

An Environmental Affair

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The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in the City of Los Angeles.

Green Cars Star in the L.A. Auto Show

Los Angeles hosted the annual LA Auto Show from November 16 – 25, 2007 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Southern California's poor air quality has caused a tremendous emphasis to be placed on clean transportation in recent decades. At this year's LA Auto Show, thousands of cars were on display and the environment continues to be a major focus of the event. In fact, the 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid was named Green Car Journal's 2008 Green Car of the Year at a press conference during the Los Angeles Auto Show. This vehicle is the industry's first full-sized SUV to utilize hybrid technology. The two-mode gasoline-electric hybrid system was co-developed by General Motors, Chrysler-Daimler, and BMW. The two-wheel drive, 6-Liter Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid, achieves 21 miles per gallon in the City while the two-wheel drive, 5.3 Liter Chevrolet Tahoe (non-hybrid) delivers 14 miles per gallon. Other nominees included the Mazda Tribute Hybrid, Saturn Aura Hybrid, Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid, and the Nissan Altima Hybrid. Hybrids are now the vehicle of choice for many people in the US. Toyota Motor Corporation has sold one million hybrid vehicles worldwide. More than half of the one million total vehicles were sold in the United States (541,210 units from 2000 through April 2007). Several automobile manufacturers say they are planning hybrid versions of almost every vehicle in their lineup.



Pictured Above: The Honda FCX Clarity



Pictured Above: The Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid

Honda also introduced their latest fuel cell car, the FCX Clarity, at the Los Angeles Auto Show; the production car is coming in 2008. This vehicle drives completely clean—emitting nothing into the air but water vapor. Hydrogen is the energy source for this next-generation automobile. The FCX Clarity features a well-equipped, full-sized cabin, and is capable of a driving range of 270 miles. Sales will commence in the summer of 2008 with a \$600 per month, three-year lease. Honda also displayed its fourth and latest generation Home Refueling Station, which produces hydrogen from natural gas. This station will not only provide fuel for a hydrogen fuel cell automobile but also heat and electricity for the home.

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<http://www.lacity.org/ead>.

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Farm Bill Important for So Cal, for Nation

Agriculture is California's number one industry, ranked number five in the world. In the U.S., California leads the nation as the state with the most agriculture production, producing 350 different kinds of commodities. Even with 212,000 acres of agriculture land converted to urban development in 2006, approximately 250,000 million acres are in production. In 2006, the industry generated \$32 billion in revenue.

Farming is a food system tied to broader issues of global economy, land preservation, declining petroleum reserves, domestic food safety and security. Food systems are local when they allow food producers and their customers to interact face-to-face at the point of purchase. Regional food systems generally serve larger geographical



The ever popular Little Tokyo Farmers' Market, currently located in front of City Hall, demonstrates a local food system where farms and food merchandisers sell directly to shoppers.

areas such as a metropolis, a state or even multiple states, and they often can work with farmers who have a larger volume of single products to sell. These regional food systems often have a complex method of distribution involving large transport and also require food processing and packaging.

Agriculture carries weight in the nation's economy. So, every five years, when legislation such as the 2007 Food and Energy Act, also known as the 2007 Farm Bill, comes up in Congress, many people in California's urban hubs may be oblivious, even though it impacts the state on issues such as preservation of wildlife habitat near farmland, food access for the poor, and energy resources.

To view the developments on the Farm Bill, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/farmbill.html>.

Proposition "O" Succeeds in Reducing Litter in Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles announced the overwhelming success of the first two phases of Proposition O's Catch Basin Screen Cover and Insert Project in reducing litter in Los Angeles. The proposition prevents litter from polluting the Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek, and local beaches. Proposition O facilitated the installation of 14,300 catch screen covers and 7,400 catch screen inserts throughout the high and medium trash generation areas in the City to prevent litter from being released into LA's surrounding water bodies.

Catch screen basins collect rain water and urban runoff from the streets. They also serve as an entry point to the storm drain system, where untreated water enters and flows directly to the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek. The main litter sources in Los Angeles are plastic and paper. As a result of the installation of more than 20,000 catch basin screen and inserts, 1,537 tons of trash are being diverted from reaching the ocean and polluting L.A. waterways and beaches.

You can also help reduce litter in Los Angeles by not over watering your lawn, using a broom instead of a hose when cleaning the sidewalk, and by always throwing your trash in the trash bin (cigarette butts too!).

For more information on Proposition O, visit www.lapropo.org.

