

Preventing Pollution What We Can Do

Santa Barbara County
Air Quality News
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September/October 1999

National Pollution Prevention Week in September was celebrated locally by many organizations and agencies, including the Pollution Prevention Team for the Santa Barbara County area. (See page two for Team tips).

One highlight of the week was the announcement of the sixth annual Green Awards, which recognize county businesses and organizations for extraordinary environmental efforts.

This year for the first time half of the winners are from the northern part of the county. "There have always been progressive businesses in North County," notes APCD's Frances Gilliland. "The difference this year is that more were nominated for the award. Every year, more businesses are aware of the award and what it means." Gilliland is APCD's representative on the Green Awards Consortium. Other Consortium members are Community Environmental Council, Traffic Solutions, and Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Solid Waste and Utilities Division.



APCD Director Doug Allard with Sister Janet Corcoran, Vice President of Mission Services for Marian Medical Center, at the luncheon honoring Green Award winners.

Green Award winners for 1999 are Marian Medical Center (Santa Maria), Sanford Winery (Buellton), Hatch and Parent (Santa Barbara), Non-Toxic Landscaping (Santa Barbara) and the Home Improvement Center (Santa Barbara). "A Print Shop" in Lompoc was selected for an Environmental Education Award.

The winners have made outstanding efforts in preventing pollution through pesticide-free farming and landscaping, recycling, reducing the use of toxic materials, supporting green building design, and minimizing resource use. Winners have also helped employees use alternative transportation, and have instituted innovative programs to reward employees for pollution prevention.

One such program is the Partners for the Environment Committee program at Marian Medical Center. The committee of employees, volunteers, and

(continued in "Business Focus")

Enclosed with your newsletter is a copy of *Clean Technologies—for Clean Air*, a report on APCD's Innovative Technologies Group (ITG), which sponsors voluntary projects to reduce air emissions. See page three for an update on current projects.

"As we look at global warming and all of the other serious environmental issues, we realize that if we don't protect our environment, it will destroy us. We have to see our environment as closely linked with us, as part of our family. Saint Francis was an environmentalist, and taught us a great respect for and love of nature. When you think about it, he was a kind of community activist for his day. And that's what we have to be. Community activists for all of creation."

*-- Sister Janet Corcoran,
Vice President of Mission Services for 1999 Green Award Winner
Marian Medical Center*

Inside...

- ❖ Pollution Prevention Team Tips
- ❖ Don't Top Off
- ❖ Clean Technologies
- ❖ Board Roundup
- ❖ Green Award Winners
- ❖ Upcoming



Pollution Prevention Team Tips

The Pollution Prevention Team for the Santa Barbara County area is made up of APCD, the Community Environmental Council, City of Carpinteria Public Works, City of Santa Barbara Public Works, City of Lompoc, Traffic Solutions, and Santa Barbara County Water Agency. During Pollution Prevention Week, the Team sponsored a radio public awareness campaign, and issued the following pollution prevention tips.

Consume less. And think about what you do choose to buy. Just about everything we eat, wear, and use in our daily lives has some kind of impact on our environment. The most effective thing you can do to prevent pollution is to consume less stuff. Think about what you buy. Do you really need it? Is there an alternative product? Consider non-toxic household cleaners, non-disposable goods, rerefined motor oil, and products made from or packaged in recycled materials.

If you do need to buy hazardous materials, buy small quantities, use them properly and dispose of the remainder responsibly. Never pour chemicals on the ground, in the gutter, or down the storm drain. Santa Barbara area residents can use the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center on the UCSB campus to dispose of unwanted paint, solvents, pesticides, anti-freeze, motor oil, household cleaners and other household and business chemicals. *(Call 963-0583 ext. 105 for hours and directions.)* In addition, more than 50 collection centers in the County

will accept used motor oil for free.

Call 800-670-7645 for the location nearest you. The City of Lompoc's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 1585 North "V" Street is open by appointment—call 736-1261, ext. 8021 or 8024.

Avoid using pesticides indoors and outdoors whenever you can. Chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers can be carried into the creeks and storms drains when you over water, or when it rains. Try using least-toxic lawn and garden care products. Read the directions and use the smallest amounts needed. Landscape with native plants that don't require chemical fertilizers and excess water.

For a free guide on least-toxic gardening, call 963-0583.

Help reduce pollution and keep our creeks and ocean clean.

