

An Environmental Affair

Volume 22, Issue 12

Happy Holidays!

December 2007

EAD Celebrates Energy Awareness Month

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.

Every October, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) joins in the celebration of Energy Awareness Month, a time when energy conservation progress and alternative fuel vehicle use are celebrated nationwide. This October, the EAD, as Chair and Coordinator of the Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition, teamed with other Clean Cities coalitions in the South Coast Air Basin to support alternative fuel public education/outreach events in Santa Monica and Ontario, California. The LA Clean Cities Coalition is composed of a group of City of Los Angeles fleet managers and nonprofit and private partners that work to deploy alternative fuel vehicles in the City of LA government fleets.

Santa Monica, California - On October 19 and 20, 2007, the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) and the City of Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalitions partnered to provide an alternative fuel vehicle information booth at the Santa Monica Alternative Car and Transportation Expo. The booth was staffed by the SCAG coalition, where alternative fuel literature was distributed on behalf of many local coalitions, i.e., City of LA, SCAG, City of Long Beach, Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Diego. The City of LA and the City of Santa Monica also participated in the ride and drive at this event by offering rides in their Honda FCX hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to interested event goers. Daimler F-Cell (hydrogen fuel cell) demonstration vehicles, operated by the Los Angeles World Airports and UCLA were on display and participated in the ride and drive. Approximately 11,000 people were in attendance at this very popular event, now in its second year.



EAD participated in the ride and drive at the Santa Monica Alternative Car & Transportation Expo.

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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@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

Los Angeles and Long Beach Will Ban Dirty Diesel Trucks at Ports in 2008

The City of Los Angeles and the City of Long Beach are uniting in an effort to reduce pollution at the ports. Beginning on October 1, 2008, dirty diesel trucks will be banned from both ports. The Los Angeles and Long Beach plan will slash truck pollution by about 80%. The plan yields major health benefits for employees as well as residents for both cities as the ports are America's busiest port complex and a major polluter of the Los Angeles basin.



The ban is the first major milestone reached under the Ports' landmark Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) and will reduce overall pollution emissions at the Ports by 45%. The CAAP is the most aggressive environmental action plan taken by any American port and sets a five-year timetable for the greening of 16,000 trucks now serving the Ports. The new ban will require all trucks to be replaced or retrofitted

to meet 2007 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) diesel truck emissions standards by 2012. All vehicles that do not meet 2007 emission standards by 2012 will be banned from service at the ports.

In addition, according to an environmental impact study commissioned by the Port of Los Angeles, not only will reducing truck emissions improve air quality, but it also will clear the way for infrastructure improvements, thus creating 300,000 to 600,000 new jobs by 2025.

For more information, visit www.portoflosangeles.org.

Decking the Halls with Zero Waste this Year

It is estimated that between Thanksgiving and the New Year an extra one million tons of waste are generated nationwide each week. In fact, 38,000 miles of ribbon alone is thrown out each year--enough to tie a bow around the Earth!

As part of its ongoing efforts to reach a Zero Waste California, the California Integrated Waste Management Board would like to help you cut the amount of trash you put out at the curb during the upcoming holiday season. The California Integrated Waste Management's website is your one-stop site for all the steps you need to keep your holiday waste out of landfills. To find some great recycled item buys, information on no-waste gift-giving, tips on used electronics, and much more visit CIWMB's website at <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/PublicEd/Holidays/>, or call (916) 341-6000. You also can email the Board's Public Affairs office at opa@ciwmb.ca.gov. Do your part for a sustainable future!

Energy Saving Tips for the Holiday Season

Watch your energy costs decrease through the holiday season with these tips:

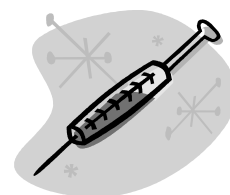
- **Buy new LED holiday bulbs.** They are shatterproof, long-lasting, are cool to the touch thus preventing fire hazards, and save up to 80-90% off your energy costs!
- **Avoid accidentally leaving your lights on.** Use an automatic timer to turn off your holiday lights.
- **Avoid using the dishwasher.** Enlist the help of your family and friends and wash your dishes by hand or at least wash only full loads.

