

An Environmental Affair

Volume 14, Issue 11

November 2003

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.

Inside This Issue:

Flexcar Program	2
Air Quality Resources	2
Environmental Justice	3
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
Biosolid Certification	7

Landmark Environmental Justice Report Adopted

In an historic vote, the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice adopted a groundbreaking report outlining significant recommendations for achieving environmental justice in California. At a meeting in Oakland, California on September 30, 2003, the Advisory Committee voted overwhelmingly to approve a Recommendations Report.

The most far-reaching and innovative parts of the Recommendations Report impose use of cumulative impact analysis, precaution, and pollution-prevention.

The Recommendations Report adopted by the Advisory Committee recommends the following goals as a way to establish and implement an effective environmental justice program in Cal/EPA:

1. Ensure meaningful public participation and promote community capacity building;
2. Integrate environmental justice into the development, implementation/enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies;
3. Improve research and data collection; and
4. Ensure effective cross-media coordination and accountability

The Advisory Committee includes 17-members representing all important stake-

(Environmental Justice...Continued on page 3)

Mulch and Compost: The City's Approach to Reusing Yard Waste

Trees and gardens are good for the environment. They filter the air, capture and clean storm water and urban runoff, and counteract the urban heat island effect while looking beautiful and making our city a more livable place. However, they also generate waste which, if not managed in a sustainable manner, will wind up in landfills. Fortunately, there is an alternative to sending yard waste to a landfill. Lawn clippings can be grass-cycled, leaves can be chopped or shredded and used as mulch, and most yard waste (as well as many types of waste from the kitchen, such as vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds, fruit peels, egg shells, and tea bags) can be composted. Composting is the process by which these materials are transformed into a humus-rich, sweet-smelling soil conditioner.



Free compost is available at four locations for pick-up. See page 7 for sites.

The City recycles green material by making mulch from the contents of the green bins picked up curbside from residences, as well as the waste generated from street tree trimming. Because the materials in the green bins are recycled, it's important to place only yard waste in these bins. Unfortunately, city workers

(Mulch and Compost...Continued on page 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: eadinfo@mailbox.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.
PLEASE POST

New Flexcar Program Offers Benefits for Ridesharers

In August, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) launched an on-demand hourly car rental service from MTA headquarters in downtown Los Angeles and Metro Gold Line stations. This service is a result of a partnership between MTA and Flexcar, the nation's largest and oldest provider of car-sharing programs.

The appeal of the Flexcar program is that a person who rideshares to work can still have access to a vehicle to run personal errands during the day, as the need arises. Under a broad agreement, users of public transit, vanpools, carpools, Metrolink, and Amtrak will have access to a car during workdays to run errands or attend appointments. Flexcar's 24 car fleet, which includes several Honda Civic Hybrids, will be available at MTA's Gateway Transit Center near Union Station at the Long Beach Bike station, near the Transit Mall Metro Blue Line station, and along Metro Gold Line stations.



For more information on how the program works, cost, and service areas, please visit http://www.mta.net/press/2003/08_August/mta_128.htm. For information on how to become a Flexcar member

visit www.mta.net or go directly to www.flexcar.com/losangeles or call (213) 482-3539.

Air Quality Resources and Information Guides

To increase the public's understanding of air quality issues and involvement in their communities, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) each have tools and guides available that can help individuals make a difference for cleaner air.

CARB's publication "Let's Clear the Air, A Public Participation Guide to Air Quality Decision Making in California," is an informative and succinct guide that provides the basic tools and information needed to participate effectively in the air pollution policy, planning, permitting, and regulatory decision-making process in California. It provides information about air pollutants as well as air pollution sources, health effects, and emission levels in California. The guide lists all local, state, and federal air quality agencies and their contact information, acronyms, and abbreviations. Copies of the guide can be obtained by visiting http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/public_participation.htm, by calling the CARB's Office of Public Information at (916) 322-2990, or by e-mailing helpline@arb.ca.gov.

The SCAQMD has a series of Clean Air Depositories, air quality "mini resources libraries," accessible to local communities. Information in the depositories is updated on a monthly basis. Information available includes: AQMD Rule Book, subscription order forms (for future mailings), Public Records Request form, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) manual, current public workshop notices, Hearing Board video and procedures fact sheet, agendas for Board Meetings, Title V Public Notices, list of permitted facilities within a 5 mile radius of depository site, emissions inventory data for that city/region, Notice to Comply (N/C) and Notice of Violation (NOV) history for that local community, and current requests for proposals.

Depositories are located throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties including: Central Library, Pacoima Community Center in Pacoima, the A.C. Bilbrew Library in South Los Angeles, and the Wilmington Main Library in Wilmington. At Central Library in downtown Los Angeles, ask or search for "South Coast Air Quality Management District" in the library catalog to locate depository information. For complete addresses, hours of operation, and contact information pertaining to all sites, please visit http://www.aqmd.gov/ej/EJ_data_depositories.htm.

