

# 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.

## EAD Reaches Out to Local Businesses and Communities for National Pollution Prevention (NP2) Week



Annually, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) staff sets out to increase knowledge about pollution prevention methods during NP2 week. This year, EAD partnered with the Lincoln Heights Historical Industrial Business Improvement District, the Byzantine-Latino Quarter Business Improvement District, the City of LA Department of Animal Services, and the City of LA Watershed Protection Division to organize a multi-day event

to heighten the awareness of potential pollution for these communities, their businesses, and residents. EAD distributed many outreach materials and multi-lingual publications, on issues ranging from residential stormwater pollution, to a business guide for environmental permit processes with the City.

NP2 week takes place the third full week in September of each year. The week is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, and government to emphasize and highlight their sustainable activities and achievements, expand current pollution prevention efforts, and commit to new actions. California's (and the nation's) first statewide Pollution Prevention Week (P2W) was held October 4-10, 1993. It has since been repeated yearly with great success, and is now known as National Pollution Prevention Week.

For more information on Pollution Prevention Week visit <http://www.p2.org>.

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## Recent Alternative Fuel and Advanced Technology Events

In October, several City departments attended alternative fuel vehicle events. The City's General Services Department (GSD) attended and displayed one of the City's hydrogen powered Honda Fuel Cell Vehicles at the "Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles in Your Community" workshop on October 6, 2006. This workshop was presented by the California Fuel Cell Partnership, the Los Angeles Fire Marshals Association, and the California State Firefighters Association at the Torrance Civic Center. The purpose of the workshop was to educate people about fuel cell technology, fueling stations, home hydrogen fueling stations,



*(Alternative Fuel Events...Continued on page 7)*

*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@lacity.org](mailto:eadinfo@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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## "Change a Light, Change the World" Campaign

"Change a Light, Change the World," an annual campaign by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE), began last month as a means of encouraging Americans to replace the conventional light bulbs in their homes and workplaces with those that have earned the government's Energy Star label for energy efficiency.



Energy Star qualified light bulbs use a third of the energy that traditional models do, as well as last up to ten times longer. Such improvements translate to more than \$30 in utility cost savings over the lifetime of the bulb. If homeowners across America changed only one bulb in their home, enough energy would be saved to power 2.5 million homes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 450 pounds.

For more information on the Energy Star campaign, and to make a pledge to replace at least one light at home, visit <http://www.energystar.gov>.

## MSRC Grant Funding Helps Further Reduce Air Pollution



The City of Los Angeles was recently awarded \$150,000 by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) for grant funding to help purchase six alternative fuel airfield buses for use at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) worked with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and prepared the grant application for these higher-capacity buses made by North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI) that can hold over 100 passengers. The new buses operate on compressed natural gas (CNG).

This brings the total number of such new buses at LAX to twelve. Each bus has seating capacity for 22 plus standing capacity of 80 with carry-on bags including space for wheelchairs, strollers, with two wheelchair ramps on each bus.

The new higher-capacity airfield buses are needed to accommodate the arrival of new large aircraft, such as the Airbus 380, that will begin service at LAX. Seven international air carriers have announced plans to operate the A-380, starting in the spring of 2007 through 2010. The A-380 can carry between 555 and 800 passengers, depending upon seating configuration.

The new 60-foot-long articulating buses will transport passengers between the terminals and the remote boarding gates more efficiently than the airport's existing fleet of 20 airfield buses that accommodate 60 to 80 passengers each. These new buses replace five 22-year-old diesel buses that are at the end of their operating service life.

This purchase further supports the City's "Clean Fuels Policy" and aids the region by implementing pollution reduction programs. The Environmental Affairs Department identifies and obtains grant funding for all City departments, to assist in the purchase of advanced technology vehicles and the construction of alternative fueling stations.

