

An Environmental Affair

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The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in the City of Los Angeles.

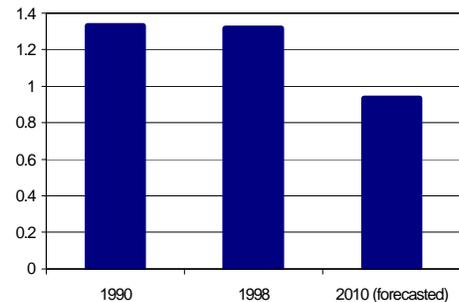
City of L.A. Takes Further Step to Combat Global Climate Change

Scientific research now demonstrates that the Earth's climate is warming at an unprecedented rate, with a growing body of evidence pointing to humans as largely responsible for enhancing the Earth's natural greenhouse effect and accelerating the rate of global warming.

Activities causing this warming to occur include the burning of fossil fuels for transportation and industrial operations – which results in the emission of the heat-trapping greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) – and the destruction of carbon-sequestering forests.

If not dealt with, global warming could result in significant impacts including flooding of low-lying property, loss of beaches and coastal wetlands, saltwater contamination of coastal underground drinking water supplies, a rise in ground-level ozone (which aggravates existing respiratory ailments), and increases in heat-related illnesses. Cognizant of these potential threats, the City of Los Angeles is addressing the concerns associated with global climate change and is taking steps to avoid or reduce the environmental problems associated with global climate change. The City's efforts include significant commitments to using clean fuel vehicles, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing greening, adopting an Energy Climate Action Plan, (Energy C.A.P.), and joining the California Climate Action Registry (the Registry).

City of Los Angeles CO₂ Emissions
(Millions of Tons/Year)



Last month, the City became a charter member of the Registry, a private, nonprofit voluntary registry for greenhouse gas emissions. It is designed to allow companies and organizations in California to measure their greenhouse gas emissions and establish baselines against which any future greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements may be applied. Participation and membership is fully voluntary, but provides an excellent way for tracking and reporting emissions and providing standardized guidance for measuring, reporting, and certifying greenhouse gas emissions annually. "Climate change is likely to be the number one environmental issue of the century, and poses a range of threats to California and its economy," said Mary D. Nicholas, chair of the Registry's Board and California's Secretary of the

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An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>. TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST

Leaving 2002 With a Sense of Safety.



In October of 2002, the California Safe Schools Coalition (CSS) successfully partnered with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to implement a least-toxic, low-risk pest management policy that stresses the importance of applying a "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE."

In response to a growing concern regarding health implications relating to pesticide usage, the CSS and LAUSD have successfully addressed the issue.

The joint effort utilizes a precautionary principle policy that "mandates the use of preventative measures and least toxic methods," said Robina Suwol, Executive Director of CSS. "Only when preventative measures fail does the district turn to pesticides on the approved list. Pesticides on the approved list cannot contain products known to cause cancer, neurological disruption, birth defects, genetic alteration, reproductive harm, immune system dysfunction, endocrine disruption, or acute poisoning, which stops the routine use of the most hazardous pesticide in our schools."

This program has been acknowledged as one of the most effective solutions in the country for removing pests while ensuring children's safety. To help distribute information to inquiring parents and the public, a new CSS website is now available at <http://www.calisafe.org>. Among some of the information included in this website are LAUSD's policy regarding pesticide usage and studies that reports health effects associated with pesticide usage. For additional information, please contact Robina Suwol, Executive Director California Safe Schools at 818-785-5515, or email her at schoolipm@yahoo.com.

EAD Encourages Mercury Pollution Prevention



The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and the City's Bureau of Sanitation have produced a joint documentary video on mercury pollution prevention efforts in the City of Los Angeles. The video will be aired on City View Channel 35 beginning in December 2002. Check the City View monthly schedule for specific airing times at: <http://parc1.lacity.org/appldept/calendarME/filedocs/ita/tvguide.cfm>, or call EAD's Hazardous & Toxic Materials Office at (213) 978-0891.

