

## Goals and Facts at a Glance

The primary goal of the City's Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program is to reduce motor vehicle pollution and vehicle usage (or VMT) through the use of bicycles in place of motor vehicles in the City's patrols. The City also achieves significant cost savings in terms of fuel usage through the use of bicycle patrols.

- EAD has purchased over 600 bikes for the Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program.
- Displacing vehicles with bike patrols saves on fuel and equipment costs.
- Bicycle purchases are made possible by the City's air pollution reduction funds, which supports programs to reduce motor vehicle pollution in the City.

## Our Mission

*The EAD, established in 1990, is the chief advisor to the City on environmental issues. It works to ensure a sustainable, clean and healthful environment for all people of LA.. By restoring habitats, creating innovative alternatives, assisting businesses and revitalizing communities, the EAD makes LA a better place to live, work, and play.*



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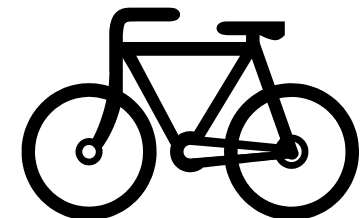


## City of Los Angeles Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program



*EnvironmentLA*

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City of Los Angeles



# *Bike Patrols for Clean Air*



The City of Los Angeles has established successful bicycle patrols in several City departments for various applications, including emergency medical response, community policing, parking enforcement, park ranger patrols, and security patrols. These bicycle patrols have directly improved air quality and reduced the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) associated with patrols



by shifting officers from motor vehicles to bicycles to conduct their daily business.

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) coordinates the Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program, identifying grant opportunities and City air pollution reduction funds to purchase bicycles and related equipment. The EAD also chairs a bike patrols working group, with representatives from participating departments.

## **History and Statistics**

EAD began purchasing bicycles for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and established the Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program in March 1998 to give other City departments involved in patrol activities the opportunity to participate in this program. The program now includes the Police Department (LAPD), the General Services Department (GSD), the Department of Transportation (LADOT), the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), the Harbor Department (Harbor), the LA Zoo, the Fire Department (LAFD), the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and the Bureau of Street Services (BSS).

Future bike purchases, along with new participating departments, will further the benefits realized with the bikes already deployed and illustrates the ease of transferring vehicle patrols to bicycles for certain applications. Newly participating bike patrols include lifeguard medics at City parks and City street use inspectors.

## **Benefits**

Bicycles provide tremendous air quality and public health benefits when used in patrol applications. It is anticipated that the use of bicycles in patrol applications under the Bike Patrols for Clean Air Program will reduce driving by about 1.2 million miles per year and associated pollution by almost 1 ton per year. Patrol applications include a substantial amount of low speed or stop and go driving, which is the most heavily polluting type of driving. Emission

reductions are critical to enable the region to meet air quality attainment standards by 2010.

Fuel usage and equipment costs also are reduced through this program, which translates into significant cost savings. Bikes have zero fuel costs. In addition, equipment costs for 2 bikes are approximately \$3,188, compared to 1 patrol car, which costs approximately \$44,000.

Bicycle patrols have proven to be a cost-effective means of providing community policing, parking enforcement, and security with significantly lower maintenance and operating costs than motor vehicles. Often times bicycle officers can access congested areas better than motor vehicle officers and cover more area than officers on foot. Bicycles offer an effective approach to crime surveillance as they are less obvious than vehicles.

In addition to the operational benefits, community and public relations are improved through the use of bicycles. Bicycle officers are often viewed as more approachable by the public than officers in motor vehicles. In addition, crime statistics have lowered in areas where police bicycle patrols are deployed. There are a total of over 600 bikes in active patrol city-wide. They travel almost 2.5 million miles per year.