Sharps Recycling Program

The term "sharps" describes any object that is capable of puncturing the skin and could be anything from syringe needles to lancets. The Bureau of Sanitation wants to share information about how these items should be dealt with in the home by offering a Home Guide to Syringe Disposal. Improper disposal of sharps (such as when thrown into the regular trash or recycling bins) can lead to injury for sanitation workers. The liquid waste that potentially still could remain in syringes after disposal could also seep into and contaminate ground water.

Proper management and disposal of sharps will prevent people from being exposed to hazardous waste. To prevent unwanted exposure due to cuts, the following tips should be followed:

- Use only rigid, puncture proof containers with a secure lid
- Label the container "Contains Sharps"
- Do not use empty beverage bottles as they may break open.
- Keep your container in a place where children and pets do not have access
- Never flush your sharps
- Allow two to three inches of space between the sharps and the top of the container



After your sharps container has been filled (about $\frac{3}{4}$ full) and the lid has been taped shut, you can do one of three things: you can return the sealed container to your physician, return it to your participating pharmacy, or bring your sealed container to a Household Hazardous Waste Mobile event or S.A.F.E Center.

For the Bureau of Sanitation's Home Guide to Syringe Disposal, visit http://www.lacity.org/san/solid_resources/special/publications/index.htm or call their Information Hotline at (800) 988-6942.

Climate Change: Make it a Change for the Better How to Change the World from Your Cubicle

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the production of energy for use by residential and commercial buildings accounts for 48 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Here in Los Angeles, the generation of electricity contributes roughly one-third of all GHG emissions on a community-wide basis. Given that the commercial sector consumes 58% of that electricity, reducing energy consumption at the office is vital. But what can you, in your cubicle, really do? Actually, quite a bit.

- Keep personal appliances to a minimum. Unless you're storing medication that needs to be close at hand, a dorm-size fridge is an unnecessary luxury. Instead, suggest an energy efficient fridge for the entire office. In addition, desk fountains and aquariums are also an unnecessary energy expense and are a greenhouse gas contributor.
- If you're going to be away from your desk for more than a few minutes, turn off desk lamps, heaters, fans, and radios. Keeping an extra sweater at your desk may eliminate the need for a heater.
- If there's adequate natural light, overhead lights in lobbies and other areas can be kept off for the better part of the day.



(Climate Change...continued on page 7)

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

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

Ben & Jerry's Foundation The Ben & Jerry's Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations. The foundation does not prioritize any particular issue and will accept letters of intent from all subject categories that meet the foundation's guidelines. Letters of interest are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Awards amounts range from less than \$1,000 for smaller grant opportunities and \$1,000 to \$15,000 for larger grant opportunities. For more information, visit www.benjerry.com/foundation.

Edison International Corporate Program The mission of the program is to enhance the quality of life for people who work and live in the communities that Edison serves. Edison supports non-profit and/or non governmental organizations and must strive to obtain its mission. For more information, visit <http://www.edison.com/community/contributions.asp>.

The Fields Pond Foundation Program The program provides financial assistance to nature and land conservation organizations that are community-based and that serve to increase environmental awareness by involving local residents in conservation issues. The program accepts proposals on an ongoing basis and award amounts range from \$500 to \$25,000. For more information, visit <http://fieldspond.org/guidelines.html#SizeType>.

Patagonia Grant Program Patagonia funds only environmental work and are most interested in awarding grants to organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long term change. The program accepts proposals on an ongoing basis. For more information, visit <http://www.patagonia.com/web/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>.

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 also are 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 forecasting skill, increase the credibility of climate change projections, and provide climate information for policy and decision makers and resource managers. Institutes of higher education, non-profits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state and local governments may apply. For more information, visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=14636&flag2006=true&mode=VIEW>.

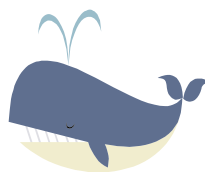
The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program provides support for independent graduate-level studies in oceanography, marine biology or maritime archaeology, particularly to women and minorities. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarships may provide, subject to appropriations, 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.