EAD Launches Alternative Fuel Page on EAD Web site

In October, after months of hard work and preparation, the of the Environmental Affairs Department completed its web page on "Alternative Fuels and Mobile Source Programs." It can be visited at <http://www.lacity.org/ead/EADWeb-AOD/AlternativeFuelMobile.htm>. The page has a variety of information about alternative fuels and their applications in the city as well as their implications for cleaner air.



On the site, you can find out about the many terms and concepts related to Alternative Fueled Vehicles (AFVs). You can also learn about what the City of Los Angeles is doing to encourage the use of AFVs by its departments and residents. Additionally, you can find out what bicycle patrols, Carl Moyer, and the Clean Cities Program have to do with improving the air in Los Angeles.

So, be sure to check it out on line and stay tuned for continued expansion/updating of EAD's web site.

Environmental Assistance for the New Year

On November 7, 2002, Mayor Hahn unveiled the new 3-1-1 "One Call to City Hall" call information system, which provides Los Angeles residents with convenient, reliable, and prompt access to City services and information.

Along with environmental information, residents can access all 1,400 non-emergency services that will be provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, via a simple 3-1-1 phone number and the internet. To access 3-1-1 services online, please visit <http://publiccsd.lacity.org/CSD/index.cfm>.

Alternatives 800 numbers and a regular 7-digit phone number are available for calls from locations that cannot access the 3-1-1 number, such as calls from outside the City limits and from cellular phones. Those calling from a wireless mobile phone, a pay phone, or callers outside the City of Los Angeles - but within the Counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange - can call 1-866-4LACITY toll-free to reach the 3-1-1 Center. To contact the 3-1-1 Center from outside the listed counties, callers can dial 213-978-3231.

For more information regarding the service or to view the history and general overview of the 3-1-1 system, please visit <http://www.lacity.org/call311/>.

Cleaning The House Just Became Easier

On July 25, 2002, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation unveiled their Washington Boulevard Bulky Item Drop-off Center located in southeast Los Angeles on Washington Boulevard, between Soto Street and Santa Fe Avenue.

Sanitation personnel, along with Homeboy (a community based non-profit youth group) staff this brand new facility that offers residents a place to dispose of their old bulky-items such as sofas, tables, mattresses, and other furniture. Large appliances such as washers and dryers, stoves, and refrigerators are also welcome.

In addition to the free-of-charge disposal, the center offers an incentive voucher rebate program that pays anywhere from \$1 to \$5 per item, which is redeemable at the Southern California Edison Credit Union. The program is designed to reduce illegal disposal in the City and is achieving its goal, collecting on average 5.4 tons per day and distributing nearly \$900 in redemption vouchers per day.

Aside from the Washington Boulevard facility, Sanitation annually makes 200,000 to 250,000 regularly scheduled bulky item collections. Residents can contact Sanitation and schedule a free service pickup of their large discarded items, which are retrieved during that same week.



In conjunction with their regularly scheduled bulky item retrieval service, the Bureau has taken another great leap forward to improve our City with the new Drop-off Center. For additional information regarding bulky item services, please call the Bureau of Sanitation at 800-773-2489, or visit www.lacity.org/SAN/services/bulkyitm.htm.

New Addition to the EAD

The Environmental Affairs Department welcomes Elissa Palmer to its Water & Natural Resources Division. Elissa will be working for the EAD on tree-planting projects to finalize planting locations and ensure timely completion of the work. Elissa has a Bachelor of Geological Sciences degree from Cornell University. She also is employed part-time at TreePeople as the Campus Forestry Coordinator.

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.



The **EPA's Office of Environmental Justice** is currently accepting applications for its Small Grants Program. Awards will be given to community-based/grassroots organizations that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems. Funds can be used to develop a new activity or substantially improve the quality of existing programs. Applications are due **December 18, 2002**. For more information, contact Willard Chin (415-972-3797) or Rachael Loftin (415-972-3272) in the EPA's California office, or visit www.epa.gov and search for "environmental justice grant."



