

DHEC announces lawn mower exchange event April 28

FOR THE JOURNAL

COLUMBIA — Residents of 11 South Carolina counties will have another alternative to pushing a gasoline-powered lawn mower again this summer, the state Department of Health and Environmental Control announced recently.

"A lawn mower exchange event is being held for residents in Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Greenwood, Greenville, Lexington, Oconee, Pickens, Richland and Spartanburg counties," said Myra Reece, chief of DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality. "This popular program will give residents the opportunity to recycle their gasoline-powered mower in exchange for a discount

toward the purchase of a new environmentally-friendly mower."

Reece said the lawn mower exchange, which will also feature vendors selling environmentally-friendly lawn and garden equipment, will take place from 8 a.m. to noon April 28 at Tri-County Technical College student parking lot in Pendleton for residents of Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties.

"The lawn mower exchange is a great way for people to get involved in improving air quality by switching to an environmentally-friendly mower," Reece said. "Clean air is important for healthy communities, and these exchanges give our citizens an opportunity to make communities a

healthier place to live, work and play."

Reece said that despite efficiency improvements in the engines, today's gasoline mowers still contribute emissions including those forming ground-level ozone, which can cause shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing.

"Gasoline mowers also cause more greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere," Reece said. "Using an environmentally-friendly mower reduces emissions and potential health effects."

For more information on lawn mower exchanges in your area, visit DHEC's website at www.scdhec.gov/lawnmowerexchange or follow the agency on Twitter, @scdhec.