Solid Waste Management Grant The Solid Waste Management Program has been established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist communities through free technical assistance and/or training provided by the grant recipients. Qualified recipients will receive Solid Waste Management grant funds to reduce or eliminate pollution of water sources in rural areas, and improve planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas. The deadline to apply is **December 31, 2007**. For more information on eligibility requirements, visit www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)



Cabrillo Whalewatching Voyages

Observe Pacific Gray Whales on their migration along the Southern California Coast. Whalewatch boats are scheduled every day from December 25th through the end of March. Whalewatch volunteers lead two to three hour trips from various landings. Fees vary by landing. For more information, visit www.cabrilloaq.org or call (310) 548-8397.

Downtown on Ice at Pershing Square

As the winter season approaches, take your family down to Pershing Square for a day of ice skating at the Southland's largest outdoor skating rink. Pershing Square is located at 532 Olive Street in Downtown Los Angeles. For hours of operation, visit <http://www.laparks.org/pershingsquare/pershing.htm>.



Native Garden Day & Beach Clean Up

On the first Saturday of each month, join the education staff and volunteers in maintaining the Cabrillo Native Garden by weeding and planting while you learn more about its plant and animal inhabitants. Also join others in a beach cleanup that is sure to improve the condition of coastal waters. The event is free and people of all ages are welcome. The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Cabrillo

Marine Aquarium at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

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 each month. Enjoy a 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 walk also is available in Spanish! The fee is \$1. The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in San Pedro. For more information, visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

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 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 North Altadena Drive in Pasadena. For more information call the Eaton Canyon Nature Center at (626) 398-5420 or visit their website at www.ecnca.org.

Visit the LA Zoo

This holiday season, visit the Los Angeles Zoo for the many new exhibits that have been recently unveiled. The new



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

gorilla exhibit resembles a West Central African environment and exhibits a family of gorillas as well as two male bachelors. In addition, the zoo also welcomes reindeer for the holiday season. Through January, guests will be able to see real reindeer as well as participate in the many festivities surrounding this joyful event. The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in the City of Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4200.

Natural History Museum's Treasures from the Vault

Now through January 21, the Natural History Museum will display fragile and fascinating objects that contribute to the understanding of the earth's history. Because these are delicate items, they will only be available for viewing for a short period of time. The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information visit www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

DWP Holiday Light Festival

Throughout the month of December, LADWP allows the public to walk along a one mile segment of Crystal Springs Drive to view a magnificent display of lights. The event takes place from 5 pm until 10 pm. For more information, call (323) 913-4688 ext. 9 or go online to www.dwplightfestival.com.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Fri, Dec 7

Eagle Rock Tree Lighting Ceremony

Come to Eagle Rock and enjoy the tree lighting ceremony in front of the historic Eagle Rock City Hall. Come gather with community members and families to welcome the holiday season with live entertainment, food, and activities for the kids. It will be located at 2035 Colorado Boulevard in the city of Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.laparks.org.

Sat, Dec 8

Environmental Youth Conference

The City of Los Angeles

invites city youth ages 12-21 to be a part of the environmental youth conference at the LA Convention Center. Enjoy a fun-filled event and learn about climate change, environmentally friendly practices and "green" careers. The event is free of charge. For more information, visit www.milliontreesla.org.

Sun, Dec 9

The Port of Los Angeles' 100th Birthday Party

Come celebrate the Port of Los Angeles' 100th birthday with a free community celebration culminating in a boat and a fireworks show. The celebration will include arts and crafts, games, food and entertainment all for free. The festivities will begin at 4 pm with fireworks beginning at 7:10 pm. For more information, call (800) 831-PORT or visit www.portoflosangeles.org.

Tues, Dec 11

Old Fashioned Wreath Workshop

Using fresh greens from the Los Angeles Arboretum grounds, participants in this workshop will make a wreath to welcome in the holiday season. The cost of the workshop is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. The Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden is located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue in the City of Arcadia. For more information, call (626) 821-3222 or visit www.arboretum.org.