- ❖ Use a broom to sweep your driveway.
- ❖ Always pick up after your pet.
- ❖ Fix car leaks.
- ❖ Use the car wash.
- ❖ Never dump household hazardous waste or garden waste in the street or down the storm drain.
- ❖ If you use a septic system, make sure it is functioning properly.
- ❖ If you see illegal dumping, pollution in a creek, a clogged storm drain or a pollutant spill near a gutter, storm drain or creek, call the Project Clean Water Hotline: 1-877-OUR-OCEAN.

Get Involved! Contact Darcy Aston, Project Clean Water, at 568-3546.

Reduce, re-use and recycle. Every day, more than 1,500 tons of trash are thrown into landfills in Santa Barbara County. Help lengthen the life of our landfills by taking advantage of your community's recycling and yard waste collection programs. If you find it too daunting to initiate a full recycling program all at once, focus first on the big items—yard clippings constitute more than a quarter of the average household waste, while paper comprises more than a third of the average office waste.

For more information on recycling, call 568-3051. City of Lompoc residents can call 736-1261.

Use less electricity. You will reduce air pollution and save money too.

For tips, visit www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers.

Choose renewable electricity. Electricity generation is a major source of air emissions. In many parts of Santa Barbara County today we can choose clean power from renewable energy providers. *To find out more, call the California Energy Commission at (916) 654-4989 or visit their website at www.energy.ca.gov/renewables.* As a member of Northern California Power Agency, Lompoc took on a share of the construction of a geothermal electric generation project. As a result, much of Lompoc's electricity is produced with renewable energy.

The next time you go car shopping, think about energy and the air. There are many fuel-efficient cars on the road today. CarPoint's "Top Ten Fuel Misers" are: Volkswagen Golf, New Beetle, and Jetta; Chevrolet Metro; Honda Civic HX; Suzuki Swift; Mitsubishi Mirage; Saturn SC1 and SL1; and Nissan Sentra (see <http://carpoint.msn.com/browse/feature/fuel>). There are also many low-emission and super low-emission models, and electric cars and trucks, and soon there will be hybrid gas-electric cars on the market. You may not be aware that some new vehicle types, including sport utility vehicles (SUVs), can be much higher-polluting than cars.

To find out more, see <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/ccbg.htm>.

Leave your car at home sometimes. Carpool, bike, walk, vanpool or ride the bus to work or school to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.

For more information, call Traffic Solutions at 963-SAVE, or visit: www.sbcag.org/ts.htm.

Don't Top Off Your Tank

APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the August and September Board meetings.

August

- ✓ Approved five grant agreements for purchase of thirteen low-emission farm booster pump engines.
- ✓ Approved grant agreement for purchase of a low emission boat engine.
- ✓ Adopted APCD Rule 353, Adhesives and Sealants.
- ✓ Approved a grant agreement for purchase of three low-emission boilers and burner.

September

- ✓ Adopted a resolution proclaiming September 20-26 as "Pollution Prevention Week."
- ✓ Received report on the receipt of \$74,937 as final distribution of proceeds for claims by Chevron USA and APCD against Marine Corporation of America.
- ✓ Adopted APCD Rule 352, Natural Gas-Fired Fan-Type Central Furnaces and Residential Water Heaters.
- ✓ Received and filed the 1998 Annual Report on the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act of 1987.
- ✓ Received and filed a briefing on a Clean Campus Program at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

APCD Inspector Fred White has noticed numerous problems at gas stations due to people topping off their gas tanks. "When people top off their tanks, they keep the vapor recovery system from doing its job," says White. "We go to a lot of effort to make sure that gas station operators have their systems working properly, but customers have an equally

important role in preventing this pollution from getting into the air." He notes that topping off a tank:

- ❖ Spills gasoline. This can damage your car's paint job, and cause dangerously slippery (and potentially flammable) walking surfaces—all the while exposing anyone nearby to gas vapors, including benzene, a carcinogen.

❖ Harms the vapor recovery system. More gas vapors may be released from that hose until the problem is fixed, and the nozzle function may be hindered, making it harder for people to put gas in their tanks.

The answer? Don't top off. *When the gasoline hose shuts off, put it back.*

According to APCD Engineer Mike Goldman, "If we could prevent the spilled gasoline that happens with topping off, we could cut smog-forming pollution by some thirty tons a year." And that number doesn't even account for the harm to the vapor recovery system caused by topping off.

"This is completely unnecessary air pollution," says White. "Let's just eliminate it."