(Environmental Justice...Continued from page 1)

holders. Detrich Allen, General Manager of the Environmental Affairs Department, serves as co-chair of the Advisory Committee with Diane Takvorian, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Coalition. The Advisory Committee began meeting in January 2002 and met 10 times throughout California in order to develop the Recommendations Report.

Cal/EPA coordinates the activities of six environmental Boards, Departments, and Offices, including the Air Resources Board, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Integrated Waste Management Board, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the Water Resources Control Board. Cal/EPA received the Recommendations Report of the Advisory Committee so that it may be put into action.

For more information, please contact Romel Pasqual, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice, at Cal/EPA at (916) 324-8425 or rpasqual@calepa.ca.gov or at the Cal/EPA website: www.calepa.ca.gov/envjustice.

Recent Significant Legislation in California Related to Environmental Justice

1999

SB 115 (Solis, Chapter 690, Statutes of 1999) Established the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) as the coordinating agency with the Cal/EPA for environmental justice programs and defines "environmental justice." Also, required Cal/EPA to develop, by January 1, 2001, a model environmental justice mission statement for its boards, departments, and offices (BDOs).

2000

SB 89 (Escutia, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2000) Established a Working Group and an Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice that assists Cal/EPA in developing an agency-wide strategy to identify and address any gaps in existing programs, policies or activities that could impede the achievement of environmental justice and to provide information and recommendations.

2001

AB 1553 (Keeley, Chapter 762, Statutes of 2001) Required the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to adopt, by July 1, 2003, guidelines for local agencies when addressing environmental justice issues in general plans.

AB 1390 (Firebaugh, Chapter 763, Statutes of 2001) Extended until January 1, 2007, the policy included in the 2001-02 State Budget that directed large air districts to target at least 50 percent of the \$48 million General Fund appropriated to three diesel emission reduction programs to environmental justice communities. Also, made federal agencies eligible to receive grants to purchase Zero Emission Vehicles that would be located in low-income and minority communities.

SB 828 (Alarcon, Chapter 765, Statutes of 2001) Amended and added due dates for Cal/EPA and BDOs environmental justice work and require each of the Cal/EPA BDOs, by December 31, 2003, to review, identify, and address program obstacles impeding environmental justice.

2002

AB 2312 (Chu, Chapter 994, Statutes 2002) Established an Environmental Justice Small Grant Program administered by Cal/EPA.

SB 1542 (Escutia, Chapter 1003, Statutes 2002) Required CA Integrated Waste Management Board and local jurisdictions to take action related to environmental justice models and information as well as public participation of affected communities, including minority and low-income populations for certain solid waste transformation or disposal facilities. Also, expanded Cal/EPA's Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice to a 17-member committee, including representatives from a federally recognized tribe(s), environmental justice organizations, and business.

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

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

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to promote more efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of land and natural resources. Please visit www.surdna.org for application information or call (212) 557-0010.

California Integrated Waste Management Board Recycling Market Development Zone Revolving Loan Program provides direct loans to eligible businesses that use post-consumer or secondary waste materials to manufacture new products or that reduce the waste resulting from the manufacture of a product. For more information call (916) 341-6530 or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/grants.

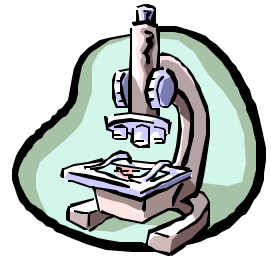
Captain Planet Foundation funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths interested in solving environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Please visit www.captainplanetfdn.org for details and an application, or write to Captain Planet Foundation, One CNN Center, Suite 1090, Atlanta, GA 30303.



Home Depot — Community Grant Program provides assistance to non-profits that direct efforts toward forestry, ecology, green building design, clean-up, recycling, and lead poisoning prevention. This grant is for non-profits only. For more information contact your local Home Depot store manager or visit www.homedepot.com and search for "community involvement" or call 1-800-430-3376.

The 2004 Toyota TAPESTRY program will award 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of 20 "mini-grants" of \$2,500 each to K-12 science teachers. Interested teachers should propose innovative science projects that can be implemented in their school or school district over a one-year period. Toyota TAPESTRY projects demonstrate creativity, involve risk-taking, possess a visionary quality, and model a novel way of presenting science. The deadline for completed proposals is January 16, 2004. The program is open to all middle and high school science teachers who teach at least two science classes per day. The program is open to

elementary teachers who teach some science in the classroom or as teaching specialists. To download an application and view more details about the grant, visit www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry; call the program's Fax on Demand service at 1-888-400-6782 and request document number 591 to receive an application; or write to Toyota TAPESTRY, c/o NSTA, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201-3000.