Paper Saving in the Office

Despite optimistic predictions over the past decades, the paperless office still hasn't arrived. But you *can* reduce printing and copying, and thus electricity consumption, with a few easy steps. Don't print anything until you've considered the alternatives:

- Distribute electronic versus hard copies of memos. If memos or notices must be displayed, post them on a bulletin board instead of providing individual copies.
- Printed copies aren't necessary when you can store documents in shared computer drives. To control the content, convert documents to PDFs that can't be altered.
- Have an article you want everyone to read? Don't make a hard copy; find the online article link and email that or save the article to a shared drive.
- If you must print, print double-sided to save paper. Make sure everyone in your office knows how to use the duplexing or double-sided print option. Better yet, set computers and printers to default to duplex.
- Consider purchasing software that prevents the printing of blank pages at the end of documents. Review documents before printing them, and specify the range of pages you need to print, rather than selecting "print all."
- If you really need to print an online article, always select the "printer friendly" feature to avoid printing incomplete or blank pages. If that option's not available, copy the text and paste it into a Word document.
- Don't print emails — just save them: open the message and select "save as" and input the destination folder.
- Whenever possible, keep office equipment use to a minimum during peak hours when demand for electricity is the greatest. Per the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), high peak hours are 1:00 p.m. to 4:59 p.m.
- Unless it's also your fax machine, turn your copier off at the end of the day to save energy. The office early bird can turn it back on.

Don't forget to track your progress. In this case, less paper is definitely more. For more information, visit www.grinningplanet.com/2006/05-30/save-paper-article.htm.

Paper: Climate What's the Connection?

Here in Los Angeles, the generation of electricity contributes roughly one-third of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, on a community-wide basis.

By using copiers and printers less often, you will cut your paper consumption, too, therefore, the energy involved in manufacturing that commodity will drop.

City of Los Angeles Environmental Youth Conference

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Youth Conference was held on Saturday, December 8th. Thousands of students attended the conference held at the Los Angeles Convention Center to learn about climate change and their role as future leaders. Students attended workshops, viewed slide shows on climate change and learned about the ways that they could help in the environmental effort. As a special treat, singer Tyrese Gibson and actor Wilmer Valderrama, as well as other Disney Channel stars, advocated for environmental consciousness and pledged to be environmentally friendly.

In addition, various city departments, EAD included, participated in the event by handing out outreach materials to students. Through EAD's participation, students saw the benefits of recycling first hand with materials such as rulers made from currency, pencils made from recycled newspaper, and pens made from recycled cardboard and woodchips.

For more information about the Environmental Youth Conference, visit www.milliontreesla.org.

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

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

Health Effects of Near-Roadway Exposures to Air Pollution

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking proposals to study the health effects of near-roadway exposures to air pollution. EPA will review the proposals and the submitters of the highest-ranked proposals will be asked to submit full applications. After review of the full applications, one application will be selected for funding. Non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_star_healtheffects.html.

Broad Agency Announcement for Conferences, Workshops and/or Meetings

The EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) supports leading-edge research to stimulate the sound use of science and technology that fulfills EPA's mission to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment. One way the EPA seeks to accomplish this mission is by providing financial support for conferences that further environmental research by communicating ideas, knowledge, expertise, innovation and creativity in solving complex environmental issues. Non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_baa.html

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 who strive to obtain its mission. For more information, visit <http://www.edison.com/community/contributions.asp>.

The Fields Pond Foundation Program The primary mission of the program is to provide

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 approaching 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>.

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 skills, 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>.

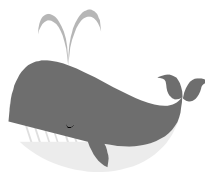
The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

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 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.

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 through 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> or call (213) 847-4970.



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 Saturdays and Sundays of each 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 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.

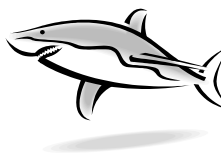
Visit the LA Zoo

Visit the Los Angeles Zoo for the many new exhibits that have been recently unveiled. The new gorilla exhibit resembles a West Central African environment and exhibits a family of gorillas as well as two male bachelors. 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.



Sea Monsters 3D

Now playing at the IMAX Theater at the California Science Center, promises to be



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

an unforgettable experience. It combines innovative imagery, powerful storytelling, and the experiential nature of giant-screen 3D theaters to immerse audiences into an unforgettable experience. Viewers accompany modern and historical fossil hunters to remote locations. The IMAX theater is located at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles. For more information and for showtimes, visit www.californiasciencecenter.org or call (213) 744-7400.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat & Sun, Jan 5-6**Go Green and Recycle Your Christmas Tree**

Go green by cutting and placing your tree in your green yard trimmings container. You may also recycle your tree by bringing it to one of 28 drop off sites. Before recycling your tree, remove all ornaments and tinsel. Tree recycling will take place from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. on this weekend only. For more information, visit www.lacitysan.org/tree-recycle.htm or call (800) 773-2489.