APCD Inspector Fred White

Clean Technologies Reducing Pollution

APCD's Innovative Technologies Group (ITG), described in the attached brochure, will seek APCD Board approval for a new project to bring thirty-nine bi-fuel postal vehicles to the Santa Barbara Montecito Street US Postal Service station.

The vehicles can run on either gasoline or less-polluting compressed natural gas (CNG). However, they've been stationed in an area outside the county where CNG is not readily available. The bi-fuel vehicles would replace

gasoline-only vehicles, and refuel at the Gas Company's new public CNG refueling station at 630 Quarantina in downtown Santa Barbara (built with help from ITG).

ITG will also be providing funding to the University of California at Santa Barbara for a Clean Campus program, designed to help the university expand its alternate fuel vehicle fleet, and purchase low-emission outboard boat engines.

ITG is currently working with Southern California Edison and

the Santa Barbara County Bowl on a system to hook diesel touring buses parked at the Bowl up to electric power, so they don't need to idle their engines while on site. This would reduce diesel exhaust emissions and noise impacts for the residents in the surrounding area.

For more information on ITG programs, contact Tom Murphy at 961-8857 or murphyt@sbcapcd.org.



Air Pollution Control District Board

Supervisor Naomi Schwartz

First District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Susan Rose

Second District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Gail Marshall

Third District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Joni Gray

Fourth District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Tom Urbanske

Fifth District

Santa Barbara County

Councilmember Russ Hicks

City of Buellton

Councilmember Dick Weinberg

City of Carpinteria

Mayor Sam Arca

City of Guadalupe

Councilmember DeWayne Holmdahl

City of Lompoc

Councilmember Elinor Langer

City of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Larry Lavagnino

City of Santa Maria

Councilmember Ed Andrisek

City of Solvang

APCD Board Calendar

*All meetings start at 2 p.m.
For final meeting agendas,
call the APCD Board Clerk,
568-2245.*

October 21, 1999

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara

November 18, 1999

Lompoc City Council
Chambers
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc

December 16, 1999

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara

Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Windmill Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Linda Beard, 961-8853.

Permit & Compliance Summary

	JUL	AUG
ATC Applications Received	14	11
ATC Permits Issued	9	7
PTO Applications Received	13	10
PTO Permits Issued	7	7
Exemption Requests	10	6
Exemptions Determined	7	5
Inspections Made	124	103
Notices of Violation Issued	22	7
Administrative Infractions (subset of above)	4	3
Complaints Received	55	33

Upcoming

November 9: County Public Works, Solid Waste and Utilities will host a satellite downlink of a presentation from US Environmental Protection Agency, "Buying Recycled - the Real Story about Cost, Availability and Quality" at 8:00 AM. The program will take place at the Public Health Department's San Antonio Building, 300 San Antonio Road, Room C101-102 in Santa Barbara. The satellite downlink will also be available in Santa Maria at the Souza Center, Room C, 708 S. Miller. For more information, contact Rory Lang at 882-3615.

November 19: Due to demand, another recertification training for dry cleaners will be held at APCD from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The cost will be \$50. For more information, contact John Garnett at 961-8935 or garnettj@sbcapcd.org.

May 21-24 2000: The Association of Environmental Professionals and Cal-NAEP will host a joint conference in Santa Barbara (Radisson Hotel). For more information, visit www.naep.org and www.califaep.org, or contact Mary Reents at 805-543-7032 or mreents@morrogroup.com



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Air Pollution Control District

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On the Air is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Community Assistance Section of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

For further information on items in this newsletter, or to be added to our subscription list, please call Bobbie Bratz, 961-8920 or Email bratzb@sbcapcd.org.

Our Vision: Clean Air



1999 Green Award Winners (cont'd from page one)

community leaders meets monthly to develop environmental strategies and review ideas for waste reduction and conservation. People with the best ideas are rewarded with a free meal and entry in a monthly drawing for \$50. The work of the committee has paid off: the Center reduced the amount of waste sent to the landfill in 1998 by about 14%.

Sister Corcoran was inspired to start the committee after attending an "ecological summit" a few years ago in San Francisco, held for facilities like Marian that are part of the Catholic Healthcare West group of medical facilities. Says Sister Corcoran, "When I found out that two percent of all waste is generated by hospitals, I knew we had to do something."

In addition to continuing to reduce waste in the future, Marian also plans to change out equipment to mercury-free equipment.

Changing to less-toxic or less-polluting materials can be a challenging process. After more than twenty years in the printing business using oil-based inks, six years ago Greg Brown of "A Print Shop" in Lompoc started printing with soy-based inks, which pollute much less than oil-based inks.

