




air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Item: D-2  
Agenda Date: June 26, 2025  
Agenda Placement: Admin  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No

## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Lorena Saldana, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, (805) 979-8282

SUBJECT: District Grant and Incentives Program Activity

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the following grant program related activity:

1. An update on the Heat Clean Program for woodsmoke reduction projects during the period of May 8, 2025, through May 31, 2025;
2. An update on the Old Car Buy Back Program for vehicles retired during the period of May 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025; and
3. An update on the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program for zero-emission landscape equipment vouchers during the period of July 11, 2024, through May 31, 2025.

### DISCUSSION:

This item provides an update on grant and incentive programs and activities that occurred since your last Board meeting.

#### Heat Clean Program

The Heat Clean Program was launched on May 8, 2025, and the District employed a wide range of bilingual outreach tools including flyers sent to participating installers, email outreach to individuals and organizations, a news release, social media posts, and community newsletters.

The Heat Clean Program provides incentive funds for the voluntary replacement of wood-burning heaters (fireplaces and wood stoves) with electric heaters (heat pumps and electric fireplace inserts). The Heat Clean Program is funded with approximately \$400,000 from the California Air Resources Board's Woodsmoke Reduction Program. Applications are being processed in a first-



come, first-served order and incentives will be awarded until the funds are depleted. Households in a State-designated low-income or disadvantaged community or on tribal lands, or that document low-income eligibility, can receive up to \$12,000 toward replacement with an electric air-source heat pump, and up to \$7,000 toward replacement with an electric fireplace insert. All other households may be eligible for up to \$5,000 toward replacement with an electric air-source heat pump and up to \$2,500 toward replacement with an electric fireplace insert. The replacement heater must be purchased and installed with a participating installer. There are seven installers for heat pumps and two installers for electric fireplace inserts.

Old Car Buy Back Program:

The Old Car Buy Back Program update includes the number of vehicles retired, funds allocated, emissions reduced, average cost-effectiveness of program, and vehicle owner location. Only 33 vehicles were retired during the first 11 months of Fiscal Year 2024-2025. This low participation rate is primarily due to the rising cost of used vehicles and owner reluctance to sell. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved modifications to their Carl Moyer Program Guidelines on October 24, 2024, which will allow the District to provide increased incentive amount to program participants and raise the cost-effectiveness threshold which would allow the program to accept a wider range of vehicle model years and provide improvements that will benefit county residents. The current dismantler contracts expire in August 2025 and the District plans to bring updated dismantler contracts that incorporate the guideline changes to your Board for discussion and consideration at the August 2025 Board meeting.

Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund Program:

The Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program provides voucher incentive funds to businesses that operate gasoline powered landscape equipment in Santa Barbara County and voluntarily replace them with zero-emission landscape equipment. The fourth cycle of the LEEF Program launched on July 11, 2024, and the District employed a wide range of bilingual outreach tools including postcards sent direct mail, email outreach list to almost 500 organizations, news releases, social media posts, community newsletters, public presentations, and equipment demonstration events. The LEEF program is currently funded with a total of \$799,490 (i.e., approximately \$303,000 from the CARB Carl Moyer Program State Reserve fund and approximately \$497,000 from DMV surcharge revenue). One hundred percent (100%) of the LEEF Program funds have been allocated to 65 projects and 96% of the funds have been expended.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Heat Clean Program Update.
- B. Old Car Buy Back Program Update.
- C. Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program 4 Update.

