

An Environmental Affair

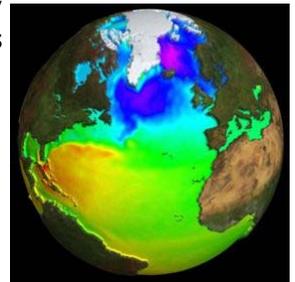
Volume 18, Issue 6

June 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.

City Releases Green LA Climate Action Plan

In May, the City of Los Angeles released the Green LA Climate Action Plan, which outlines the City's goal of reducing both City government and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 35% below 1990 levels by the year 2030.



To help lessen the threat of global warming, the City assumed a leadership role in developing and implementing cost-effective programs to assist with global climate protection initiatives. In early 2007, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) began working on the new Green LA Climate Action Plan—that features the greatest greenhouse gas reduction target of any large US city—to go beyond the targets set in the Kyoto Protocol. The cornerstone of Green LA is increasing the City's use of renewable energy to 35% by 2020. Ownership of the largest municipal utility in the country allows the City to directly affect this major source of greenhouse gases – electricity production. Overall, City government operations account for one-third of all estimated carbon dioxide

(Green LA CAP...Continued on page 7)

City Recognizes Los Angeles' Environmental Heroes

To celebrate Earth Day 2007 in April, the Los Angeles City Council and the Environmental Affairs Department honored exemplary citizens and organizations for their courage and actions in preserving, protecting, and improving Los Angeles' environment. Nominated by Council Districts, the following were honored in Council Chambers:

- Friends of the LA River
- The Audubon Center at Debs Park
- TreePeople
- Bill Eick
- Canoga Park BID
- Hollywood Beautification Team
- Jessica Hall
- The Laurel Canyon Association
- Melinda Kelley and Susanne Dallman
- ValleyCrest Landscape Companies
- Clean and Green Conservation Corps
- Eco Club of Crenshaw High School
- Cecilia Nunez
- South Los Angeles Beautification Team
- Karen Haas and the 24th Street Elementary School Garden
- Francine Diamond
- Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution
- Jelena Csayni
- California State University, Northridge
- Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education and the Apollo Alliance
- Tiger Kang
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
- Julie Maharaj
- Martin Byhower
- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Thanks to all the recipients for envisioning a better future for Los Angeles. For a brief description on these honorees, visit www.lacity.org/ead/earthdayawards.html/.

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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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Sustain LA

The Environmental Affairs Department has a way to show what Los Angeles does for its environment. From Air Quality programs to Water Resource Plans, the City's SustainLA website provides a one-stop resource for the City's various environmental programs.

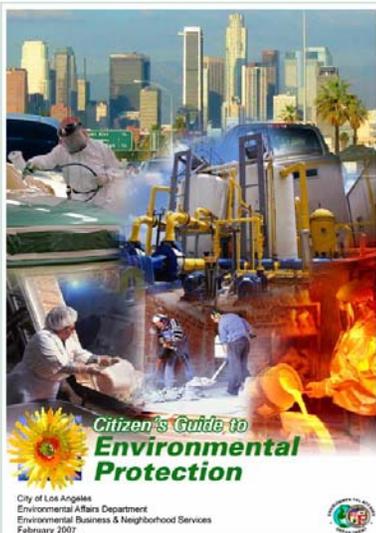


Want to know if the City has a water reclamation program? Does the City have renewable energy sources? Which department has a building de-construction program? What sort of environmental business programs does the City have? You can find these at the SustainLA website, located at <http://www.sustainla.org/>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has launched a website on their stewardship programs in which intelligent choices can be made for sustainable environmental benefits. The website, www.epa.gov/stewardship, enables users to find EPA partnership programs which best align with their needs and interests. Businesses can search for EPA programs based on their industrial category, environmental issue of interest, and geographic area. In this website, you can find many EPA programs that can help you become a better environmental steward.

