



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

NEWS

Oct. 5, 2018

SCAQMD to Honor Clean Air Heroes at Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon

The South Coast Air Quality Management District will host its 30th Annual Clean Air Awards today, Oct. 5, honoring individuals and businesses, public agencies and others who are making significant contributions to cleaner air in the Southland.

The awards luncheon is being held at The LA Grand Hotel Downtown in Los Angeles. Kaj Goldberg, anchor and weathercaster for KTLA Channel 5 in Los Angeles, will emcee the event.

“We are always honored and excited to recognize and stand with those who are committed to cleaning the air,” said SCAQMD Governing Board Chairman William A. Burke, Ed.D. “These award winners are inspiring examples of how non-profits, business and community members can help lead the fight to make air pollution a thing of the past.”

SCAQMD’s 2018 Clean Air Award winners are:

The S. Roy Wilson Memorial Award for Leadership in Government

State Senator Kevin de León serves as President pro Tempore Emeritus of the state Senate and represents the 24th Senate District in Los Angeles.

Recently, Sen. de León’s bill, Senate Bill 350 was signed into law by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. to require 50 percent of the electricity consumed in California to come from renewable sources by 2030 with a goal of becoming 100 percent renewable by 2045.

During his time in the Senate, Sen. de León successfully secured a quarter of all cap-and-trade revenue to be spent in disadvantaged communities to promote clean air, jobs, transportation and energy efficiency. He created a rebate initiative to make electric cars more accessible to working families and played a central role in crafting a bipartisan agreement to extend California’s cap-and-trade program with \$1 billion of the generated revenue to reduce diesel pollution and increase electrification of the state transportation agencies and vehicles.

Sen. de León served four years in the Assembly before being elected to the Senate in 2010. He was the first Latino elected to the Senate President pro Tempore position in over a century.

Robert M. Zweig, M.D., Memorial Award

Dr. Keith Black is the chairman and professor for the department of neurosurgery, director of the Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute and director of the Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Brain Tumor Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Dr. Black has also served as principal investigator for SCAQMD's Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation, and continues to work with SCAQMD's Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation, investigating the effects of particulate matter exposure on brain tumor development. His studies seek to determine whether exposure to PM resulted in molecular changes in the brain associated with development of brain tumors or other brain disorders.

Dr. Black has published more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific papers and in 2009 published his book *Brain Surgeon: A Doctor's Inspiring Encounters with Mortality and Miracles*. Since 1987, he has performed more than 6,000 operations.

Model Community Achievement

Metrolink (Southern California Regional Rail Authority) upgraded its fleet of locomotives to become the first passenger rail in the nation to operate Tier 4 F125 clean technology locomotives. The acquisition of the locomotives was a collaborative effort by Metrolink, regional agencies, member agencies, elected officials and community members.

The total project cost of \$280 million was largely funded by \$110 million from the SCAQMD through the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program.

Compared to Metrolink's oldest locomotives, a F125 Tier-4 locomotive reduces emissions by up to 85 percent and has 57 percent more horsepower. This reduction of 13.75 tons of emissions per year is equivalent to removing 783 passenger vehicles annually.

The **City of Paramount's** Blueprint for Community Action began in the fall of 2016, in response to unacceptably high levels of hexavalent chromium detected by SCAQMD near metal-processing companies in the city. City officials created an inclusive action project with the goal of prioritizing the health of residents and improving air quality by:

- Implementing a best practices guideline for metal-emitting facilities and developing a new business license review process;
- Forming an air quality subcommittee to gain input from residents and experts, which culminated in zoning ordinance reform;
- Dedicating code enforcement staff to aid with SCAQMD inspections of facilities;
- Purchasing its own air samplers to ensure monitoring will continue into the future; and
- Launching the website ParamountEnvironment.org to keep the public informed.

Innovative Clean Air Technology

Since **Tesla** was founded in 2003, their mission has been to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy by designing and building zero-emission vehicles and investing in ZEV infrastructure. Tesla pushed the boundaries for heavy-duty class 8 trucks last year when it introduced *Semi*, a zero-emission, all-electric truck offering a predicted range of 300 or 500 miles and significant fuel savings.

Tesla's innovative clean air vehicles have saved over 3.5 million tons of CO₂ thus far, and their cleaner transportation options will continue to provide benefits to our communities by reducing air pollution and protecting public health.

Clean Air Education and Outreach

California State University, Los Angeles' EcoCAR 3 Advanced Vehicle Training Competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, GM and managed by Argonne National Laboratory, has made a positive impact on nearby communities by sparking interest in environmentally friendly vehicle alternatives.

This four-year competition from 2014 to 2018 challenged Cal State LA's EcoCAR3 team to redesign a 2016 Chevrolet Camaro into the ultimate energy-efficient, high performance vehicle while keeping its iconic body design. Also, the team designed and built a plug-in hybrid vehicle for police service responding to Gov. Brown's call for clean vehicles in California's fleets.

Business Leadership in Air Quality

Los Angeles World Airports owns and operates the Los Angeles International and Van Nuys airports. LAWA's strategic plan includes "Operate Sustainably" as one of four key objectives. This sustainability objective has led LAWA to implement programs to minimize impacts to air quality and reduce greenhouse gases. LAWA's air quality programs include:

- Targeted reductions of greenhouse gases to below 1990 levels;
- Expansion of electrical vehicle use and infrastructure;
- Use of airplane biofuel;
- Alternative fuel vehicle fleet; and
- Employee rideshare program and FlyAway bus program.

LAWA is determined to meet its goals of improving air quality, reducing GHG emissions, and building healthy communities, while also contributing to the region's economy.

Proterra, Inc. is a leader in the design and manufacture of zero-emission, heavy-duty electric vehicles, enabling bus fleet operators and vehicle manufacturing partners to significantly reduce operating costs while delivering clean, quiet transportation.

In 2017, Proterra Catalyst® set the world record for driving the longest distance ever traveled by an electric vehicle on a single charge: An electric bus drove 1,101.2 miles with 660 kilowatt-hours of energy storage capacity. The Catalyst was designed from the ground up exclusively as an electric vehicle, with a durable, life-extending composite body, modular battery storage and state-of-the art electric drivetrain.

Youth Leadership in Air Quality

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire and its affiliates are a non-profit, tax-exempt service organization that makes clean, renewable energy technology and job training accessible to frontline communities. The GRID Inland Empire Solar Futures Program teaches youth aged 16-24 real-world job skills in solar technologies by exposing students to clean energy career options.

Through GRID's Solar Futures program, students learn how fossil fuels emit harmful byproducts of greenhouse gases and particulate matter that contribute to poor air quality. Students help install solar panels in their own communities. Through these projects, Solar Futures students are helping to build an inclusive clean-energy future for all.

SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

-#-