

An Environmental Affair

Volume 20, Issue 10

October 2007

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.

Clean Fueling Station Opens at South Los Angeles District Collection Yard

On August 30, 2007 a new combined liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fast-fill compressed natural gas (L/CNG) clean fueling facility opened in South Los Angeles. The station has a storage capacity of 45,000 gallons of LNG, and will help serve the City's growing fleet of alternative fuel vehicles. The City's solid resources collection fleet numbers 307 alternative fuel trucks in total. This is the largest municipally owned solid resources collection fleet in the nation. Other heavy duty City alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) will be fueled at the South LA station as well. This includes the City's growing compressed natural gas (CNG) street sweeper fleet which currently numbers 54 vehicles and will soon be 100% CNG.

Over four million gallons of diesel have been displaced since the City started using natural gas in its Clean Fuel Program. This displacement equates to over 600 thousand barrels of crude oil. As a result of this displacement, there will be a significant reduction in carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and oxides of nitrogen pollutant emissions.

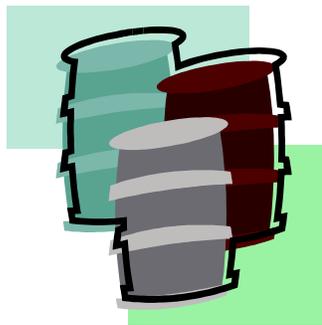


Save a Tree!

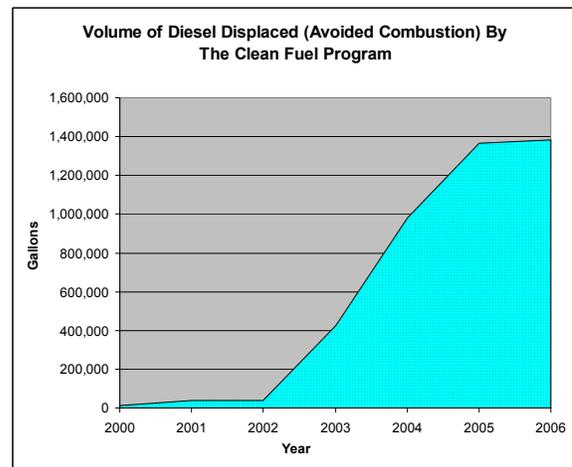
Help the Environmental Affairs Department save trees by changing your newsletter subscription options. Go from a paper version to an email notification by calling (213) 978-0888 or submitting your name and email address to ead.info@mailbox.lacity.org.

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Since 2000, over 4 million gallons of diesel have been displaced, which equates to over 600 thousand barrels of crude oil.



The South LA Station is the third in a series of similar stations. The first two stations were constructed in the West San Fernando Valley (45,000 gal.) and the East Valley (60,000 gal.). A fourth station is operating in the Harbor area as well and has a 6,000 gallon capacity.

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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: ead.info@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

Welcome Our New EAD Management and Staff

The Environmental Affairs Department announces the arrival of our new Assistant General Manager, Beth Jines. Beth comes to us from the State Water Board in Sacramento, where she was Public Affairs Director and Chief Deputy Director. Prior to joining the Water Board, Beth was the Assistant Secretary for Water and Waste Management at the California Environmental Protection Agency. She has more than 25 years of experience in State government environmental programs, beginning as a Hazardous Substance Scientist with the Department of Toxic Substances Control.



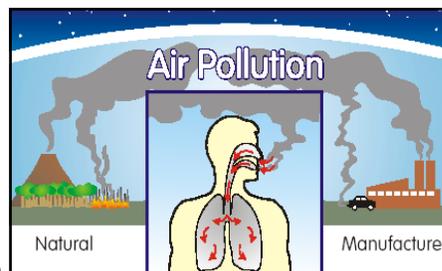
Beth Jines, Environmental Affairs Department Assistant General Manager, at the South Los Angeles Liquefied and Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station opening in August.

In addition, the Environmental Affairs Department welcomes two new Student Professional Workers, Jeanie Gaudette and Melissa Vasquez. Jeanie currently is working on her bachelor's degree at the University

of California Los Angeles (UCLA), majoring in Geography and specializing in Geospatial Information Sciences. Her future plans are to pursue a graduate degree in Urban Planning to enhance green spaces in urban environments. Melissa is a recent graduate of UCLA and currently is pursuing a master's degree at California State University Los Angeles (CSULA). Her future aspirations include teaching at the elementary school level in order to teach future generations about the importance of our fragile environment. You may contact Jeanie and Melissa at the department's Environmental Information Center Hotline: (213) 978-0888.

