

# In The Air

The Clean Air Partners Newsletter



## CONGRATULATIONS PARTNERS!



### Congratulations Clean Air Partners

Congratulations Clean Air Partners for winning the 2015 Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Excellence Award in the Community Action category! Thank you Partners, your efforts make the program great.

### TERP Rebate Grants Available

The TCEQ's Texas Emissions Reduction Plan has grant funding available to replace older polluting vehicles. Rebate grants are limited to on-road repower and replacement projects, and the opportunity is available to the five-county region. In addition, part of the funds allocated to the Rebate Grants Program will be set aside for applications from entities that qualify as a Small Business under the TERP Guidelines for Emissions Reduction Grants. Thus, small businesses are encouraged to apply. The advantage of this program is that, unlike the Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program, the Rebate Grants Program is not competitive. Applications will be reviewed, processed and awarded on a first-come, first served bases. Applications for funding will be accepted until 5:00 pm on June 26<sup>th</sup> or until all funding has been distributed. For more information, visit

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/airquality/terp/rebate.html>.

Don't miss the CAP Field Trip to ABIA to visit the electric charging stations for ground equipment. Look for more details to come.



**GET MONEY TO UPGRADE OR REPLACE YOUR TRUCK OR EQUIPMENT—AND CLEAR THE AIR!**

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**Reporting  
Due**

**June 30<sup>th</sup>**

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## New Partner, Metropia

With 110 people moving to the region per day, it is no wonder Austin ranks No. 4 in the nation for traffic problems. The solution to Austin's congestion requires a multi-faceted, multi-model approach

## AirCheck Texas

Residents of Travis and Williamson Counties must have their vehicle emissions system tested once a year. This test is part of the annual safety inspection administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The reason for using the new emission test is to reduce air pollution caused by gasoline powered vehicles that do not function properly.

The AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program is a voluntary program that provides financial assistance and incentives, for qualified applicants, to remove or repair older polluting vehicles from Texas roadways. In Central Texas, vehicles are the main source of harmful emissions that cause lung-damaging ozone pollution. The AirCheck Texas Program is a key part of Central Texas' plan to reduce air pollution and its negative effects on our health.

Financial assistance of up to \$600 for repairs to your car or truck is available for eligible motorists. Your vehicle must be registered in Travis or Williamson County and the owner must meet the financial requirements.

Your vehicle must also meet these conditions:

- Failed an emissions test within 30 days of submitting your application,
- Has a current registration and has been registered in your participating county area for at least 12 of the 15 months preceding your application, and
- Passed the safety portion of the DPS motor-vehicle safety and emissions inspection, and driven under its own power to the inspection station.

A Vehicle Replacement Assistance program is also available for eligible motorists for higher emissions emitting cars and trucks. Financial assistance of up to \$3500 to replace your vehicle is available.

including telecommuting and flex time, mass transportation, bicycling, carpooling and new and improved roadways. But, when you have to drive, there is a way to have a smarter and greener commute.

The [Metropia](#) app helps drivers make smarter travel decisions and gets users to their destination on time using real-time trip predictions, route mapping, and turn-by-turn navigation. By planning ahead with Metropia, users get a clearer picture as to what their upcoming commute will look like as well as accurate travel times and travel alerts for traffic incidents and lane closures. Users earn points each time they use the app. The more off-

peak times and least congested routes commuters use, the more points they earn. Points can be exchanged for perks from local retailers: Tacodeli, Go Local, Rocket Electrics and Luke's Locker to name a few. As you avoid traffic and reduce CO2 emissions, Metropia plants trees on your behalf through a partnership with American Forests.

Metropia is a great tool to add to business commuting programs, particularly those whose employees have flexible work schedules. Join Partners like AMD and Emerson Process Management to offer employee solutions for flex time and a better commute for employees who have to drive.



Your vehicle must meet these conditions:

- Failed an emissions test,
- Has a current registration and has been registered in your participating county area for at least 12 of the 15 months preceding your application, and
- Passed a Texas motor-vehicle safety and emissions inspection within 15 months of your application and driven under its own power to the automobile dealership.

### OR

- At least 10 years old and gasoline powered,
- Driven under its own power to the automobile dealership,
- Has a current registration and has been registered in your participating county area for at least 12 of the 15 months preceding your application, and
- Passed a DPS motor-vehicle safety inspection (if more than 24 years old) or safety and emissions inspection (if 24 years old or less) within 15 months of application.

You can learn more and apply at [cleantravisair.com](http://cleantravisair.com) or [driveacleanmachine.org](http://driveacleanmachine.org).

**Catch the winning  
High School Public  
Service  
Announcement on  
Time Warner Cable  
News.**



**This year the program worked with Clean Air Partners Samsung and Time Warner Cable for the contest and a first place winner was selected from Vista Ridge High School in Leander ISD, and a second place winner was selected from Manor New Tech High School in Manor ISD.**

**Thank you Time Warner Cable and Samsung!**

## Shop for a Cause

Next time you shop on Amazon, choose Amazon Smile, a division of Amazon that contributes .5% of your sale to the nonprofit of your choice. The CLEAN AIR Force is a registered nonprofit. Shop [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

Local florist, Freytag's has a similar program. When you check out, choose the CLEAN AIR Force with their Austin Community Blooms program and a 5% donation is made to our organization at no cost to the customer. Visit [freytagsflorist.com](http://freytagsflorist.com).



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

The CLEAN AIR Force is also registered with online retailer, BeautyKind. Shop for health and beauty products, and they will donate 5% of your product purchase to the cause of your choice. They also have a rewards program. When you shop you'll earn 1% in points on your purchases. Every BeautyKind point is worth \$1, and for every point you earn, your will raise \$5 for a great cause.



## Low-Emission Landscaping Practices

It's spring! A great time to re-evaluate and begin planning for improving area landscaping practices.

Some ideas include converting equipment from gasoline to propane, planting low VOC emitting trees, reducing mowing and the area mowed, using only registered lawn care services, creating a self-sustaining or low maintenance irrigation system and using xeriscaping and native plants.



## Reminders and Tips:

- Utilize your company intranet site and internal email blasts for Ozone Action Day alerts and other air quality information.
- Encourage no idling for delivery trucks at your site.
- During the hot summer months, reduce energy consumption and shift your high demand electric activities to non-peak hours.
- Use the hashtag #BeAirAware.

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