It wasn't an easy transition. Notes Brown, "It's a completely different chemistry. The printing process is designed with the idea that oil and water don't mix. But soy-based inks will accept moisture. So I had to learn to use a different wetting solution in the press. But in the past few years the soy-based inks have improved, and I've gained the experience in working with them." Brown now feels he can achieve excellent results with soy-based inks, and he gets additional business by promoting his environmentally friendly printing process.

Brown offers his customers a variety of recycled-content papers, and the option of printing on tree-free paper made from the kenaf plant, a member of the hibiscus family. Kenaf grows faster and produces



Michael Owens of Santa Barbara Home Improvement Center, which recycled 50 tons of cardboard last year. Says Owens, "Santa Barbara is a beautiful place to live, and it's a place you want to take care of. We want to do our part."

higher yields than pine trees grown for paper. Brown conducts tours of the shop for Lompoc students, and talks to them about the importance of recycling.

Bill Palmisano of Non-Toxic Landscaping also works with students, as garden manager of the Organic Healthy Lunch Garden at Open Alternative School, where students learn about sustainable gardening techniques and healthful eating habits.

Palmisano believes the paradigm for our relationship with our environment is changing. He remarks, "There's a theory that says that when there's a change like this from one paradigm to another, there's a period of chaos in between. During that period, small amounts of energy can influence the outcome in a huge way. I feel that we're in

(continued other side)

"My passion is saving and restoring topsoil. When you think about it, there's this very thin layer of topsoil on the earth's surface. It's so key. Below is rock, above is sky. People call it dirt and treat it like that. But it's more valuable than gold."

--Bill Palmisano, Non-Toxic Landscaping (pictured below)



1999 Green Award Winners (cont'd from other side)

that chaos period now. It's especially important now to do the right thing, because we have a great opportunity to influence the outcome."

J. Richard Sanford of Sanford Winery also refers to a change in our relationship with our environment: "At the turn of the millenium, we all recognize that the West has been won—and I hope we can all shift from a frontier mentality to a mentality of being in harmony with nature. We can accomplish this when establishing new vineyards by being respectful of the natural environment, respecting

and preserving native oak woodlands, and respecting our neighbors, be they agricultural or urbanite."

Sanford Winery was recognized for its efforts in organic farming and conservation, including the preservation of 100 acres of old-growth oak woodlands, the placement of owl boxes on the property, participation in the Peregrine Falcon Release Program, and erosion-control measures.

Notes Sanford, "We are proud to be recipients of the Green Award; to be recognized for

what now has become a lifestyle in our business and farming practices."

Michael Owens of Santa Barbara Home Improvement Center has also found environmental efforts become part of a business lifestyle: "At first when you start something like a recycling program, you're making a conscious change. But then you reach the point where you don't even think of it as an environmental choice anymore—it becomes routine."

Recycling was one of the first environmental efforts established at Hatch and Parent, notes Managing Partner Tim Buynak: "A law firm is very paper-intensive, and we didn't want to be chopping down a forest a day." After instituting recycling programs, the firm identified a low-VOC (volatile organic compound), low-odor paint for use painting offices. And by the time the firm began to build new offices downtown, designing an environmentally friendly building was a top priority in a three-year effort.

Says Buynak, "People are already pretty aware of the need for recycling, so setting that up was probably the easiest task. It was much harder to sit down with professionals working on our new building and answer all the questions about why we wanted this type of paint, or carpet, or why we really wanted windows that open, doors that open, and our overall interest in building a healthy building. Once we explained what we were doing, people could understand it and see that it actually works. And it was worth it."

For all the Green Award winners, environmental efforts have been worth it for a variety of reasons. And all the winners expressed a commitment to continuing their efforts in this area.

Sister Corcoran puts it this way: "As Saint Francis said once to his followers who had just achieved something, 'You've done nothing. Now, let's begin.' That's the saying for us. We want to continue to work at preserving and protecting Mother Earth."



Greg and Dawn Brown (left) of "A Print Shop" in Lompoc are asking students at Clarence Ruth Elementary in Lompoc to collect old cereal boxes and bring them to the shop. Says Greg Brown, "Then the class can make a visit to the shop and I'll show them how I make backing for notepads from the boxes they bring in. They can see recycling in action. It's hard sometimes to do something and not see the result. This way, they see the reward for the recycling that they're doing."