For more information on the new LAX buses, as well as other projects funded by MSRC grants, visit

## Greener Computers Will Soon Hit the Market

More environmentally friendly computer equipment will soon be available to large volume purchasers thanks to manufacturers like Dell, HP, and others that now have products that meet the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) standard. EPEAT-registered computer products have reduced levels of cadmium, lead, and mercury to better protect human health, and are easier to upgrade and recycle, in addition to meeting the government's Energy Star guidelines for energy efficiency. The move will allow purchasers to factor environmental considerations into their decision when choosing computer equipment.



EPEAT, a project funded through a grant by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and managed by the Green Electronics Council (GEC), promotes continuous improvement in the environmental design of electronic products and informs purchasers of the environmental criteria of electronic products. It is an environmental procurement tool designed to help institutional purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select computer desktops, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes.

Computer equipment places a huge burden upon the earth's environment. The average construction of a Personal Computer (PC) requires ten times the weight of the product in chemicals, many of which are toxic, and fossil fuels that contribute to global warming. An eleven pound personal computer with a monitor uses at least 243 lbs. of fossil fuels, 10 lbs. of chemicals, and 1.5 tons of water before it leaves the factory.

The EPA has estimated that over the next five years, purchases of EPEAT registered computers will result in reductions of:

- More than 13 million pounds of hazardous waste;
- More than 3 million pounds of non-hazardous waste;
- More than 600,000 MWh of energy – enough to power 6 million homes.

Current PC users can do their part to reduce their environmental impact by determining whether or not upgrading to a new computer would serve them just as well as keeping their current one. Also, selling—not junking—old computers is extremely important.

More information about the EPEAT standard, the database of EPEAT registered products, and the participating manufacturers can be found at <http://www.epeat.net/>.

## Griffith Observatory Grand Re-opening

The Griffith Observatory, closed since January 2002, will re-open November 3 after a massive \$93 million renovation and expansion project.



Some highlights of the newly remodeled facility include:

- A state of the art Planetarium newly named the Samuel Oschin Planetarium;
- The 200-seat Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater and Education Center;
- A snack bar has been replaced by the Café at the End of the Universe;
- 40,000 square feet of public space have been added to the existing building;
- Multi-level exhibit gallery, classrooms, and a bookstore have also been added, in addition to over 60 new exhibits.

The Observatory will be open from noon to 10pm Tuesdays through Fridays, 10am to 10pm Saturdays and Sundays, and will be closed on Mondays. For more information, visit <http://griffithobs.org/> or call (888) 695-0888 to make reservations.

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

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

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**Pollution Prevention: Business Outreach and Training**

The Environmental Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles requests Proposals from qualified bidders. The program would fund several community-proposed projects, ranging from \$15,000 to \$24,000, to achieve measurable pollution prevention at businesses in Los Angeles. The City may award multiple contracts and/or multiple-year contracts, and all funds awarded may not be expended, depending on actual work performed. **Expected to be released November 2006.** Check website for updated information <http://www.lacity.org/ead/> or call (213) 978-0888.

**The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program**

gives small monetary grants to schools, nature centers, or other non-profit educational organizations for the purpose of establishing outdoor learning centers. Project goals should focus on the enhancement and development of an appreciation for nature using native plants. Cash awards range from \$100 to \$500. Applications are due **November 15, 2006.** For more information, visit <http://www.for-wild.org>.

**The Whale Tail Grants Program** supports programs that teach California's children and the general public to value and take action to improve the health of the state's marine and coastal resources. Adopt-A-Beach programs, as well as other beach maintenance and coastal habitat restoration projects that have an educational component, are also eligible for these grants. This grants program focuses on reaching communities that are currently underserved in terms of marine and coastal education. To download the application visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html>. The postmark deadline is **November 15, 2006.**

**The Norman Foundation** seeks to strengthen the ability of communities to determine their own economic, environmental, and social well-being. Such efforts include promoting economic and environmental justice throughout communities. The foundation provides grants for general support, projects, and collaborative efforts, and also welcomes innovative proposals designed to build the capacity of social change organizations working in those areas of interest. For more information, visit <http://www.normanfdn.org>. The application is due **November 15, 2006.**

