

An Environmental Affair

Volume 18, Issue 5

May is Clean Air, Bike to Work, and Watershed Awareness Month

May 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.

EAD Teams with Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to Fight Illegal Dumping

The City of Los Angeles' Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) acquired a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to address chronic illegal dumping throughout the City. The City has fought this problem with different programs, but faced budget limitations. This grant provided much-needed financial relief for the City in stopping this criminal behavior in the project's focus areas.



Council District 6, Peoria Street

Illegal dumping is a crime as it is a violation of California Penal Code Section 374.3 which prohibits non-commercial and commercial dumping of waste material, or causing it to be dumped on public or private property. Illegal dumping has become a chronic problem in some parts of Los Angeles. In addition to increasing blight and crime, illegal

(Illegal Dumping...Continued on page 7)

Priority Plan Check Available for Green Buildings

A Green Building is built to exceed the minimum requirements of the building code, especially in the areas of indoor environmental quality and resource efficiency (including energy, water, materials, and land). Some Green Building design examples can conserve natural resources, preserve natural vegetation, contain non-toxic or recycled-content building materials, maintain good indoor quality, feature flexible interiors, provide recycling facilities, recycle construction and demolition waste, and include access to public transportation.

The City of LA Department of Building and Safety offers Priority Plan Check (to be given first priority and be placed ahead of all other plans for which off-hour fees were not paid) for qualifying Green Building projects. For Priority Plan Check service, the project must be registered with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and have been designated "Silver" or higher rating per the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating guideline. The project also must meet minimum points of 33 per latest version of the Registered Project Checklist published by USGBC. Registration information and the rating guides are available at the USGBC website at www.usgbc.org.

Inside this issue:

International Polar Year	2
Bike to Work	2
Making Air Quality Milestones	3
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
Celebrate Urban Birds!	6
Project BudBurst	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: 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.

Printed on recycled paper.

International Polar Year

The International Polar Year is underway. The International Polar Year (IPY) is a large scientific program focused on the Arctic and the Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2009. In order to have full and equal coverage of both the Arctic and the Antarctic, IPY covers two full annual cycles during the time period and will involve over 200 projects, with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations examining a wide range of physical, biological, and social research topics. It is also an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate, follow, and get involved with, cutting edge science in real-time.



IPY occurs amidst abundant evidence of changes in snow and ice: reductions in the extent and mass of glaciers and ice sheets; reductions in area, timing, and duration of snow cover; and reductions in extent and thickness of sea ice. Changes in snow cover and sea ice have immediate local consequences for terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Permafrost, an additional form of ice that influences nearly 25% of the northern hemisphere landmass, also shows substantial decomposition due to warming climate. Permafrost degradation affects local ecology and hydrology as well as coastal and soil stability.

For more information, visit <http://www.ipy.org/>.

13th Annual California Bike Commute Week May 14-18, 2007

Bike to Work Week is the largest bicycle commute and alternative transportation awareness week in California and in the United States. In its 13th year, a record number of cyclists are projected to hop on their bikes and enjoy a ride to work.

Sponsored by Metro, the California Bicycle Coalition, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Los Angeles County will hold its "Bike to Work Day" event on Thursday, May 17. Local pit stops will be hosted by city organizations, sponsors, and merchants to provide a place for bicyclists to stop, relax, get energized, have snacks, receive give-aways (all for free), and obtain informational materials on bicycling to work. For more information, visit <http://www.metro.net/biketowork> or call (800) 679-BIKE (2453).



Don't miss the 4th annual 'Blessing of the Bicycles' on Tuesday May 15 at Good Samaritan Hospital. From 8 am to 9:30 am, religious leaders from different faiths will bestow blessings for safe cycling as they bless bicycles and cycling gear.

Cyclists also will be invited to ride a lap around the hospital to honor the healing in the City's health care facilities. There will be free gifts, on-site bike safety checks and breakfast. This event will be located in front of Good Samaritan Hospital, located at 616 S. Witmer Avenue in Los Angeles. For more information visit <http://www.goodsam.org/>.