EAD Releases Citizen's Guide to Environmental Protection

The Environmental Affairs Department has released the revised version of its publication *Citizen's Guide to Environmental Protection*. Updated in February 2007 by the staff of the Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services (EBNS) Division, the Citizen's Guide was developed to provide basic information to concerned citizens of Los Angeles on environmental aspects of commonly performed industrial or commercial enterprises that may be operating in their communities.



The guide begins with an overview of the waste management hierarchy approach to environmental protection. This hierarchy views the prevention of waste generation as the most preferable approach to environmental protection rather than the traditional "end-of-pipe" treatment approach. Next, the Guide provides standardized profiles for industrial and commercial pollution-generating operations commonly conducted in many Los Angeles communities. Some of these operations, such as metal plating, create hazardous waste while others, such as food services, produce solid wastes that can create problems if improperly managed.

Subsequent sections provide information on how to recognize and report potential environmental violations, a frequently-asked-questions section, and an extensive list of references that provide in-depth coverage of the subject matter. A very useful feature of the Citizen's Guide is that all of the reference documents are provided on CD. Access to these documents is available by clicking the links throughout the Guide or by clicking the link to the main index listing provided in the reference section. If interested in viewing the references or hyperlinks online, please visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead/>.

CalEPA Leads Effort for Manufacturer Responsibility with Green Chemistry Initiative

In their effort to reduce and eliminate toxics in products, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) announced in May that their Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will lead a Green Chemistry Initiative. Green chemistry is a fundamentally new approach to environmental protection, transitioning away from managing toxic chemicals at the end of the lifecycle, to reducing or eliminating their use altogether. DTSC will lead CalEPA's departments to change how government and business work together to deal with waste before it is generated. This new approach is similar to measures adopted by the European Union (EU) and the Canadian government that encourage greater manufacturer responsibility.



For the last century, environmental protection concentrated on capturing and storing hazardous waste. With the implementation of green chemistry, those designing consumer products and determining manufacturing processes will consider public health and environmental effects of those products at the design phase. Green chemistry practitioners can design new products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. The CalEPA team will be working in partnership with business and environmental groups on green chemistry to provide a scientific basis and economic opportunity for environmentally safe products.

In a memo to her directors initiating the Green Chemistry Initiative, Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, wrote: "In the absence of a unifying approach, interest groups and policy makers have been attempting to take these issues on one-by-one. Product by product, chemical by chemical, and now even city by city approaches can often have unintended, even regrettable consequences, even with the best of intentions. I believe we need to develop a coordinated, comprehensive strategy...."

The Green Chemistry Initiative will provide recommendations for developing a consistent means for evaluating risk, reducing exposure, encouraging less toxic industrial processes, and identifying safer, non-chemical alternatives. Most importantly, the Green Chemistry Initiative will ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach, to increase accountability and effectiveness of environmental programs across state government. DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen will manage the Green Chemistry Initiative in collaboration with other CalEPA departments and boards, as well as other state and federal government agencies, industry, and stakeholders.

Increasing international attention on the health and environmental effects of toxic exposure in everyday products has led to a variety of new laws. The EU and the Canadian government have adopted measures to evaluate hazards and reduce exposure to toxic chemicals. This year the California Legislature is considering more than 40 bills which are aimed at controlling individual toxic chemicals or products.

On January 1, 2007, a provision of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 went into effect to limit the levels of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, and cadmium in certain electronic devices. New regulations are banning the sale of electronic devices in California that are prohibited from being sold in the EU due to the presence of certain heavy metals. Electronic devices listed under the provision include covered electronic devices, including televisions, computer monitors, and LCD displays. These listings apply to devices with a video display of four inches or larger.

For more information on the Green Chemistry Initiative, visit DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GCLinks.cfm/>, and click on "Report to California's Legislature, Green Chemistry in California: A Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation."

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$
 Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

Allen Foundation The Allen Foundation supports educational nutrition programs, with priority given to training programs for children and young adults to improve their health and development. Past grants have ranged from \$2,000 to \$1 million. Schools and school districts should partner with local nonprofits to form nutrition education programs. The deadline is **December 31, 2007**. For more information, visit their website at www.allenfoundation.org.