**The Bikes Belong Coalition** welcomes grant applications from organizations and agencies within the United State that are committed to putting more people on bicycles more often. Bikes Belong accepts requests for funding of up to \$10,000 for facility, capacity, advocacy, and education projects. For more information visit <http://bikesbelong.org/page.cfm?PageID=21>. The submitted application must be postmarked by **November 27, 2006.**

**The Rose Foundation** seeks to nurture positive interactions between communities, the environment and the economy. The foundation places emphasis upon protecting Southern California coastal watersheds and forming community-based pollution prevention and environmental stewardship initiatives. Most grant awards range from \$5,000 - \$20,000. For more information visit <http://www.rosefdn.org/grants>. Full proposals must be postmarked by **November 30, 2006.**

**The Organic Farming Research Foundation** funds research on organic farming and food systems and the dissemination of these research results to the greater agricultural community. Proposals must involve farmers or ranchers in project design and implementation and take place on working organic farms or ranches whenever possible. Additionally, proposals should articulate how the proposed research project will foster the improvement or adoption of organic farming systems. For more information visit <http://www.ofrf.org/research>. Applications are due **December 15, 2006.**

**The Outdoor Classroom Grant Program** provides outdoor, hands-on science education to students in grades K-12 and assists schools in enhancing their core curriculum in all subjects. This school year, the program will award grants up to \$2,000 to at least 100 schools. In some cases, grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. The grants can be used to build a new outdoor classroom or to enhance a current outdoor classroom at the school. All K-12 schools are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p>AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html>. The application is due **December 31, 2006.**

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)



### Yosemite: Night of an American Icon

Explore Yosemite's transition from remote haven to national destination through the eyes of its artists at the Autry National Center. The exhibition features more than 140 pieces of art and over 9,000 square feet of exhibition space. The exhibit runs **through Jan 21, 2007.**

The Autry National Center is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Los Angeles. For more information, visit [www.autrynationalcenter.org](http://www.autrynationalcenter.org) or call (323) 667-2000.

### Kid-Paced Family Nature Walks

Led by volunteers of the Children's Nature Institute, children (infants through 8-year-olds) are exposed to the rich environments of the natural world while on a gentle, stroller-safe 2-hour walk. Hikes begin at 10am, and there is a \$7 suggested donation per family. Reservations are required. For more information and to reserve a spot at one of their many locations, visit <http://www.ChildrensNatureInstitute.org> or call (310) 860-9484.



### Docent Training at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands

If you are interested in becoming an Amigos de Bolsa Chica Wetlands Docent, a 5-week training class is going to be offered in January



2007. Learn interesting details of the wetland's history and ecology to share with visitors and school children as they visit. If interested, call (714) 840-1575.

### Shark Lagoon Nights

Every Friday from 6-9 pm, enjoy a night at the Aquarium of the Pacific where you can listen to music, enjoy a meal, and touch the sharks in the Shark Lagoon at no cost. The aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information visit [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org) or call (562) 590-3100.



### Wilderness Outings

offers a variety of courses and outings in backpacking, navigation, rock climbing, first aid, and camping for all experience levels, including events for parents and kids. All programs are throughout Southern California. For more information visit [www.wildernessoutings.com](http://www.wildernessoutings.com) or call (877) 494-5368.



### Critter Club

at the Natural History Museum is a hands-on program for 3-5 year olds every second Saturday from 10 am to 11 am. Children can meet live animals, make crafts, listen to stories, play games, and learn songs. The museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. in Los Angeles. Call (213) 763- DINO for more information.

### World of Life

Discover the connections between all life forms at the California Science Center's exhibit



The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://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.

