

Free Tire Recycling Today!

Just in case you do not have plans for today, and just in case you have a couple of tires in your backyard, there is a free tire recycling event today at the Hay Road Landfill in Vacaville. This event is open to Solano County residents, growers, ranchers, and farmers(proof of residency is required). No businesses are allowed.

The event runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Take your tires to 6429 Hay Road, east of Vacaville. You can haul up to 9 tires without a waste tire hauling permit. If you miss this event, Vallejoans have to wait until next April for our annual E-waste and Tire recycling event.

Today's event is funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board in partnership with the Cities and County of Solano.

Fuel efficient cars

Even though gas prices have fallen recently, we need to keep pressuring auto makers to give us cars with high gas mileage. Aside from the high-priced hybrids that get up to 50 miles per gallon (mpg), we cannot find a car out there that will beat our 1990 Mazda 323. On a recent road trip we logged over 36 mpg and routinely get 30 mpg in town.

The new Ford Fiesta ECONetic, a small, sporty five-seater, gets an impressive 65 miles per gallon and will hit the road in November but only in Europe. It is a new generation diesel car which is cleaner and at least 30 percent more fuel-efficient than gas-powered vehicles.

There is word from Mercedes-Benz that they will have three diesel vehicles on the market next year. This writer hopes they will be tuned to accept biodiesel.

My sister and I rented a diesel Citroen in Spain four years ago that averaged 60 mpg and we were using air conditioning.

VALCORE board member Genie Kaggerud sent me a link to a car powered by compressed air (www.theaircar.com). The idea is not new, in fact a compressed-air vehicle was built in France in 1834. Several

people are again experimenting with a this nonpolluting idea for a passenger vehicle.

In the mean time, you can increase your mpg by paying attention to your driving habits: slower starts, smoother stops, and reduced speed on the highway and city streets. One car columnist reminded us to actively watch what is three blocks ahead of us. If the light is red, there is no reason to speed up and then break hard.

In 2004, UPS announced that its drivers would avoid making left turns. The time spent idling while waiting to turn against oncoming traffic burns fuel and costs millions each year. A software program maps a customized route for every driver to minimize left turns.

A quick question: what is your mpg when you sit idling waiting for to pick up your children after school?

According to the Solano Asthma Coalition, "vehicle idling happens without much thought, yet it is harmful to our air quality, our health, our cars, and our wallets. An idling vehicle gets zero mpg and wastes gas and money while polluting the air. It wastes more fuel than turning your car off then later restarting it.

Composting Class

Vallejo's last composting class of the year will be held on Saturday, September 27 at VALCORE Recycling. The class runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Two Biostack Composting bins will be given to two lucky Vallejo Residents. This free class is sponsored by the city of Vallejo and open to all.

*VALCORE Recycling Board Member Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.
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