Making Air Quality Progress via Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Fuel Economy Programs

During 2006, the City of Los Angeles made significant progress in the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and fuel economy programs. The City's active fleet now includes over 2,455 alternative fuel vehicles, with supporting alternative fueling stations and maintenance facilities. AFV use and fuel economy programs resulted in the conservation of over 10.6 million gallons of gasoline (or equivalents) for the year. The City's AFV fleet and other emission reduction programs eliminated 8 million pounds of air pollutants from vehicles for fiscal year 2005-06, at an average cost of 30 cents per pound of pollutant reduced. City employees participating in fuel economy programs eliminated over 44 million vehicle miles this year by sharing rides, using public transit and riding or walking to work. These findings are from two annual reports, completed by EAD during the first quarter of 2007. They include: 1) a "Clean Cities Annual Report" (an inventory of City of Los Angeles alternative fuel vehicle use, fuel economy programs, and fuel usage), and 2) the "SCAQMD Subvention Fund Program Annual Report" (a cost-effectiveness analysis of the City's emission reductions programs funded by State Motor Vehicle Fees). Progress details follow below.

Air Quality Progress & Fuel Conservation

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

The City controls a growing fleet of **2,455 alternative-fuel vehicles** that run on propane, electricity, liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen fuels. Dual fuel and gasoline/hybrid models are also counted as a part of the alternative fuel fleet. The City has the largest municipally-owned alternative-fuel refuse collection fleet in the nation.

The City owns or is a partner in 18 alternative fuel dispensing stations and almost 175 electrical recharging stations, including 2 state-of-the-art fueling facilities for hydrogen vehicles.

The City conserved **approximately 10.6 million gallons of gasoline** (or equivalents) through alternative-fuel use and fuel economy programs in 2006.

Cost-Effective Emission Reductions

In 2006, the City reduced over **8 million pounds of air pollutant emissions** using State Motor Vehicle Fees distributed to the City via the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

This annual reduction was achieved at an average cost of **30 cents** per pound of air pollutant reduced.

The City operates a state-of-the-art traffic flow and signal control system, known as the **ATSAC** system, resulting in a reduction in idling of vehicles at intersections and a reduction of more than **7 million pounds** of standard air pollutants and **1,682 million pounds** of carbon dioxide for 2005/2006. A total of **3,227 City intersections** are under ATSAC control.

The City is a designated "Clean City" under the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program, a national program that promotes and supports the use of alternative fuels.

Conservation of Vehicle Miles

City departments participating in the **Bicycle Patrol Program** traveled approximately **2.5 million vehicle miles** per year, replacing vehicles that would have been idling during this period or traveling these miles.

City employees participating in the City's **Carpool and Vanpool Rideshare Program** conserve over **20 million vehicle miles** per year. City employees participating in the **Transportation Subsidy Program** for using public transit or bicycling or walking to work conserve over **24 million vehicle miles** per year.

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

The CAPCO Science Class Challenge Participants in the CAPCO Science Class Challenge can win \$250 to \$5,000 for their school. Students in grades 4-9, along with their teachers, are encouraged to learn about the Earth's protective upper ozone layer, CFCs, and the environment by using provided activities or their own creative methods. Entries must be received by **May 14, 2007**. For more information, visit <http://www.nocfcs.org>.

The American Floral Endowment Educational Grant hopes to help build a stronger floriculture industry by funding educational programs. The majority of the programs are wide-reaching and focus on attracting young people to the industry or educational endeavors to identify and solve industry needs and/or challenges. Educational Grants must provide a benefit to a broad geographic area (preferably national in scope), and for a broad industry constituency within the United States. All requests are reviewed on an annual basis, with funding dependent on the amount of funds available. The deadline for submission is **June 1, 2007**. For more information and to download an application, visit <http://www.endowment.org/education>.

The Acorn Foundation supports projects dedicated to building a sustainable future for the planet and to restoring a healthy global environment. The Acorn Foundation is particularly interested in small and innovative community-based projects which seek to preserve and restore habitats, advocate for environmental justice, and prevent or remedy toxic pollution. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. For more information, visit <http://www.commoncounsel.org/pages/foundation.html#acorn>. Applications must be received by **June 15, 2007**.

The Captain Planet Foundation funds projects that promote understanding of environmental issues through hands-on involvement of children and young adults. Promotion of group cooperation and interaction, as well as the development of planning and problem solving skills, is highly encouraged. Grants awarded range in value from \$250-\$2,500. For more information and to submit your online application, visit their website at <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>. The deadline to submit an application is **June 30, 2007**.

The Kendall Foundation normally awards grants only to non-profit organizations. The foundation is attracted to organizations demonstrating ingenuity and effectiveness, and can provide funding for general operating needs, specific programs and initiatives, including advocacy, public education, and more. Grants are normally made for one or two years and typically range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. **The application is due June 10, 2007**. For more information, visit <http://www.kendall.org>.