Asthma and Air Pollution

Far too many Americans, about twenty million people, are intimately acquainted with the symptoms of an asthma attack. When asthma strikes, your airways become constricted and swollen, filling with mucus. Your chest feels tight, you may cough or wheeze, and you just can't seem to catch your breath. In severe cases, asthma attacks can be deadly. They kill 5,000 people every year in the United States.



Asthma is a chronic, sometimes debilitating condition that has no cure. It keeps kids out of school (for a total of fourteen million lost school days each year, according to the Center for Disease Control) and sidelines them from physical activity. Employers lose twelve million work days every year when asthma keeps adults out of the workplace. The disease also is responsible for nearly two million emergency room visits per year.

Understanding what might trigger an asthma attack helps asthma sufferers keep their disease in check. Sometimes it's as simple as avoiding dust, tobacco smoke or cockroach droppings. But what if the air outside your home is filled with asthma triggers?

In recent years, scientists have shown that air pollution from cars, factories, and power plants is a major cause of asthma attacks. More than 159 million Americans, over half the nation's population, live in areas with bad air. A research study published in 2002, estimated that thirty percent of childhood asthma is due to environmental exposures, costing the nation two billion dollars per year. Stud-

(Continued on page 7)

Climate Change: Make it a Change for the Better

The immensity and complexity of climate change can easily deter people from taking action. They wonder if they can really make a difference, or where they should start. The EAD would like you to know that little changes will add up and make a huge difference - for the better.

People vowing to get into shape aren't advised to start with a marathon, but with regular walks. Our readers can begin by calculating their own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The U.S. EPA's GHG calculator is fast and easy and will give you a baseline against which you can measure your progress in reducing emissions. The calculator can be found at http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html.

You'll learn how your energy, vehicle, and recycling habits add up, and the big roles that energy efficiency and conservation can play in lowering the score. Want more proof? According to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the average household could cut a third — or even half — of its current energy bill by switching to energy-efficient appliances, equipment and lighting, which use less energy than standard (and inefficient) products, without sacrificing performance. Learn what efficient equipment is available by visiting the Energy Star webpage at www.energystar.gov.

Green LA Update

EAD and the Mayor's Office hosted the second Interagency Working Group on Climate Change meeting on August 30. Staff members from over a dozen departments were presented with an overview of the *Green LA Plan*, including the municipal (government) and community greenhouse gas inventories, and a discussion of departmental climate responsibilities. Attendees discussed the procedures for compiling their implementation plans for action items contained in the Plan. The participating departments included those whose operations and facilities generate the most greenhouse gas emissions. As these plans are submitted, EAD will work with departments to identify synergies between the various plans and any gaps that remain. This Fall we will also begin the task of calculating potential greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with each of the actions. We plan to have a draft citywide report available for public review before the end of the year. The complete *Green LA Plan* can be viewed at: <http://www.lacity.org/EAD>.

The City's Brownfields Resource Team Applies for Grants

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently announced a series of grants to assist in the cleanup and reuse of Brownfields - www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or underutilized real property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination.

The City's Brownfields Resource Team (BRT), which consists of representatives of the Mayor's Office, the Community Redevelopment Agency, Environmental Affairs, Community Development Department and the Chief Legislative Analyst, has reviewed the requirements for each of the grants as well as the projects currently in the Brownfields Program and plans on submitting the following applications: (1) Petroleum Assessment Grant, \$200,000 for environmental assessments in the Cornfields-Arroyo Seco Specific Plan Area to determine the extent of contamination and develop remediation strategies as needed; (2) Hazardous Waste Cleanup Grant, \$200,000 for cleanup assistance in redeveloping an MTA maintenance facility into the South LA Wetlands (3) Hazardous Waste Cleanup Grant, \$200,000 for cleanup assistance in redeveloping a former railroad facility into the East Wilmington Park.

Any questions about the grant applications or Brownfields issues in general can be directed to Craig Tranby at (213)978-0871 or craig.tranby@lacity.org.

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

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

Community Beautification Grant This grant is a competitive annual award given to community groups to fund neighborhood beautification projects. The grant program is administered by the City of Los Angeles' Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification. For the 2007-2008 cycle of funding, the Office of Community Beautification has a budget of approximately \$800,000 to award about 90 grants citywide. For information, visit www.laocb.org. The deadline to apply is **October 17, 2007**. The award amount is up to \$10,000.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program authorizes the Secretary of Interior to provide technical and financial assistance on a competitive basis to private landowners interested in restoring, enhancing, and managing fish and wildlife habitats on their own lands. It is a goal of the program to secure at least fifty percent of project costs from non-Service sources. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has approximately \$42,000,000 budgeted to give awards up to \$25,000. For more information, visit <http://ecos.fws.gov/partners>.