National Gardening Association (NGA) Youth Garden Grants Program NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize an educational focus or curricular/program integration nutrition or plant-to-food connections, environmental awareness and education entrepreneurship, and social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Application deadline is **November 1, 2007**. To download an application, visit the NGA's Youth Garden Grants website at www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp/.

The Kresge Foundation Green Building Initiative encourages nonprofit organizations to consider building green. The Foundation's Green Building Initiative, launched in 2003, is intended to increase the awareness of sustainable or green building practices among nonprofits and encourage them to consider building green. Upfront planning and an integrated design process are necessary to achieve the full benefits of a green building. The Initiative offers educational resources and special grants to help nonprofits during this planning phase. Planning grants are available in amounts from \$25,000 to \$100,000. For more information, visit the Kresge Foundation website at www.kresge.org, or call (248) 643-9630 to reach their Grant Inquiry staff Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm ET.

United Plant Savers (UpS) Community Grants United Plant Savers, a non-profit educational corporation dedicated to preserving native medicinal plants, has a fund designated for community replanting projects. UpS guidelines require that the project have educational merit and that the land proposed for replanting be protected either by individual ownership, or be a part of a school or park system. All grants are community-oriented and educational or restorative in nature. Initially, grants will range from \$200-\$500 to allow for several small community-based projects rather than a few larger projects. For more information on the grant, visit www.unitedplantsavers.org/Community_Grants.html/.

The Veatch Program on Environmental Justice seeks to promote a grassroots environmental movement with an integrated perspective that connects environmental protection with sustainable economic development, racial and social equality, and empowerment of local communities. The Veatch Program, affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY, also provides grants in other program areas, including global democracy, capacity building for social justice, economic equity and democracy and more. For additional information, visit <http://www.uucsr.org/veatch/programareas.htm/>.

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Grant Program The California Fertilizer Foundation annually provides 24 grants for \$1,000 each to schools throughout California. The deadline is **June 15, 2007**. For more information, visit www.calfertilizer.org or call Pam Emery at (916) 574-9744.

The Environmental Support Center promotes the quality of the natural environment, human health and community sustainability by increasing the organizational effectiveness of local, state and regional organizations working on environmental issues and for environmental justice. Since 1990, the Environmental Support Center's programs have helped thousands of organizations become better managed, funded and equipped, by providing small grants and loans to pay for capacity-building activities. For more information, visit the Center's website at www.envsc.org.

JUNE 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Update on Griffith Park Fire



The City of Los Angeles is working quickly to open Griffith Park to public use. The park environment is very fragile, and City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (RAP) asks everyone's cooperation in respecting the closure areas to give the land, plant and animal life time to recuperate. Following the fire, several closures were implemented pursuant to 63.45 LAMC. It is a crime to enter any closed area, punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail.

Fires, smoking, barbecues, and portable stoves are prohibited in all areas of the Park, including all picnic areas. No flame or fire of any kind is allowed due to the severe fire danger. The burn areas will be closed on a long-term basis. Other park areas will be opened as conditions permit. Park hiking trails south of Zoo Drive are closed until further notice, with the exception of East and West Observatory Trails open from Ferndell directly to the Observatory. If you would like to help, donations of cash are being accepted. You can send a check made out to City of Los Angeles - RAP. Put 'Griffith Park Restoration' on the memo line. Mail to: Griffith Region Headquarters, ATTN: Griffith Region Superintendent, 3900 Chevy Chase Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90039. For the most recent updates, visit the City's website at <http://lagriffithpark.blogspot.com>.

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THIS MONTH

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat, Jun 9

Klondike Canyon Hike

Experience splendid views and extravagant wildflowers, like the scarlet paintbrush and the elegant mariposa lily. Rancho Palos Verdes Conservancy walk leaders will help you discover another side of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Learn about the history of this once-channel island, about the birds, wildlife, and plants that live in the canyons. Free, no reservations required. Walks are cancelled by significant rain. This hike is strenuous. Call the Rancho

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at (310) 541-7613 for more information.

