Please review the details about our program, and email us at airquality@sonoma-county.org if you would like to provide your input.

More information can be found on the Air Resources Board (ARB) website at:

<https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/cap/capfunds.htm>

Since 2017 the Legislature has budgeted \$495 million for local air district grants to put advanced technologies to work for cleaner air in California communities, in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017). Incentive grants help owners of older high-polluting equipment to replace it with newer models that have much lower emissions -- or zero emissions. Grant funds may also be used for changes at local industrial facilities that reduce emissions of toxic or smog-forming pollutants, to build zero-emission charging stations, or to support local measures that air districts and communities identify through AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Programs.

Partnering with communities is essential to the success of these incentives, and both the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and air districts are looking to local community members and groups to help identify funding priorities.

NSCAPCD has engaged with community members and identified various grant project types that would support clean air in our community. The District will be allocating AB 617 funds to any one of the following project types, or a combination of them. These proposed project types are:

- School Filtration: The District proposes to issue grant funding to area school districts with the aim of providing air filtration and purification for schools' indoor spaces. Particularly during wildfire season, the need for school age children to have access to safe and clean indoor learning environments is integral to the health of our community.
- Cleaner Farm Equipment: The District proposes to issue grant funding to local area farmers to replace older, high-polluting diesel agricultural equipment with new, tier 4 diesel equipment, reducing several tons of toxic diesel particulate emissions per year. These types of projects protect the farm workers of our community from exposure to toxic diesel emissions, in addition to maintaining our region's famously clean air. This project type would work seamlessly with the District's existing Carl Moyer Program.
- Cleaner School Buses: The District proposes to issue grant funding to schools for the purpose of replacing old, high-emission diesel school buses with newer, clean running buses. With regards to air pollution, children are considered a "sensitive group." Cleaning

up transportation to and from schools would help positively impact school children's health.

- Cleaner Wood Stoves: The District proposes to issue grant funding for replacement of older, non-EPA-certified wood burning stoves and fireplaces with new, low- or zero-emission wood burning stoves, gas heaters, or electric heat pump systems. As many of our residents rely on wood for heat, and as our topography results in some areas where wood smoke can be concentrated and can negatively affect the health of our community, it is important to the District to continue to make this option available for our community. The District is exploring different funding sources for this type of project, and one of them is the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. *Staff at the District are especially interested in hearing from wood stove installers, to determine if we can meet rigorous State requirements for wood stove replacement projects in order to receive and award more wood stove funding.*

Please let the District know what types of projects you would like to see funded using Community Air Protection funding. Project types allowed by this grant fund may be somewhat limited right now, but it is important to provide feedback from our community groups to our state rule-makers so that they know the air quality challenges we are specifically facing here in Northern Sonoma County.