## Environmental Affairs Commission Meetings

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC) meets the third Thursday of each month in City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street in Los Angeles. **In November, EAC will meet on 11-9-06.** The General Public is invited to attend. Commission Agendas, minutes, meeting times and places are posted at [http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWebNewsEvents/updateagenda\\_&\\_minutes.htm](http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWebNewsEvents/updateagenda_&_minutes.htm)

### Commissioners:

- Misty Sanford—President
- Alina Bokde—Vice President
- Maria Armoudian—Member
- Teresa Villegas—Member
- Joyce Perkins—Member

"World of Life." Explore the workings of the cell to the complex interactions of organs to keep the body in balance. Admission to the exhibit is free. The California Science Center is located at 700 State Dr. in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. For more information call (323) 724-3623.

**THIS MONTH:**  
(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

**Sat & Sun, Nov 4-5**



**Autumn Festival**

Experience the richness and diversity of Asian and Asian American cultures through a celebration at the Aquarium of the Pacific, focusing on the traditions and heritages of Japan, China, Korea, and the Phillipines. The festival features music and dance performances, artisans, ethnic cuisine, and crafts. The event is from 9 am to 5 pm, with the cost being included with admission to the aquarium. The aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information visit [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org) or call (562) 590-3100.

**Fri - Sun, Nov 10-12**

**Discovery in the Desert**



The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Educators is holding its fall conference at Joshua Tree National Park. Discover new teaching techniques, knowledge, and friends through a variety of presented workshops. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.aeoe.org>.

**Sat, Nov 11**



**An Arroyo Garden**

Join Emily Green, home and garden writer for the Los Angeles Times, at the Descanso Gardens for a presentation on transitioning to a native and water-conscious garden. A short reception of

coffee and dessert will follow. 10 am to noon. The fee is \$20 for non-members and \$18 for members. For more information, visit <http://www.descansogardens.org> or call (818) 949-7980.

**Sat, Nov 11**

**Native Plants by Native People**



Learn about the different environments and communities and how people relate to their environment. Discover how the native people use nature for food, shelter, music, and spiritual beliefs. Students will make bracelets using traditional (Yucca plant) and non-traditional materials. From 10 am to 1 pm at the Theodore Payne Foundation, located at 10459 Tuxford Street in Sun Valley. The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. For more information visit <http://www.theodorepaynefoundation.org>, or call (818) 768-1802.

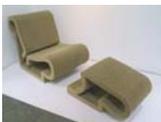
**Sun, Nov 12**

**Bat Houses**



Learn about bats in Los Angeles and around the world from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Madrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center. Find out how to make or buy a bat house and how to locate or change the placement of one if unsuccessful with the first location. The fee for the program is \$5/person or \$10/family. The preserve is located at 23216 Juniper Ave in Torrance. For more information call (310) 326-3840.

**Through Nov 22**



**Cardboard** The Bobby Greenfield



**Wed, Nov 15**



**America Recycles Day!**

Your attitude, your actions, can make a world of difference. Let's each do our part. Because almost everything can be recycled except the planet.

For more information on recycling, and how you can get involved, visit <http://www.americarecyclesday.org>.



Gallery presents "Cardboard", an exhibition displaying the talents of Frank Gehry, who in the 1970s used cardboard as a fine art medium in the production of furniture. Free. The Bobby Greenfield Gallery is located at 2525 Michigan Ave in Santa Monica. For more information call (310) 264-0640.

**NEXT MONTH:**

**Tues, Dec 19**

**Animal Tracks: Keys to Dialogue with Nature**



Explore what it means to be an "urban tracker" with Jim Lowery, author of "The Tracker's Field Guide" and founder of Earth Skills. The program is free of charge, and will be held at Temescal Gateway Park, located at 15601 Sunset Blvd. in Pacific Palisades. From 7:30 pm to 10 pm. For additional information visit <http://www.LAMountains.com> or call (310) 454-1395.