The Weingart Foundation focuses its grant making on programs that address the needs of the under-served and the general community. Interested parties should submit a letter of inquiry that includes a brief description of the organization, a brief description of the project for which funding is sought, the total cost of the project for which funding is sought, and the amount requested from the Weingart Foundation. The letter of inquiry may be submitted through the Foundation's online form or through the U.S. mail. For more information visit www.weingartfdn.org/.

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Grant Program The California Fertilizer Foundation annually provides 24 grants for \$1,000 each to schools throughout California. At the end of each year, winning schools can re-apply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip. The deadline to apply is **June 15, 2007**. For more information, visit www.calfertilizer.org or contact Pam Emery at (916) 574-9744.

Garden Crusaders Award Nominations This year, Gardener's Supply will award more than \$15,000 in cash and products to individuals across the country who are using gardening to make a difference in their communities. The Garden Crusader Awards were created by Gardener's Supply to honor individuals who are improving the world through gardening. These enthusiastic men and women are planting trees and flowers, growing food, creating new green spaces, and teaching their friends and neighbors about the rewards of gardening. Nominations are received until **June 1, 2007**. Winners will be announced in November of 2007. To nominate an outstanding individual, email or call the Gardener's Supply Company at crusader@gardeners.com, or telephone (888) 239-1553.

MAY 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Ballona Wetlands Tour On the second and fourth Saturday of each month, join Friends of Ballona Wetlands for an informative tour of the Freshwater Marsh. You will see a wonderful variety of birds, learn about native plants, and how the freshwater system works. Park on the south side of Jefferson Boulevard alongside the marsh, west of Lincoln and meet there at the Freshwater Marsh sign. Tours are held from 10 am to 11 am. Tours will be held on May 12 and May 26. For more information and directions, call the Friends of Ballona Wetlands at (310) 306-5994.

Sat, May 5

Environmental Priorities Network's Second Annual South Bay Energy Fair View the latest electric, bio-diesel, hybrid, and natural gas-powered cars. Learn about the economies of solar panel installation for electricity, lighting, and hot water systems as well as green energy-efficient building. Admire the latest electric motorbikes and scooters. Registration starts at 8:30 am and from 9 to 10:30 am, well-informed experts will discuss how to save energy,

THIS MONTH

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Tues, May 1

World Asthma Day

Sponsored by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)

For more info, visit

www.ginasthma.com

reducing solar panel installation costs with big rebates, how to get energy saving appliances with rebates, and when and where you can buy "green" vehicles that use alternative fuels. From 10:30 am to 3 pm, visit the exhibits, pick up a free compact fluorescent light bulb, sign up for the Solar Homes Tour on June 16, and attend presentations or a movie in the library. This all takes place on the grounds of the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive in Rancho Palos Verdes, where you will be able to buy lunch from 11 am to 2 pm. A \$5 donation is appreciated, but no one will be turned away. Cosponsors are the Pacific Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee and the South Coast Interfaith Council. For more information, contact Lillian Light at (310) 545-1384 or llight@verizon.net, David Dutra at (310) 530-0846, or dutra_david@hotmail.com or visit www.southbayenergyfair.com.

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

Commissioners:

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

Celebrate Urban Birds! May 10-13, 2007

The American Community Gardening Association and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology want to know about the birds found in urban community gardens. Participate on May 10-13 in a nationwide community garden bird count. Help scientists better understand the value of urban green areas for birds. Visit www.urbanbirds.org/celebration/.

THIS MONTH (cont)
 (EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Native Plant Class, "The Sweet Scent of Summer" with Connie Vadheim at Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve From 10 am to noon, learn about native plants that you can plant and be successful with in your garden. Call Madrona Marsh Nature Center at (310) 782-3989 for more details. Madrona Marsh Nature Center is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance.

Sat & Sun, May 5-6

Country Garden Fair View display gardens created and maintained by members of the public, along with a bonsai show. You will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of plants, seeds, and fertilizer as well as obtain gardening information from local garden clubs and societies. Free. The fair takes place from 9 am to 5 pm. Located at the Sepulveda Garden Center at 16633 Magnolia Boulevard in Encino. For more information call 1-888-LA-PARKS (527-2757) or visit <http://www.laparks.org>.