The National Tree Trust (NTT) is pleased to announce the availability of its 2004 grants, which can be downloaded from their website at <http://www.nationaltreetrust.org>. Through their new programs, Seeds and Roots, the NTT will be offering two monetary grants. The Seeds Grant for Organizational Support will provide funding for expenses related to day-to-day business. The Roots Grant for Community Action will provide funding for urban and community forestry projects that help to improve the health of communities. Only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply. Grant applications are due by **November 28, 2003**. For more information, call them toll-free at (800) 846-8733 or write to them at: National Tree Trust, 1120 G Street, NW, Suite 770 Washington, DC 20005.

The Fourth Annual Scotts Give Back to Grow Awards provides support for – and promotes participation in – gardening that grows community pride. For teachers who have integrated a school gardening program into the curriculum. Scotts will also be accepting applications for the Good Neighbor Gardener of the Year, Urban Greenup Gardener of the Year, and Community Beautification Gardener of the Year. Finalists receive a \$2,500 cash prize and public recognition. All gardening programs and projects must have featured growing plants since the summer of 2002. All nominations must be submitted with still photos documenting the project. For more information and to download a nomination form, please visit the Scotts Web site: <http://www.scotts.com> and click on "Give Back to Grow Awards," or call the Scotts Company toll-free at 1-888-270-3714. The deadline for applications is **December 5, 2003**.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

Down-by-the-River Walks



Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Sierra Club are sponsoring monthly walks along the banks of the LA River. Join them at 4:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more information, visit the FoLAR website, www.folar.org, or call Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.

Japanese Garden Tours



Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gardens at the D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys are offered during the day on Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations call (818) 756-8166.

Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours of the facility (located near El Segundo in Los Angeles) are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9 am. For more information, please contact Felcie Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.



Afternoons in the Lab

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific

fun. The science education afternoon is free and opens with a different theme each week. Groups should make reservations. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

Satwiwa Sundays From 11 am to 3 pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Sponsored by the Friends of Satwiwa and the National Park Service. For more information call the National Park Service at (805) 370-2301.



Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www.smartgardening.com. For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.



Amigos de Bolsa Chica offer free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each month. Visitors who arrive between 9 and 10:30 am will be led on



a 1 1/2 hour tour which makes 5 stops along the walkbridge and loop trail. Trained tour guides discuss bird identification, ecology, endangered species, early history and current status. For more information, visit <http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org> or call (714) 840-1575.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held by the LA Audubon Society on the

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.

3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For more information call (323) 876-0202 or visit www.LAAudubon.org.

Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park

offers youth activities including day-long trips to destinations like Point Mugu, Franklin Canyon and Malibu Creek. These trips are held each Saturday and transportation is provided. For information, please call (323) 585-3205.



Temescal Canyon Association Evening Hikes

Join the Association every Tuesday night at 6 pm for a 4 to 5 mile evening hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Participants meet at Temescal Gateway Park located off of Sunset Boulevard. The walk lasts approximately 2-3 hours. For more information, contact the Temescal Canyon Association at (310) 459-5931 or (310) 454-4188.



THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

This Month**Downtown on Ice** Holiday

themed ice skating on a 60' x 80' rink at Pershing Square. The Square is located at 530 South Olive Street

between 5th and 6th Streets in Downtown Los Angeles. \$6 admission for an hour-long skating session and \$2 for skating rental. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation; for more information call the Department at (888) 527-2757 or visit www.laparks.org. Skating begins on November 19 and ends January 19, 2004.

Sat, Nov 15**Keep trash out of the ocean!**

Join Santa Monica Baykeeper on their monthly clean-up of Lincoln Boulevard. Meet at the Baykeeper office at 3100 Washington Boulevard in Marina del Rey at 9 a.m. For more information and to RSVP call the Baykeepers at (310) 822-4522 or visit www.smbaykeeper.org.

Sun, Nov 16

Mariachi Festival Council District 14 presents the 18th annual Los Angeles Mariachi Festival at Mariachi Plaza at First Street and Boyle Avenue in Boyle



Heights. Free. The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call the Council District Field Office at (323) 526-3059.

Fri, Nov 21

Literacy Fair Forty community agencies will celebrate a read-along with the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Children's entertainment and educational exhibits will also be featured. Free. Takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Placita Olvera located at 125 Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. For more information, call the El Pueblo Historical Monument office at (213) 485-8225 or visit their website at www.cityofla.org/elp.