Sun, June 10

The 7th Annual LA River Ride

is one of Los Angeles's best-loved traditions, and a signature event of the LA County Bike Coalition, the only non-profit organization representing over 3 million bicyclists in LA County. Along the way there will be fun rest-stops, live music, gourmet barbeque, and prizes. Enjoy rarely seen views and a day of sun and fun along the LA River from Griffith Park to Long Beach. There are four rides: a 1-mile ride for kids, a 15-mile family ride, a 45-mile challenge ride, and a 70-mile expert ride. Definitely an event with less cars and more bikes. The cost is \$15 for the kid's ride

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 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

and \$30 for general public registration. For more information and to register online, visit <http://www.labike.org>.

Eco-Home Tour Learn about new technology and resources for turning your home into a "greener" environment that takes into account time, space,

and budget. The tour is conducted by Eco-Home™ Network, a non-profit whose mission is to educate the public on how to make lifestyle choices that help protect the environment and improve our quality of life. Call for address. Reservations are required. The next tour is Sunday, June 24, Tours take place from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. \$10 per person requested donation. Call the Eco-Home Network at (323) 662-5207 for more information.

Sat, Jun 12

Native Plant Lecture at Madrona Marsh Nature Center Are you interested in learning about native plants? Join Dr. Connie Vadheim as she teaches you all about native plants in the wild and in your own garden. The talk takes place from 10 am to noon. Free. Madrona Marsh Nature Center is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance. Call (310) 782-3989.

Sat, Jun 16

Used Book Sale and Central Library's Science Day 2007 Find bargain children's books for sale. Sponsored by FOCAL, Friends of Children and Literature. Rotunda, 10 am to noon, then stay for "Science Day 2007" from 2 pm to 4 pm. Discover the Secrets of Science! Explore Mysteries of the Last Days of the Dinosaurs with Richard Wade (Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 pm and 3 pm); meet wild creatures from STAR

ECO Station (Children's Courtyard, continuous); experience hands-on science with the California Science Center (Thornton Courtyard, continuous); and check out cool science exhibits! Sponsored by the Miller Family and by FOCAL. Free. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Downtown Los Angeles. For more information, call the Library at (213) 228-7000.

Sat, Jun 23

Butterfly Bonanza at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens (RSABG) The great diversity of native plants in the garden are visited by an equally diverse community of insects, - butterflies being the most prominent. The garden is home to plants that both the larva and adult butterfly need to survive in. Come and learn how to identify the great many butterfly species in the garden and help take a butterfly census. There will be fun games, crafts and learning activities, butterfly hunts and lessons on how to grow your own butterfly gardens at home. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. \$15 per child, no charge for accompanying adult. To pre-register, contact RSABG at (909) 625-8767 x224. RSABG is located at 1500 N. College Avenue in Claremont.

Tues, Jun 26

Role - playing for Sustainability: Drop-In Discussion and Practice at the

Los Angeles Eco-Village Need a little help talking to friends, relatives and colleagues about your environmental passions without causing eyeballs to roll? Come and practice with others who share your values. Free. For more info or reservations: call (213) 738-1265 or email crsp@igc.org. Los Angeles Eco-Village is located at 117 Bimini Place in Los Angeles.

NEXT MONTH:
(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sun, Jul 22

Clean Air Car Show and Film Festival This event will be held in the City of South Pasadena from 11 am to 6 pm. The event will raise awareness and educate the community about adverse effects of vehicle emissions on the environment and its associated health risks. Various alternative fuel technologies will be showcased at the event. Movies and presentations will take place in the Historic Rialto Theater. The event takes place at the Mission Oaks parking lot located behind the Rialto and around Fair Oaks Avenue and El Centro Street. For more information see: <http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/whatsnew/index.html>, or call (626) 403-7380. Free.

To report smog coming from tailpipes, call Air Quality Management District at (800) CUT SMOG

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department participates in community events by conducting outreach. Department staff provide important environmental information about the City and its programs, and hand out free outreach materials for children and adults. If you would like the City of LA Environmental Affairs Department to participate at your next community event, contact the Department at (213) 978-0888, or drop us an email at ead.info@lacity.org.