Nutrition Education Programs The goal of the Nutrition Education Programs is to disseminate information regarding healthful nutritional practices and habits. Grants given by the Allen Foundation aim to create support programs for parents so that their children can develop good eating habits at an early age. Grants are also awarded to help solve malnutrition problems and emergency hunger. Recent grant awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$100,000. For further information on eligibility requirements and to submit an application, visit www.allenfoundation.org. Deadline to apply is **December 31, 2007**.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Change Program The NOAA Climate Program represents a contribution to national and international programs designed to improve our ability to observe, understand, predict, and respond to changes in the global environment. The program aims to advance scientific understanding of the earth's past and present climate variability and change to improve climate forecast skill, increase the credibility of climate change projections, and provide climate

information for policy and decision makers and resource managers. Due to eligibility requirements, only institutes of higher education, non-profits, commercial organizations, international organizations and state, and local governments may apply. This grant has an award maximum of \$200,000. For more information, visit <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=14636&flag2006=true&mode=VIEW>.

Fall 2008 Science to Achieve Results The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is offering Graduate Fellowships for masters and doctoral level students in environmental fields of study. The deadline for receipt of pre-applications is **October 23, 2007 at 4:00 PM EST**. Subject to availability of funding, the Agency plans to award approximately 65 new fellowships by July 31, 2008. Master's level students may receive support for a maximum of two years. Doctoral students may be supported for a maximum of three years, usable over a period of four years. The fellowship program provides up to \$37,000 per year of support per fellowship. For more information, visit http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_star_fellow.html

The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program provides support for independent graduate-level studies in oceanography, marine biology or maritime archaeology (including all science, engineering, and resource management of ocean and coastal areas), particularly to women and minorities. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarships may provide, subject to appropriations, yearly support of up to \$32,000 per student (a 12-month stipend of \$20,000 in addition to a tuition allowance of up to \$12,000), and up to \$20,000 support for a four to six week research collaboration at a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration facility. For more information, visit www.fosterscholar.noaa.gov.



**Check out more funding
and scholarship
opportunities online at
www.grants.gov**

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

IMAX Theater Presents *Deep Sea 3D*

The new immersive, underwater adventure from IMAX transports audiences deep below the ocean surface in multiple locations around the waters of the globe and gives them never-before-seen, up-close encounters with a wide range of undersea life. There, moviegoers—with only their 3D glasses for a diving mask—will be able to swim alongside some of the most exotic creatures on the planet, from the bizarre Rainbow Nudibranch to the Giant Pacific Octopus. Through the magic of IMAX 3D, audiences will be introduced to a colorful cast of characters and observe at arm's length these creatures living out their lives in a variety of unique and often humorous relationships, some predatory, some symbiotic, yet all ultimately dependent upon one another for survival. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$4.75 for children. The IMAX is located at 700 State Dr. in the city of Los Angeles. Call (213) 724-3623 for more information.

Weekend Tidepool Walks

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Education Staff conducts tours of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge during marine low tides on select Saturday's and Sunday's of the month. Enjoy an informative slide show followed by a ramble on the rocks. Life, ranging from sea anemones to mussels, sea stars, crabs and tidepool fish are revealed. The fee is \$1. The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in the city of San

Pedro. For more information, visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

World of Life Exhibition at the California Science Center

This exhibition explores how all living creatures have many of the same life processes in common. Through its different life process galleries, the energy factory, supply network, control center, defense line, life source and BodyWorks, children can discover the connections between all life forms. The California Science Center is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. This event is free, however parking is \$6. The California Science Center is located on 700 State Drive in the city of Los Angeles. For more information visit the California Science Center webpage at www.californiasciencecenter.com or call (323) 724-3623.



Daily Garden Tours

Free garden tours are offered at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens every Tuesday-Friday from noon-2 pm and every Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Tours are conducted of the many gardens located on site such as the Japanese and Rose Gardens. Tours are free with the price of admission. The Huntington is located at 1151 Oxford Road in the city of San Marino. For more information on the free garden tours, visit www.huntington.org or call (626) 405-2100.

Nature Hike to Eaton Canyon Falls

Need to cool off? Take a hike to the waterfall on the fourth Sunday of every month from 9 am to noon. The hike is geared toward anyone who is

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.