Sat, May 12

La Gran Limpieza Takes place from 9 am to noon at the Los Angeles River at various locations. Help the River look its best. For more information,

visit www.folar.org or call (323) 223-0585.

Caravan Tour of the LA River - Central Los Angeles River

Departs 10 am from the LA River Center, 570 W. Avenue 26, LA 90065. The tour will visit Sepulveda Basin, Glendale Narrows, Downtown, and Maywood. Tickets are \$20. Sponsored by Friends of the LA River (FoLAR). For more information, contact FoLAR at (323) 223-0585.

City of Los Angeles Arbor Day

Celebrate Arbor Day at Griffith Park's Center Picnic Area from 11 am to 3 pm. Attend compost workshops and tree care demonstrations. Visit the traveling tidepool, enjoy live performances, gather free mulch provided by City of LA, play with the animals of the petting zoo, and much much more! Free. For more information, call the City of LA Dept. of Recreation and Parks at (213) 473-9950.

Deane Dana Friendship Nature Extravaganza: A Day with the Natives

Spend a fun day at San Pedro's most scenic nature center learning about the local wildlife and plant life. Take part in a bird walk or native plant walk with the Center's naturalists, meet some of California's native wildlife up close, and take home a free native plant for your garden. Make crafts, participate in games, make a birdhouse in a workshop, and visit the information booths to find out all the different resources available

to you in the local community and in LA County. Be sure to visit the Environmental Affairs table! There also will be bus transportation for people with disabilities to a wheelchair accessible trailhead at the top of the hill. Trails lead up to the top of the hill for a 360-degree view of the Harbor. Free. The extravaganza takes place from 10 am to 4 pm at the Deane Dana Friendship Nature Park Center located at 1805 W. 9th Street in San Pedro. For more information, call the Nature Center at (310) 519-6115.

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

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. The cost is \$15 for the kid's ride and \$30 for general public registration. For more information and to register online, visit <http://www.labike.org>.

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.

(Illegal Dumping...Continued from page 1)

dumping can be a breeding ground for pestilence and vermin. Illegal dumping potentially adds liability to the City in the form of increased claims and injuries.

For the grant, sixty locations where chronic illegal dumping is an issue were selected for frequent cleanups including outreach to the community and enforcement. Over a 12-month period, 13,700 cubic yards of illegally dumped debris were removed and disposed. Bureau of Street Services (BSS) partnered with EAD to perform all activities to clean up, remove, recycle or dispose of collected material. Bruce Howell, BSS project manager in charge of implementing the project, did an excellent job in achieving marked results despite time constraints and enormous work load. His effort and dedication to the project are very much appreciated by EAD and the community.

Disposal Tips for General Public

- Report illegal dumping sites by calling '311'.
- Recycle items you are legally required to recycle, such as car batteries and motor oil, at certified recycling centers. Call '311' for disposal locations.
- Recycle items such as scrap metal, cardboard, newspaper, glass, aluminum, tin and water based paints. Place these and other items in approved recycle containers.
- Place pruning waste in approved Greenwaste containers for pick up.
- Call '311' to make an appointment for Sanitation's Free Bulky Item Pick-Up for large appliances such as stoves, televisions, and other electronic products.

Be a Citizen Scientist— Participate in 'Project BudBurst' Now through June

This spring, people across the nation can help scientists collect important climate change data on the timing of leafing and flowering of trees and flowers through Project BudBurst! This national citizen science field campaign targets native tree and flower species across the country. By recording the timing of the leafing and flowering of native species each year, scientists can learn about the prevailing climatic characteristics in a region over time. With help, they can compile valuable environmental information that can be compared to historical records to illustrate the effects of climate change.



Project BudBurst is ideal for teachers and students, families interested in participating in a science project, scouts and 4-H groups, gardening clubs, botanical gardens...any one person or any group with an interest in contributing to a socially and scientifically relevant research study. You'll find all the information you need to participate in Project BudBurst at www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/.

So join the Project this spring (April through June) and be part of the Project BudBurst community! Project BudBurst is a collaborative effort of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Environmental Research Systems Inc., National Science Foundation, National Phenology Network, UCAR Office of Education and Outreach, University of Arizona, University of Montana, University of California Santa Barbara, and Windows to the Universe. U.S. Bureau of Land Management provided funding for the spring 2007 event.



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 articulos 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

Bureau of Street Services
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
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 12932