The **National Science Teachers Association** is offering a "Science and Your Health Challenge" to K-6 teachers to develop hands-on, inquiry-based classroom projects to help students explore science through health-related lessons. Forty teachers will be selected to receive a \$1,500 award to purchase classroom science materials and to attend a NSTA convention. Applications are due **December 16, 2002**. Please visit www.nsta.org/lysol or call (703) 312-9225 for more information.

National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats Wild Seed Fund mini-grants assist schools in the initial phases of a Schoolyard Habitats project. To be eligible, schools must be planning to create or restore wildlife habitat on their school grounds and certify their Schoolyard Habitats site with the NWF by March 15, 2004. Applications are due **January 15, 2003**. For more information visit www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats or contact Laura Wayne at (703) 438-6582.



The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** (NFWF) is accepting proposals for projects that build public-private partnerships to reduce and prevent degradation of coral reefs and associated reef habitats. Projects may address causes of coral reef degradation wherever they occur, from inland areas to coastal watersheds to the reefs and surrounding marine environment. Proposals are due **January 31, 2003**. For application and guidelines visit www.nfwf.org or contact Michelle Pico at pico@nfwf.org.

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to promote more efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of land and natural resources. Please visit www.surdna.org for application information or call (212) 557-0010.

California Integrated Waste Management Board Recycling Market Development Zone Revolving Loan Program provides direct loans to eligible businesses that use post-consumer or secondary waste materials to manufacture new products or that reduce the waste resulting from the manufacture of a product. For more information call (916) 341-6530 or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/grants.

Captain Planet Foundation funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths interested in solving environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Please visit www.captainplanetfdn.org for details and an application.

Home Depot — Community Grant Program provides assistance to non-profits that direct efforts toward forestry, ecology, green building design, clean-up, recycling, and lead poisoning prevention. This grant is for non-profits only. For more information contact your local Home Depot store manager or visit www.homedepot.com and search for "community involvement."

Reuse Assistance Grants Program is developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help local public agencies promote reuse activities at the local public agency level. All local public agencies in California are eligible to apply. For more information, call Sarah Weimer at (916) 341-6613 or email sweimer@ciwmb.ca.gov.

The California Community Foundation accepts grants year-round for projects that seek to revitalize low-income neighborhoods. Funds will support the development, rehabilitation and beautification of affordable housing and living areas, and will support the establishment or maintenance of safe recreation areas and parks, including community gardens. Please visit www.calfund.org or call (213) 413-4130.

The Pew Charitable Trusts Environment Program funds non-profit organizations to promote policies and practices that protect the global atmosphere and preserve healthy forest and marine ecosystems. Visit www.pewtrusts.com/grants/ or call (215) 575-9050.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

Down-by-the-River Walks



Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Sierra Club are sponsoring monthly walks along the banks of the LA River. Join them at 4:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more information, visit the FoLAR website, www.folar.org, or call Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.

Japanese Garden Tours

Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gardens at the D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys are offered during the day on Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations call (818) 756-8166.

Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours of the facility (located near El Segundo in Los Angeles) are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9 am. For more information, please contact Felcie Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.

Habitat Restoration Days



Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. You are invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds every second Saturday of the month. Morning maintenance is done from 9 am-noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information on this event or events for youth, please call (310) 32-MARSH.

Afternoons in the Lab



Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific fun. The science education afternoon is free and opens with a different theme each week. Groups should make reservations. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

Satwiwa Saturdays

From 10 am to 4 pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Call (805) 370-2301.

Smart Gardening Workshops



The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www.smartgardening.com. For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica



offer free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each month. Visitors who arrive between 9 and 10:30 am will be led on a 1 1/2 hour tour which makes 5 stops along the walkbridge and loop trail. Trained tour guides discuss bird identification, ecology, endangered species, early history and current status. For more information, visit <http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org>. or call (714) 840-1575.