Tues, Jan 8

Food For Life Presented by the Los Angeles Public Library and the Cancer Project, the class teaches adults how to gain energy from healthy eating. Pre-registration is required. The Venice Branch is located at 501 S. Venice Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information and to register, visit www.lapl.org or call (310) 821-1769.

Sat, Jan 12

Mountain Madness From the deep valleys to the mountain peaks, during this class, you'll learn about animals that live in rocky areas and evergreen forests. Presented by the LA Zoo, you'll discover the special adaptations that help these animals survive life in the mountains. This class takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon and requires a fee of \$18 for members and \$23 for non-members. Registration is required for admittance into the class. For more information, visit

www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4211.

Roach Appreciation Day During this event at the Natural History Museum, children are able to romp with roaches. They'll meet live bugs and discover that roaches aren't really gross at all. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the National History Museum. The National History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-3466.

Fri, Jan 18**California Confronts Global Climate Change Lecture Series**

A lecture given by Mary Nichols, chair of the California Air Resources Board, will discuss plans to implement California's landmark climate change legislation. Nichols will also discuss plans to work with the board at curbing pollution at the ports and renew efforts to pass regulations that will ultimately provide cleaner air for Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. The lecture will take place at the University of Southern California's Davidson Conference Center from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and is open to the public. For more information, visit www.usc.edu/calendar or call (213) 740-6998.

Sat, Jan 26

Calling all Junior Scientists! During this event at the National History Museum, children and adults can discover how dino-

sauurs moved, behaved, and lived by piecing together evidence. This is a chance to see what paleontologists do. The event is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and is free with paid museum admission. The National History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-3466 or visit www.nhm.org.

Teacher Workshop: Celebrate Water

K-12 educators are encouraged to participate in a series of workshops, each focusing on a mermaid-inspired theme with activities connected to art and environmental science. Given by the UCLA Fowler Museum, these series of workshops will feature lectures and presentations as well as watery site visits. Have fun and earn two salary points! The event takes place from 9 am to 4 pm and requires a fee of \$75 for all five sessions. For more information, visit www.folar.ucla.edu or call (310) 825-4361.

Sun, Jan 27

Whale Fiesta Join the Cabrillo Aquarium for tons of fun as they celebrate the migration of the Pacific gray whale and the beginning of the

whalewatching season with the building of a life-sized gray whale made out of sand! It is a family day filled with activities and exhibits for all. The event is free to the public and will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in San Pedro. For more information, visit www.cabrilloaq.org or call (310) 548-7562.

(Green Cars in LA...Continued from page 1)

The City of Los Angeles was the first entity in the US to lease a hydrogen fuel cell car certified for commercial use, the Honda FCX. The Los Angeles World Airports has been operating 5 Daimler-Chrysler F-Cell vehicles for daily use vehicles within the Los Angeles area.

Most of the new gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles are California Air Resources Board certified as Advanced Technology – Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (AT-PZEV). Several gasoline cars also are certified as Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (PZEVs). Vehicles that are certified as PZEV, AT-PZEV, or Zero Emission (ZEV) have near-zero evaporative emissions and their emission control equipment has a 15-year/150,000 mile warranty. Vehicles receiving the AT-PZEV credit also make use of "ZEV-enabling" clean technologies such as alternative fuel, electric drives, or other advanced technology systems. PZEVs have come to us as a result of changes to California's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, an integral part of the state's low emission vehicle program crafted in 1990.

Those interested in purchasing an environmentally friendly vehicle can visit the California Air Resources Board's "Guide to Zero and Near-Zero Emissions Vehicles" at <http://www.driveclean.ca.gov/>, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Green Vehicle Guide" at <http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/>.

EPA Awards Community Grants Across Country

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced that around \$3 million will be available in 2008 to support community-based partnerships to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program.

EPA anticipates awarding CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I cooperative agreements range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities which have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk reduction activities, and become self-sustaining. In 2007, \$3.4 million in cooperative agreements were made available to more than 20 communities through the CARE program, a community-based, community-driven program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources. Examples of projects include addressing abandoned, contaminated industrial and residential properties in Gary, Indiana, dealing with agriculture-related toxics in Yakima County, Washington, and reducing air emissions from diesel trucks and buses in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Since 2005, the grants to reduce toxics in the environment have reached almost 50 communities in over 20 states.

Applications for the CARE grants are due March 17, 2008. Eligible applicants include county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, and universities. EPA will conduct three conference calls, January 18, February 11 and 27, for prospective applicants to ask questions about the application process.

Additional information about the CARE program, previous cooperative agreement recipients, and applying for the 2008 grants is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/care>.



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@lacity.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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