



**PROJECT
CLEAN
AIR**



Bakersfield College | Carrizo Community College | Porterville College



Community and
Economic Development



**San Joaquin Valley
Electric Vehicle Partnership**



For Immediate Release: 5/18/16

Contact: Brenda Turner, 661-847-9756 (office) or 661-599-9454 (cell)

Workshop to Train Teachers about Electric Vehicle Technology, Air Impacts

With more than 400,000 reservations now made for Tesla’s Model 3, electric cars appear to be increasing in popularity and, for the San Joaquin Valley, these vehicles also may be the key to improving our area’s poor air quality.

More than 20 teachers will be at Centennial High School Saturday morning (May 21 from 8 a.m. to noon) for a hands-on workshop, where they will learn how to design and build model electric vehicles (EVs). Each teacher will receive a \$150 stipend as well as lesson plans and model car kits to take back to their classrooms for students to design and build. A second workshop will be conducted in August, and interested teachers are encouraged to sign up. The workshops are funded by a State grant to Project Clean Air, the Kern Community College District and KCCD’s 21st Energy Center. The grant is administered by Fresno State’s Office of Community and Economic Development.

Teachers also will learn about how EVs can help reduce air pollution by decreasing tailpipe emissions. Mobile sources – cars, trucks and other vehicles – account for as much as 80 percent of the Valley’s smog problem, according to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. That makes the adoption of electric and other clean-fuel vehicles essential to cleaning up the region’s polluted air.

A number of area schools, including the Kern High School District, are installing solar projects. Schools and Valley businesses also can install EV charging at little to no cost through programs available from the Valley Air District and EV charging company EVgo.

“What better way for students to learn about electric vehicles than to build their own models and see how they work?” noted Dave Teasdale, director, Economic and Workforce Development Programs and the 21st Century Energy Center for KCCD. “As solar projects and EV charging are installed at schools, students have a built-in learning resource right on campus, which may influence their career choice.” Careers in the EV industry range from engineering to mechanics to marketing.

Project Clean Air, along with KCCD and the Valley Air District, is working to facilitate the adoption of EV technology through the San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle Partnership, a collaborative regional effort led by businesses as well as public and nonprofit organizations.

“About half of the electricity in the Valley is generated by natural gas. This technology supports our oil and gas industry, which really are ‘energy’ companies,” says Linda Urata, Project Clean Air’s president. “The region supplies solar and wind energy as well, and this hands-on program teaches students where energy comes from, how EVs use that energy for power, and other valuable math and science lessons.”

To register or get on the contact list for the August workshop, contact Project Clean Air at (661) 847-9756 or at projectcleanairprograms@gmail.com. Businesses also can contact Project Clean Air to learn about getting EV charging at their workplace.

#