**Sat, Nov 22**

Griffith Park Lights The annual holiday lighting of Crystal Springs Roads in Griffith Park runs through December 26th. The Light Festival includes a drive or a walk through a tunnel of lights, lighted representations of downtown Los Angeles, the new Staples Center, the Hollywood Sign, the L.A. Zoo, and much more. The Light Festival will begin on Friday, November 22, and run daily through December 26. Hours are from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. For more information call (888) 527-2757.



African Harvest Festival
Presented by the African

Firefighters Benevolent Association, food, crafts, and free entertainment. The festival takes place at 5730 Crenshaw Boulevard from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call the African Firefighters Benevolent Association at (323) 292-5550.

We't ke-hi'-esh Acorn Festival

Fall is a time of harvest and festivities for southern California Indians. Members of local southern California tribes will

be at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to share their history and culture, traditional storytelling, games, song and dance performances. Cordage, yucca brush and acorn top projects for young visitors and introductory basketweaving will be offered for adults (\$2 materials fee). Registration is limited! \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Pre-registration required. The Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is located at 1500 N. College Avenue in Claremont. For more information call (909) 625-8767, ext. 224 or visit their website at www.rsabg.org.

Thurs, Nov 27

Reinder Romp Join the Los Angeles Zoo with fanfare, seasonal arts and crafts, holiday entertainments and visits from Santa. Performances through January 4, 2004. The Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles. For more information visit www.lazoo.org or call them at (323) 644-6400.



(Mulch and Compost...Continued from page 1)

commonly find contaminants such as paper, cans, metal, wood, and rocks in the bins which requires more sorting and expense for the program.

After the yard waste is collected from the green bins, it is taken to a mulching facility and spread on the ground. Large contaminants are removed; then the remaining material is placed on a rotating horizontal screen. Fine materials, such as grass clippings, fall through the screen while the larger pieces move out onto a conveyor belt, where smaller contaminants are removed by hand. The larger green waste is then ground up in a chipping machine and mixed back with the fine materials. This material is composted for two to three weeks to kill all the weed seeds and finally screened again. The resulting mulch is available free of charge at facilities located in San Pedro, Lake View Terrace, Northridge, and East L.A. Just bring your own shovel and containers or pick-up truck and take as much as you need.

The City also makes compost in a small pilot program at Griffith Park Composting Facility. The complete process takes 3-4 months. Green trimmings from the Department of Recreation and Parks, biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant, and animal droppings from the L.A. Zoo are combined and composted in long piles. The process is similar to mulching with the exception of the longer process time which affects all seeds and bacteria in the compost piles. The Department of Parks and Recreation and other City Departments utilize the resulting compost product.

Compost is easy to make at home and offers your garden many advantages by improving the texture, fertility and water holding capacity of your soil. The City offers free Smart Gardening classes, where they teach composting, grass cycling, worm composting, and waterwise gardening. Classes, which last 45 minutes, take place on the fourth Saturday of each month. Low cost compost bins are available for purchase after the class and on the second Friday of each month. Because the bins are subsidized by the City of Los Angeles, only City residents are eligible to purchase them. Both events take place at the Griffith Park Composting Education Facility.

Additional information on composting along with directions to mulch facilities and the Griffith Park Composting Education Facility is available on the Bureau of Sanitation's website at www.lacity.org/SAN.

Mulch Pick-Up Locations

San Pedro
1400 N. Gaffey St.
(Entrance to Refuse Collection Yard)

Lake View Terrace
11950 Lopez Canyon Rd., at Paxton Street
(Lopez Canyon Landfill, just inside front gate)

Northridge
Wilbur Ave., north of Parthenia Street
(Next to Northridge Metrolink Station)

East L.A.
2649 E. Washington Blvd.
(north side of Washington, just west of L.A. River)

Certification of City Sanitation's Biosolids

On September 4, 2003, the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation's Biosolids Environmental Management System was certified by an independent audit company based on the National Biosolids Partnership guidelines and industry standards for environmental management systems. The City served as a demonstration agency to test National Biosolids Partnership requirements and has become only the second public wastewater agency in the United States to receive national certification.

Biosolids are the organic product of wastewater treatment. The City is recycling them as fertilizing material and soil amendment. The Biosolids Environmental Management System assists managers to monitor the City's commitment to maintain 100 percent beneficial use of high quality biosolids produced at its wastewater treatment plants; manage biosolids in an environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and cost-effective manner; require its land applicators to comply with guidelines of the California Water Environment Association; and make progress toward producing Class A biosolids, a higher grade of biosolids that have received further treatment, at all facilities.

More information can be found by going to the Bureau of Sanitation's website, located at www.lacity.org/SAN, and clicking on the Biosolids EMS button on the right side of the page.



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**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. 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) 430-5440

Bulky Item Pick-up

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

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construccion y albergar
Housing Code Enforcement
(213) 367-9411

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 moh o
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo
National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

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

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