*(Alternative Fuel Events ... Continued from page 1)*

hydrogen myths and the future of fuel cell vehicles. Also on the agenda was a progress update concerning building and safety codes and standards, first responder training, and vehicle design.

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and several other City Departments joined Southern California's fleet operators, alternative and clean fuel vehicle manufacturers, infrastructure technology providers, funding agencies, and other industry experts for a two-day conference and exposition on current clean vehicle options and issues. The Clean Vehicle Technology Exposition (EXPO) was held on October 10 and 11, 2006 in Ontario, California and featured sessions on alternative/clean fuel vehicle funding, policies and regulations and displayed several current applications for alternative fuel vehicles. In addition, manufacturers spoke directly about their light-, medium-, and heavy-duty product offerings for 2007 and beyond.

The EXPO was deemed an official alternative fuel vehicle "Odyssey" day event, making it the largest event of its kind in the Southern California region. National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Odyssey is developed and coordinated by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium in partnership with participating sponsors. Odyssey is a nationwide effort to build awareness about alternative fuel vehicles and advanced technology vehicles. As part of this nationwide campaign, the EXPO will be promoted via Odyssey's outreach media strategy which reaches more than 24 million individuals across the nation.

Finally, on October 12, 2006, EAD participated in the Rio Hondo College Advanced Transportation Technology Odyssey Day event held at the Whittier, California campus. EAD displayed one of the City's hydrogen powered Honda Fuel Cell Vehicles and answered questions from those attending.

For more information on Odyssey, visit <http://www.nationalafvdayodyssey.org/>.



### **Million Trees LA (MTLA) — Be a Part of It!**

The City of Los Angeles has embarked on a journey to plant 1,000,000 new trees in partnership with several non-profit organizations and our residents. Its goal is to transform the urban fabric of Los Angeles by planting a million trees over the next several years. This action will not only reap immediate benefits, but will create a sustainable legacy of social, environmental, and aesthetic enhancement.

The City's program will strategically plant the trees in targeted areas based on a canopy analysis completed by Dr. Gregory McPherson and colleagues with the USDA Forest Service, and the Center for the Urban Forest Research. A collaboration of City staff, non-profit, and civic leaders developed a strategic draft plan that will guide the effort and allow the urban forest to be managed in a holistic manner.

There are several ways to get involved:  
First, PLANT a tree at your home or business and then COUNT it by going to the MTLA home page <http://www.milliontreesla.org> and answering the questions. Watch the tree count climb!

Second, VOLUNTEER to plant trees with the project partners. The partners include LA Conservation Corps, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, North East Trees, Hollywood/Los Angeles Beautification Team and TreePeople. Visit the Million Trees web site, where you can link to the partners and join an existing planting event or start your own.

Third, TALK to your neighbors. Every resident is welcome to request a street tree. To get started, fill out the permission form, <http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-WNR/website%20permission%20form.doc/>, and return it. The Department of Water and Power will provide up to seven free trees to every DWP residential customer and up to 50 trees for a business. Before acquiring the trees, a short online training course must be taken. To do so, visit <http://www.ladwp.com/>.

Fourth, TALK to your neighbors. Every resident is welcome to request a street tree. To get started, fill out the permission form, <http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-WNR/website%20permission%20form.doc/>, and return it. The Department of Water and Power will provide up to seven free trees to every DWP residential customer and up to 50 trees for a business. Before acquiring the trees, a short online training course must be taken. To do so, visit <http://www.ladwp.com/>.



## 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**. 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) 430-5100

### **Bulky Item Pick-up**

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

### **Hazardous Waste/e-Waste**

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

### **Housing and Building Complaints**

*Las quejas del construccion y albergar*  
Housing Code Enforcement  
(213) 482-0000

### **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  
Los Angeles County Lead Program  
(800) LA-4-LEAD

### **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

### **Spaying/Neutering Pets**

City of L.A. Animal Services  
(888) 452-7381

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