# ATTACHMENT A

## Heat Clean Program Update

June 26, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110



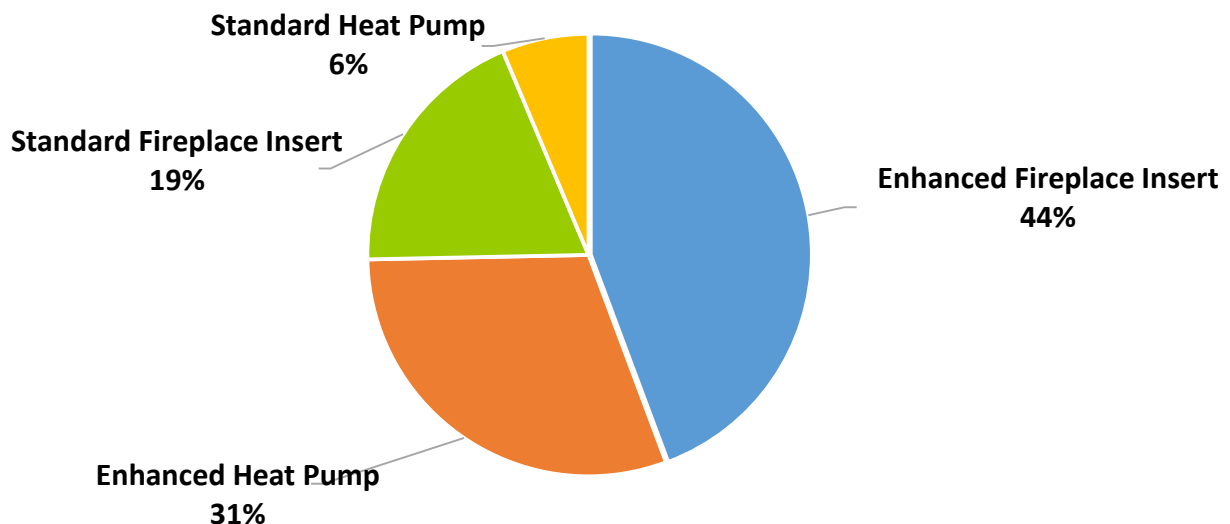
## Heat Clean Program Update

The Heat Clean Program provides incentive funds for residents to replace a wood-burning stove or fireplace with a cleaner burning and more efficient electric heater, either a heat pump or electric fireplace insert. Some households may qualify for a higher amount, an Enhanced Voucher, depending on the household's location in a state-designated low-income, disadvantaged, or tribal community, or based on the household's income. Households that do not qualify for the Enhanced Voucher may qualify for the Standard Voucher. The replacement heater must be purchased and installed with a participating installer who has signed an agreement with the District. The Heat Clean Program is funded with \$445,004 from the California Air Resources Board; \$402,118 is available for projects and \$42,886 is set aside for administration of the Program. Applications were made available starting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and vouchers are issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are fully allocated.

The Program mitigates neighborhood impacts and achieves emission reductions in criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases by reducing the amount of woodsmoke emitted from fireplaces and wood stoves throughout the County.

Heat Clean Program Voucher Incentives (May 8, 2025 – May 31, 2025)				
Voucher Type	Project Type	Applications Received		Funds Expended
		Number	Funds Issued	
Enhanced	Fireplace Insert	5	\$35,000	\$0
	Heat Pump	2	\$24,000	\$0
Standard	Fireplace Insert	6	\$15,000	\$0
	Heat Pump	1	\$5,000	\$0
Total		14	\$79,000	\$0