City of Los Angeles 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. The General Public is invited to attend. Commission Agendas, minutes, meeting times and places are posted at http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-NewsEvents/updateagenda_&_minutes.htm

comfortable hiking 3.5 miles at a moderate pace, boulder-hopping, crossing the water several times, and doesn't mind getting wet. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a hat are recommended. Bring a snack for afterward. Free to the public. The Eaton Canyon Nature Center is located at 1750 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena. For more information call the Eaton Canyon Nature Center at (626) 398-5420 or visit their website at <http://www.ecnca.org>.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat, Oct 6

Pacoima Beautiful Presents Family Day The 7th annual Pacoima Beautiful Family Day will focus on helping residents understand how to create healthy and environmentally safe conditions in their homes. Join them from 10 am–3 pm and learn from various organizations as well as city departments on what your family can do to better the environment. Family Day will take place in the city of Pacoima at 11243 Glenoaks Boulevard. For more information, visit www.pacoimabeautiful.org or call (818) 899-2454.

Sun, Oct 7

Discover Marina Del Rey Day 2007 The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation will be present to offer unique arts and crafts workshops and to promote healthy living and eating. Other local government agencies, as well as various businesses, will have exhibitor booths offering vital information on health, safety, and the environment. There also will be live entertainment sponsored by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The event will be located at Burton Chase Park, west end of Mindanao Way in Marina del Rey. For more information, visit <http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Events/October.htm>.

Sat, Oct 13

Los Angeles Eco-Building Forum In collaboration with Global Green USA, Eco-Home Network will be presenting the first Los Angeles Eco-Building Forum. Taking place from noon to 5 pm,

the forum will include tours of the project, a slide show of the construction process, and displays of materials used. The forum will take place at 8636 Graham Avenue in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.ecohome.org.

Sun, Oct 21

Autumn Sea Fair Come and celebrate the bounty of the sea! The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium will host a day filled with activities, organizations, music, exhibitions, arts and crafts, and games. Pack a picnic or purchase food and drinks from one of their vendors. Admission is free! Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in of San Pedro. For more information, visit www.cabrilloaq.org or call (310) 548-7562.

Sat, Oct 27

Saturday Family Fun: Totally Turtles This educational program, taking place at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, is specifically designed for children ages 4 to 6 and their chaperone. In the program, students will get up close to the aquarium's sea turtles and even get to touch their shells. Parents are advised to only bring children ages 4 to 6 as any younger or older child will not be admitted into the program. Admission is \$36 for every adult/child pair. The event will take place from 10 am–11:30 am. RSVP. The Aquarium of the Pacific is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 590-3100 or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org.

Sat and Sun, Oct 27 and 28

Boo at the Zoo Taking place at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botani-

cal Gardens, Boo at the Zoo is a weekend event where the entire zoo is transformed into themed areas for trick-or-treaters. Boo at the Zoo creates a delightful atmosphere where families can enjoy performers, treats, crafts, music, and creepy crawlers for a not so scary weekend. This event will take place from 10 am–4 pm with adult admission prices at \$10 and children at \$5. The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles. For more information on Boo at the Zoo, visit www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4200.

Kidspace Pumpkin Festival

Every year, Kidspace invites families to the pumpkin festival for a safe Halloween celebration. Designed as an old fashioned carnival with rides, game booths, costume parades, and live stage performances. Admission is free, and individual rides, games, crafts and activities, require tickets available for purchase on site. The Festival will run from 9 am–6 pm on Saturday and 9 am–5:30 pm on Sunday. The event will take place at Brookside Park in Pasadena. Brookside Park is located at 360 North Arroyo Boulevard. For more information, visit www.kidspacemuseum.org.

October Native Plant Sales**October 6-7**

Los Angeles Cal. Native Plant Society
Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
10 am to 4 pm
<http://www.lacnps.org>

October 12-13

Theodore Payne Nursery
10459 Tuxford Street
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
<http://www.theodorepayne.org>

Save Water with Drought Tolerant Plants in the Front Yard!

(Clean Fueling Station...Continued from page 1)

The 3 major stations were partially funded using \$450,000 in Clean Cities U.S. Department of Energy grant awards received through the California Energy Commission. The City's government fleet is a part of the LA Clean Cities Coalition, one of 90 volunteer coalitions existing nationwide. These coalitions are designated by the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program as helping to conserve conventional fuel through the further deployment of alternative fuel vehicles. A total of over \$15 million in grants have been awarded to support the growth of the City's Clean Alternative Fuel Fleet. These grants were applied for by the Environmental Affairs Department on behalf of operating departments.