Sat, Dec 15

Winter Survival Through this program, Kidspace Museum offers children the experience of a lifetime. In Winter Survival, children discover what it takes to survive in the wild during the

winter. Kidspace Museum is located at 480 North Arroyo Boulevard in the City of Pasadena. For more information or to reserve your space in the program, call (626) 449-9144 or visit www.kidspacemuseum.org.

California Native Plant Horticulture

This class, given by the Theodore Payne Foundation, offers a wealth of information on the wonderful world of gardening with a California flora. Participants will discover what a native plant is and why they are valuable plant communities. The Theodore Payne Foundation is located at 10459 Tuxford Street in Sun Valley. For more information and to make reservations, visit www.theodorepayne.org.

Tues, Dec 18

Wildlife Wendy Tropical Bird Show

Presented by the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), Wildlife Wendy's Tropical Bird show exhibits seven tropical bird species and their amazing abilities. The show begins at 4 pm at the Central Branch of the LAPL. The Branch is located at 4607 S. Main St. in Los Angeles. For more information, call (323) 234-1685 or visit www.lapl.org.

Mon-Fri, Dec 31-Jan 4

Winter Seafari During this week long program at Cabrillo Aquarium, explore the seashore during winter break. Go crab fishing, create ocean projects, learn about migratory animals, effects of winter storms and more. A fee of \$68 is required for the program. Cabrillo Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

(Energy Awareness...continued from page 1)

Ontario, California - The Southern California Clean Vehicle Technology Expo was held on October 16 and 17, 2007. The South Coast Air Quality Management District provided a Clean Cities information booth for this event. EAD and the other local Clean Cities coalitions took a turn staffing the booth, distributing literature on alternative fuel programs and projects, and attending the many informative sessions. Participating coalitions included the WRCOG, SCAG, City of Long Beach, City of Los Angeles, and San Diego. Over 600 people attended this very successful event.

For more information, visit http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=energy_awareness.bus_energy_awareness.



From left: Richard Steinhaus (City of Long Beach), Michael Bednars (DOE), and Heloise Froelich (City of LA, EAD) at the Southern California Clean Vehicle Technology Expo.

(Climate Change...continued from page 3)

- Explore the "power options" on your computer control panel. Set your monitor and hard drive to go to *standby status* or sleep mode when they haven't been used for a certain time interval, such as 5-10 minutes. Standby mode uses about 80% less electricity, but the computer will always be ready for immediate use. Keep in mind that information in the computer's memory is *not* saved on your hard disk while in this mode; so if the power is interrupted, the information could be lost. When you utilize the standby mode, remember to turn both your monitor and hard drive *off* at the end of the day.
- If you're going to be away from your desk for 15 minutes or longer, use the computer's "hibernation" feature to reach zero electricity consumption. The computer will save whatever is in the memory to the hard disk and then shut down after the interval that you specify. Despite rumors to the contrary, computer equipment is not damaged by being turned off and on frequently. Note: If your computer is connected to a network, some network settings could prevent you from using the standby or hibernation modes. Check with your system administrator.
- Assign an energy monitor (this could be you) to make sure that everything that should be turned off at the end of the day. If your custodians arrive after everyone has left the office, ask them to turn off the lights.



Don't forget to track your progress. If your office receives its own utility (electricity) bills, create a spreadsheet showing your monthly or bimonthly usage (in kilowatt hours); the daily average usage (also in kilowatt hours), and your daily average cost for energy. This information is typically provided on the bill. Note the dates when you implemented efficiency measures, and calculate how many kilowatt hours you've saved. Why not promote an energy saving contest on a building-wide basis? We'll cover more ideas about paper saving and green leases in upcoming issues.

More Energy Saving Tips for the Holiday Season

- **Turn down the heat in your home before your guests arrive.** You'll save energy while the extra body heat of your guests warms up your home.
- **Purchase light strands that are wired in parallel.** They have separate circuitry so that if one bulb blows out the rest will keep shining. All you have to do is replace the bulb.
- **While attending holiday parties, layer your clothes or wear a festive jacket or sweater.** This allows you the freedom to warm up or cool off without the need to adjust the temperature of the host's home and it increases your comfort.

For more energy saving ideas, visit www.consumerenergycenter.org.



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

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