Wildlife Alert for Visitors of So Cal Beaches

Southern California currently is experiencing increased strandings of California sea lions and common dolphins. It is suspected that the strandings are due to a toxic algal bloom of the diatom, *Pseudonitzschia australis*. The algae produce a biotoxin known as domoic acid. This biotoxin accumulates in anchovies and sardines that feed on the algae and, in turn, affects the sea lions and dolphins that feed on these fish. Since early April, approximately seven common dolphins and 116 California sea lions have beached alive with seizures from San Luis Obispo County south to San Diego County. All of the dolphins have died shortly after beaching. Many of the sea lions are currently being treated at various local marine mammal rehabilitation facilities. In addition, approximately ten dead common dolphins and numerous dead sea lions have also washed ashore. This current event is the largest toxic algal event in California since 2002-2003, when approximately 1,000 sea lions and fifty common dolphins were affected.

In order to ensure the best care to those animals that are in the greatest need of treatment, the Fort MacArthur Marine Mammal Care Center (FMMMCC) has implemented an emergency triage and monitoring policy for all beached seals and sea lions in Los Angeles County. Under this temporary policy, all seals and sea lions, other than those with human-related injuries, will remain on the beach for 48 hours prior to being taken to the FMMMCC for treatment. It is expected that many sea lions will expire on the beach during the current bloom, which may last until early July. The general public is reminded that beached animals are wild animals and can be very dangerous, even though they may appear to be lethargic on the beach. The general public should maintain a distance of at least 50 feet from these beached animals. To approach any closer may be in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

To report a stranded animal, call the Fort MacArthur Marine Mammal Center at (310) 548-5677, the Los Angeles County Fire Dept. Lifeguard Division at (310) 939-7200, the Whale Rescue Team at (800) 39-WHALE, or the National Marine Fisheries Service Stranding Coordinator at (562) 980-4017.

(Green LA CAP...Continued from page 1)

emissions in the City of Los Angeles. The City will leverage change in the public and private sectors by promoting green energy, conserving water, building a world-class transportation system, reducing waste, greening the port and airports, creating more open space and park land, and adapting the local economy to the realities of global climate change.

EAD will lead in working with non-proprietary departments to prioritize actions and report back on progress. Along with the Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC), EAD also will lead a community-based outreach effort to educate communities and challenge them to reduce emissions in their homes and workplaces and to reduce transportation fuel use.

"The City of Los Angeles Climate Action Plan provides for scores of actions that will ultimately move this city of 4 million residents toward aggressive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions," said EAD General Manager Detrich B. Allen. "I am pleased that we will work with other City Departments to find cost-effective methods of reducing emissions. Community outreach will be particularly exciting, as we challenge various communities and business sectors to bring forward their own environmentally-friendly ideas of living more lightly."

The Plan has over fifty initiatives that will reduce the City's carbon footprint. Other highlights of the 2007 Green LA Climate Action Plan include increasing renewable energy from solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal sources (and not renewing contracts for power imports from coal-fired plants); completing energy efficiency retrofits of all city-owned buildings to meet a 20% or more reduction of energy consumption; and installing the equivalent of 50 "cool roofs" per year on City buildings.

To read all the measures adopted in the Green LA C.A.P., visit www.lacity.org/ead.



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

Bulky Item Pick-up

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

Extra Trash Bin Request

Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Free Trees

Dept. of Water & Power
(800) 473-3652

Graffiti Removal

Office of Community Beautification
311

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

Depositos en los drenajes de desagües
Stormwater Management
311

Illegal or Unpermitted Construction on Single Family Homes

Department of Building and Safety
(213)482-0000

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

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

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo
Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

Leaf Blowers Complaints

Sopladores de hojas
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

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

Odor Complaints

LA Dept. of Public Works
(866) 996-2489

Recycling

Reciclaje
LA Dept. of Public Works
(800) 773-2489

Spaying/Neutering Pets

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

The City of Los Angeles
Environmental Affairs Department
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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