

# 10 Ten Things You Can Do to Help Clean the Air



Air quality in Southern California has improved dramatically since the 1940's. However, we still have a long way to go to meet state and federal air quality health standards. We offer the following suggestions on how you can join the South Coast Air Quality Management District in "Cleaning the Air That We Breathe." Together, we are making a difference.

**1** Be involved and informed in the fight against air pollution by joining our Clean Air Connections. Membership is free and open to everyone. For more information call 1-800-4-CLN-AIR or visit [www.CleanAirConnections.org](http://www.CleanAirConnections.org).

**2** Motor vehicles are responsible for more than half of

all smog-forming emissions.

When buying your next vehicle, consider choosing one of the lowest-polluting models available. For more information, go to [www.CleanAirChoices.org](http://www.CleanAirChoices.org).



**3** Some older vehicles and those that are improperly maintained emit at least 20 times more pollution than newer models in good working order. Report smoking vehicles and suspected air pollution violations online at [www.aqmd.gov/complain/reporting\\_aq\\_problems.html](http://www.aqmd.gov/complain/reporting_aq_problems.html) or by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG.

**4** Play an active role in protecting your family's and community's health by helping to reduce wood smoke pollution. Convert your wood-burning fireplace to use clean-burning gas logs. Wood stoves and other wood-burning devices are used in an estimated 1.4 million households in the Southland and they emit an average of 6 tons per day of PM2.5 emissions – more



all of the power plants in the four-county region. PM2.5 pollution is associated with a wide range of adverse health impacts including an increase in premature deaths, particularly among those with heart and lung disease. The Southland has the highest PM2.5 levels in the nation. Learn more: [www.HealthyHearths.org](http://www.HealthyHearths.org)

than four times as much fine particulate pollution as

**5** Dry cleaners in the region emit about 250 tons a year of a toxic chemical called perchloroethylene. Some dry cleaners now use non-toxic methods. To find one in your area, go to the Clean Air Connections website at [www.CleanAirConnections.org](http://www.CleanAirConnections.org).



**6** During the recent energy crisis, Californians did a better than expected job at conservation. If you haven't already, choose from the many options available to conserve energy – and save money – such as using compact fluorescent light bulbs, using the microwave to cook small meals and buying energy-efficient appliances when you replace old ones.



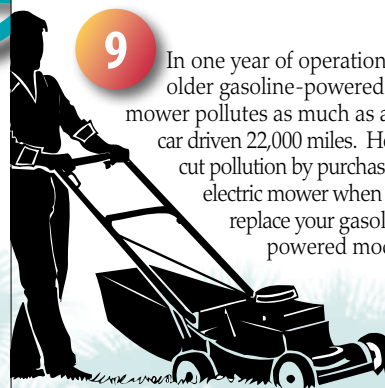
**7** Painting homes and other

structures causes more than 23 tons per day of smog-forming pollutants – an amount greater than that emitted from all power plants and oil refineries. Read paint labels and choose coatings that contain little or no volatile organic compounds or VOCs.



**8** Energy needed for summertime air conditioning boosts power plant emissions. Plant a tree to help shade your home and cool it naturally.

**9** In one year of operation, one older gasoline-powered lawn mower pollutes as much as a new car driven 22,000 miles. Help cut pollution by purchasing an electric mower when you replace your gasoline-powered model.



**10** While many Southern Californians enjoy a summer cookout, traditional barbecues can be a significant source of air pollution. A simple solution is to replace your old barbecue with a natural gas grill. Some local utilities even offer rebates when purchasing gas grills.

**CleanAirConnections.org**

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