### FUNDS ISSUED BY PROJECT TYPE



## ATTACHMENT B

### Old Car Buy Back Program Update

June 26, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110



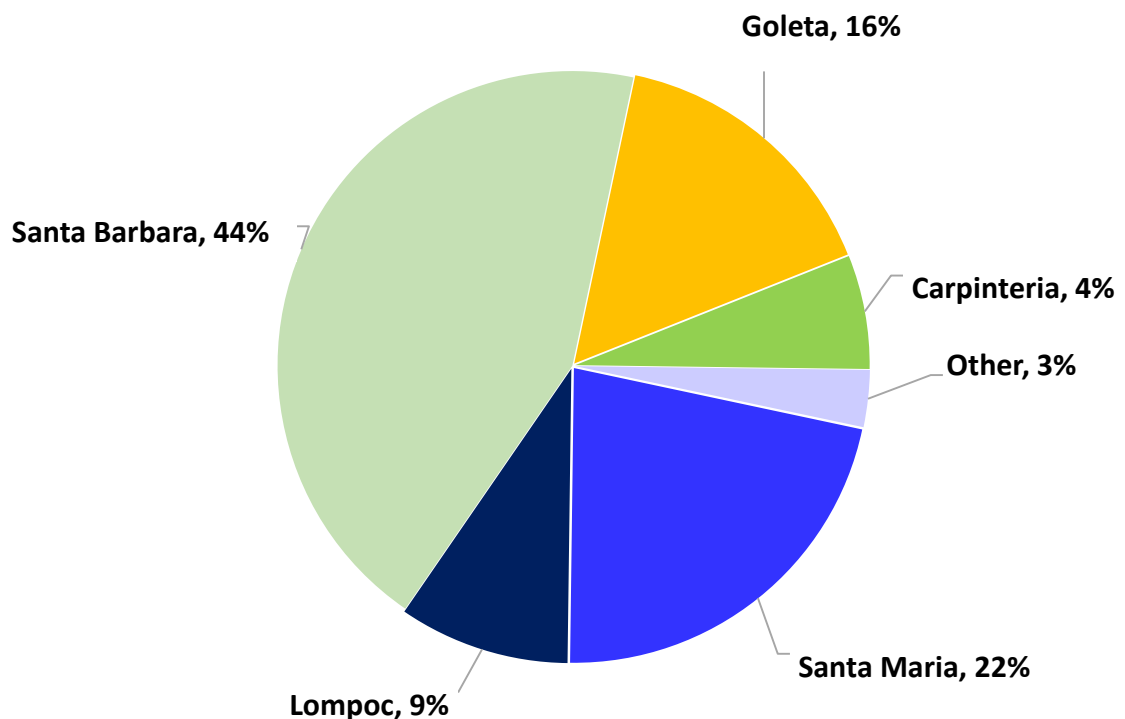
## Old Car Buy Back Program Update

The District's Old Car Buy Back Program currently pays Santa Barbara County vehicle owners \$1,000 to voluntarily retire their fully legal and operational 1997 or older, light or medium duty car, truck, van, or SUV. The regional dismantlers earn \$250 for each vehicle that they help retire. Currently, the total program cost is \$1,250 to retire a vehicle.

The program accelerates the improvement of air quality by removing high polluting vehicles from the road, quicker than normal vehicle attrition. Funding for the program is derived from \$2 DMV registration surcharge funds. Below is the program data for the most recent reporting period and the entire fiscal year.

Old Car Buy Back Program Activity		
	5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	FY 2024 - 2025
Vehicles retired	2	33
Funds committed @ \$1,250/vehicle	\$2,500	\$41,250
Total tons reduced [NOx+ ROC + PM]	0.16	2.42
Average project cost-effectiveness	\$28,495/ton	\$25,498/ton

### Vehicle Owner Location (FY 2024-2025)



## ATTACHMENT C

### Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program 4 Update

June 26, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110



## Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program 4 Update

The LEEF Program offers vouchers for the trade-in of gasoline landscape equipment for zero-emission electric landscape equipment. Businesses, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and public schools that perform their own landscape maintenance services, and that are located in or conduct business within Santa Barbara County, are eligible to participate in the LEEF Program. The current cycle of the LEEF Program is funded with \$303,443 from the California Air Resources Board and \$496,047 from DMV surcharge revenue for a total of \$799,490 available for projects. The voucher covers a large portion of the purchase price for new equipment, including mowers, leaf blowers, edgers, trimmers, chainsaws, batteries, and chargers. Vouchers are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The program reopened on July 11, 2024, and has been very popular with community members.

The program helps to reduce gasoline landscape equipment emissions, including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants. The program also helps community members, businesses, and employees experience the health and environmental benefits of cleaner technology.

LEEF Program Voucher Incentives (July 11, 2024 – May 31, 2025)				
Organization Type	Applications Received	Vouchers Issued		Funds Expended
	Number	Number	Funds Issued	
Business	53	47	\$563,208	\$540,615
Public Agency	4	4	\$16,870	\$16,230
School	8	7	\$108,113	\$108,113
Non-profit	8	7	\$111,299	\$105,826
Total	73	65	\$799,490	\$770,784

### VOUCHERS ISSUED BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