The EAD website, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our website calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held by the LA Audubon Society on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For more information call (323) 876-0202 or visit www.LAAudubon.org.



Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park

offers youth activities including day-long trips to destinations like Point Mugu, Franklin Canyon and Malibu Creek. These trips are held each Saturday and transportation is provided. For information, please call (323) 585-3205.

Secret Garden Pruning Club

Have you ever wondered how the Rose Garden looks so beautiful? The Exposition Rose Garden is proud to announce the Exposition Rose Garden Pruning Club. Every Wednesday, learn how to take care of your garden through weekly lectures and hands-on sessions that cover pruning techniques, weeding, watering, and more. For information or to join, please call (213) 765-5397 or email to rosegarden@rap.lacity.org.

THIS MONTH:

All Month Long



Reindeer Romp! Come visit the antlered visitors who have taken up residence in the L.A.

Zoo's Eucalyptus Grove. Teach your little ones about these European cousins of the North American caribou. There will also be fun craft activities free of charge with park admission. For more information, please contact the Zoo at (323) 644-6400 or visit www.lazoo.org.

IMAX Experience



The IMAX theater, located at Exposition Park, is now showing two remarkable nature

films, *Whales* (all month at 1 pm) and *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees* (Sat & Sun at various times). *Whales* follows the majestic ocean giants on their annual voyage, and *Wild Chimpanzee* follows Goodall's expedition deep into Africa. Call (323) SCI-ENCE for admission prices and showtimes.

Nature at its Best

Enjoy the splendid artwork of Thomas Struth at the Museum of Contemporary Art. A renowned artist of German descent, Struth's masterpieces include landscapes and photography that possess sophistication and timeless pictorial rigor and beauty. The showcase is being displayed at MOCA's California Plaza located on 250 S. Grand Ave, Los Angeles. For times, fees and additional information, please call (213) 626-6222.

Sat, December 7

Attention Teachers! Heal the

Bay will once again be holding their "Key to the Sea" development workshops for K-5 instructors. Enhance your students' understanding of our ocean environments. Contact HTB at (310) 453-0395.

Tue, December 10



"Oaks in the Mountains"

The Los Angeles and Santa Monica Mtns. Chapters of the CA Native Plant Society will be sponsoring a talk by Rosi Dagit, renowned oak expert, about our local oaks, their health and habits. The talk will be held at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino at 7:30 pm. Call (818) 881-3706 or visit www.lacnps.org for directions.

Sunday, December 15

Animals of the Ancient Middle East

Learn about these wondrous creatures and their environments at a discussion with University of Judaism's Dr. David Neiman and L.A. Zoo Docent Kilbee Brittain. The talk will be followed by a Zoo tour. There is a \$12 fee for this event that runs from 2-4:30 pm. For more information, please contact the Zoo at (323) 644-6400 or visit www.lazoo.org.

Wed, December 11



Eco-Hike at the Mardrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center from 3:30 pm—4:30 pm.

Learn about the ecology and the environment of the Marsh through a tour offered by Madrona staff. There is a \$3 fee per person. The Nature Center is

located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance and can be contacted at (310) 782-3989 for information.

Sat, December 14



Expressive Arts for Children

Join staff at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center for a morning of art, sounds, movement, and journaling for grades 2-3. The event begins at 10 am and reservations are required. Call 310-858-7272 x131.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

will be leading a walk through the beautiful George F. Canyon beginning at 9:00 am. A \$1 donation is requested. Call (310) 541-7613 for directions.

Sun, December 15

Rio Hondo Tour! Join the Friends of L.A. River for a relaxing afternoon tour at the Bosque del Rio Hondo Nature Park. For information, contact FoLAR at (323) 223-0585 or visit www.folar.org.



Sat, December 21



Watercolors For Children!

