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## **LOS ANGELES GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AND RECOGNIZE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES**

**LOS ANGELES (April 30, 2014)** – Mayor Eric Garcetti joined LA Sanitation, City and program officials and businesses today to announce the launch of the Los Angeles Green Business Program. This program is one of three under the City of Los Angeles Green Business Certification Program to promote and recognize sustainable businesses. The other two are the Los Angeles Green Arts Program and the Los Angeles Green Lodging Program.

The Green Business Program assists businesses to become more environmentally friendly by introducing greener choices, such as reduction of solid waste and energy. To become certified, participants must comply with all environmental laws and regulations and meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste, thereby improving the livability of the City’s neighborhoods. So far, 70 businesses have been certified. Each business receives an official certification from the City of Los Angeles.

“L.A.’s Green Business Certification Program will improve the health of our neighborhoods, our environment, and our economy,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “This program is another great example of the power of collaboration between the private sector and the City.”

Sanitation is partnering with the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to implement and run the Los Angeles Green Business Program. This voluntary program will recognize and promote green businesses within the City of Los Angeles, initially focusing on the office/retail, restaurant and auto repair business sectors.

“Sanitation is pleased to partner with the Los Angeles Community College District on this important program,” said LA Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar. “The Green Business Program along with our Green Arts and Green Lodging Programs are part of the City of Los Angeles Green Business Certification program that recognizes the City’s businesses in multiple sectors and for their environmental and sustainable practices.”

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LACCD will implement and publicize the program, provide green business program training and internship opportunities to interested students, conduct outreach to the community to encourage participation and motivate not-yet-green businesses.

With the Los Angeles Green Arts Program, Sanitation working with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and Arts Earth Partnership (AEP). This program certifies green cultural and arts facilities throughout the City. AEP certifies facilities using their Environmental Standards for Cultural Facilities; DCA promotes the program and Sanitation serves as coordinator. Eleven facilities in the City have been certified.

Sanitation partners with the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board (LATCB), and Green Seal Inc. (Green Seal) on the Los Angeles Green Lodging Program, that began in 2009 and certifies green hotel and lodging properties in the City. Green Seal certifies facilities using their Environmental Standard for Hotels and Lodging Properties; the LATCB promotes the program, and Sanitation serves as coordinator. Seven hotels have received certification, including some of the largest hotels in the City.

For more information on the Green Business Certification Program, go to:

<http://environmentla.com/> or <http://greenbizla.com>