Since establishing a "Clean Fuels Policy" in 2000, the City's entire alternative fuel fleet has steadily increased by an average of over 21 percent per year, now totaling over 2,500 vehicles. The LA Clean Cities Coalition is doing its part to help bring blue skies to the City of Los Angeles more often, while lessening the nation's dependence on conventional fuels.

For further information, contact the Environmental Affairs Department at (213) 978-0888.

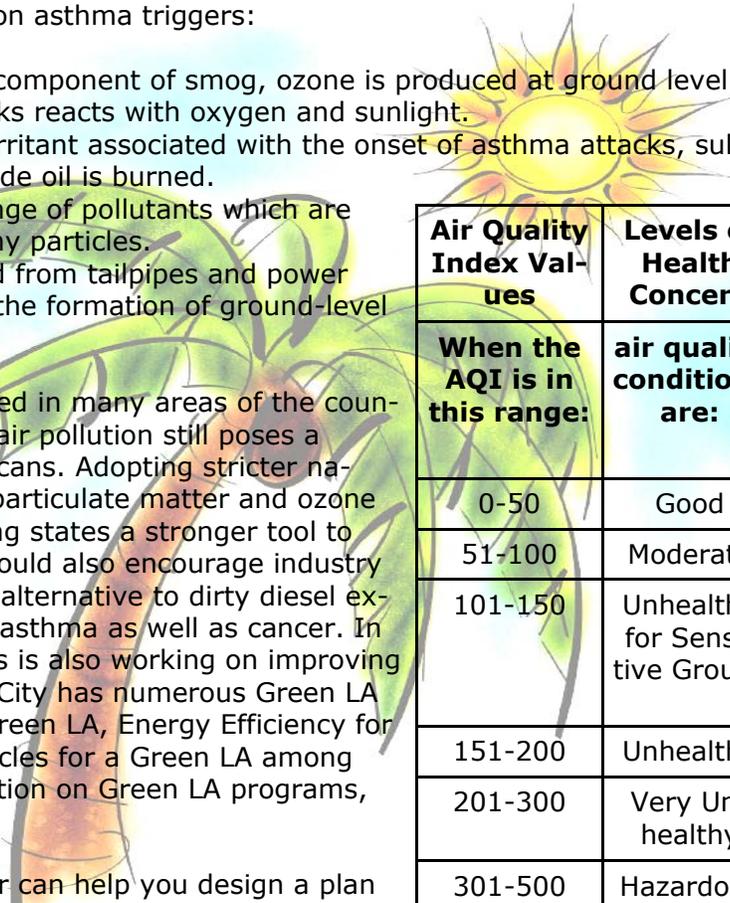
(Asthma and Air Pollution...Continued from page 2)

ies also suggest that air pollution may contribute to the development of asthma in previously healthy people. Below is a list of common asthma triggers:

- Ground Level Ozone:** a toxic component of smog, ozone is produced at ground level when tailpipe pollution from cars and trucks reacts with oxygen and sunlight.
- Sulfur Dioxide:** a respiratory irritant associated with the onset of asthma attacks, sulfur dioxide is produced when coal and crude oil is burned.
- Particulate Matter:** a wide range of pollutants which are suspended into the air as tiny particles.
- Nitrogen Oxide:** A gas emitted from tailpipes and power plants which contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog.

Although air quality has improved in many areas of the country over the past fifteen years, air pollution still poses a health risk for millions of Americans. Adopting stricter national air quality standards for particulate matter and ozone would help clear the air by giving states a stronger tool to force polluters to clean up. It would also encourage industry to switch to cleaner fuels as an alternative to dirty diesel exhaust which has been linked to asthma as well as cancer. In addition, the City of Los Angeles is also working on improving air quality on a local level. The City has numerous Green LA programs such as Trees for a Green LA, Energy Efficiency for a Green LA, and Electronic Vehicles for a Green LA among many others. For more information on Green LA programs, visit www.ladwp.com.

If you have asthma, your doctor can help you design a plan to control and prevent asthma attacks. Limiting your exposure to air pollution can be an important part of that plan. The EPA keeps tabs on local air quality across the country through its daily Air Quality Index, which measures the levels of five major air pollutants. For more information on the link between asthma and air pollution, visit www.nrdc.org. To view the Air Quality Index in your local area, visit www.airnow.gov.



Air Quality Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
When the AQI is in this range:	air quality conditions are:	symbolized by this color:
0-50	Good	Green
51-100	Moderate	Yellow
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151-200	Unhealthy	Red
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301-500	Hazardous	Maroon



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) 773-2489

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

The City of Los Angeles
Environmental Affairs Department
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