Parents and caretakers, bring your children ages 8-14 to learn to paint with local artist, Ron Libbrecht. Paint and paper is provided. The event runs from 10 am—12 pm at the Madrona Preserve located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance. A \$9 fee per person will be charged. For information, please contact the Madrona's Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.

THIS MONTH:
(Continued)

Sun, December 22



exist beyond the earth at this exciting event where participants can inspect two telescopes and learn about planets and stars. Activities will include diagramming the relationship of planets to earth, their rotation and size. A fee of \$3 per person will be charged. For information, call Madrona's Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.

Attention Teachers!

Educators teaching 5th grade classes can participate in the Jiminy Cricket Environmental Challenge, a free, hands-on program that encourages students to think and act environmentally at home and at school. Your class will work together to complete an environmental project due in March 2003. The **enrollment deadline** has been extended to **December 20, 2002**. For more information, please visit online at <http://www.jceckids.org> or call (800) 290-0299.



Beach and Wetlands Bird-watching for Families by joining the Santa Monica Bay Audubon

Society for a relaxed walk at Malibu Lagoon State Beach to view 50+ bird species. Binoculars are available. Event begins at 10 am and reservations are required. Please call (310) 454-9662.

Winter Solstice Walk

Savor the subtle transition in nature as winter settles in chaparral and woodland environments at the Cold Creek Canyon Preserve. Walk begins at 10 am to 12:30 pm. For directions, please call the Preserve at (818) 346-9675.

Junior Naturalist: Astronomy! Discover the mysteries and wonders that

(Combat Climate Change...continued from page 1)

Resources Agency. Identifying sources of greenhouse gases and collecting background information is the first step in moving toward reducing or eliminating certain sources. For more information on The Registry and a list of other members, please visit <http://www.climateregistry.org/>.

In addition to membership in The Registry, the City has adopted an award winning Energy Climate Action Plan (Energy C.A.P.) that outlines how the City will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Energy C.A.P. is intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a number of means, including: retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency; buying energy produced from renewable resources; using alternative fuel vehicles in the City's fleet and bicycles for patrol functions; waste reduction and recycling; managing traffic flow by adjusting traffic signal timing; and planting trees.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation will offer both Christmas tree collection and drop-off locations this year. For hauler pickups, LA residents are asked to cut up their tree and place the pieces within the green waste containers. If uncut trees are placed on the sidewalk, residents must call Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) and schedule a separate pickup. For City drop-off locations and more information, visit the BOS website at <http://www.lacitysan.org/services/xmastree.htm>, or call (800) 773-2489.



As part of a waste recovery program, the County of Los Angeles Sanitation District has offered a Christmas tree recycling program since 1990. This year's recycling program will be December 26, 2002 through January 15, 2003. Last year, 57 of the County's 88 cities and non-incorporated areas of Los Angeles participated in Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Christmas Tree recycling program, collecting over 365,000 trees. The County will only offer the standard Christmas tree collection services; drop-off locations will not be included in this year's program. Please visit the County's website at <http://www.lacsd.org/> for more information, or call Joe Houghton at (562) 699-7411 x2409.



HOTLINE CONNECTION

The Environmental Information Center (EIC) serves as a referral source to the community. Our hotline connection offers a list of the most frequently requested numbers. If the number you need is not listed, please contact the EIC at **(213) 978-0888**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

Air Quality

Calidad del aire
South Coast Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

Asbestos

Asbestos
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Bee Infestations

Infestaciones de abejas
Vector Control
(800) 233-9279

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

Depositos en los drenajes de desagües
Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Aire interior ó preocupaciones de moho
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo
National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

Leaf Blowers

Sopladores de hojas
Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

Infestaciones de mosquitos
L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

Recycling

Reciclaje
City of L.A. Public Works Dept.
(800) 773-2489

Smoking Violations

Infracciones de fumar
Office of the City Attorney
(888) 333-0730

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Environmental Affairs Department
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