

An Environmental Affair

Volume 17, Issue 3

March 2006

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.

Better Indoor Air Quality Using Eco-Friendly Paints or Decorative Plasters

If you have made the choice to go with an ecologically-friendly paint for the type of inside job you want to do, there are a few factors to consider when choosing the paint or wall plaster for interiors. From design styles to chemical content, there are choices that you can make to ultimately ensure that the design you want not only is beautiful, but also can improve your indoor air quality by decreasing the offgassing of chemicals in your home.



Natural clay plaster has the added benefits of being a natural biocide and having a negative charge.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. In paints, the VOCs are the additives that speed up the drying process and help in the paint's film formation. These additives are solvents that contain the volatile compounds, which contribute to harmful ozone formation. Choosing a paint with lower VOC content can result in reduced incidents of eye and respiratory irritation from fewer fumes.

Although latex (water-based) paints contain less VOCs than oil-based paints, latex paints can vary in VOC content. Conventional latex cannot exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's limit of 250 gm/L (grams per liter). Latex paint labeled as "low-VOC" meets regulatory limits set forth by the Southern California Air Quality Management District, and can have 50 gm/L or less. In recent years, some paint manufacturers have introduced "0 VOC" or "no-VOC" paints. These paints have far less fumes, can have odor-masking ingredients, and have biocides that will prevent mildew. Some paint manufacturers have formulated "no-VOC" paints with even fewer substances released into the air (called offgassing). Decide what your needs are, check into the manufacturers' claims, and ask questions. Green Seal, an independent, non-profit organization identifying and promoting products and services that cause less toxic pollution and waste, has evaluated some paint products and has a list of some recommended paint manufacturers. To see their list, visit www.greenseal.org/certproducts.htm.

Natural paints and plaster have become increasingly popular as having less toxics. Milk-based paint, a product which some of its manufacturers claim to be chemically safe, can be spoiled by bacterial growth. Biocides may need to be added, depending on where this paint is applied.

After being awarded in 2004 with a National Green Building Award, natural

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Study Finds Tree Shading Minimizes Urban Heat Island Stress on City Pavements

In a statistical study recently published by the International Society of Arboriculture, findings conclude that urban tree populations, once considered a liability due to leaf drop, root damage to sidewalks, visibility and security problems, actually can lead to cost savings and benefits for municipalities because of the shade they provide. The study, conducted in Modesto, California, found significant correlation between pavement conditions and high-shade areas. Analyzing 48 street segments and pairing them into 24 high- and low-shade pairs, researchers found that an unshaded street required repaving six times over thirty years, while a similar street receiving low shade from 14-foot tree canopy required five slurry seals. A similar street with high shade from trees and a 45-foot canopy required even less repaving, needing approximately



two in the thirty-year period.

Shade from street trees also helps attenuate irradiation and lowers air and surface temperatures that can cause pavement to buckle and crack. While tree shade can improve asphalt performance, it also can prevent the 'Urban Heat Island' effect—cooling dark-colored surfaces such as asphalt and keeping them from absorbing incoming solar radiation. Unshaded streets eventually re-radiate incoming heat energy, thus warming the local air temperature. Higher temperatures accelerate the formation of smog, increasing heat-related illnesses and mortality, and raising the demand for energy.

To read the study on tree shade and asphalt, visit the USDA Forest Service's link to the report at www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/12/psw_cufr630_newsbrief.pdf. For more information on the Urban Heat Island effect, visit the Environmental Affairs Department's (EAD) website at www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-AQD/urbanheatcool.htm.

Recycle Your Batteries: New Rule Bans Batteries and Other Items in the Trash

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced waste disposal rule changes pertaining to many common household products, effective February 9, 2006. The new rules come into effect for households and small businesses after the expiration of a four-year exemption granted after the adoption of the State's Universal Waste Rule in 2002.

Specifically, the rule defines 'universal waste' as batteries, mercury thermostats, fluorescent lights, cathode ray tube devices (computer monitors, televisions), mercury thermometers, and other products containing mercury or other heavy metals. The DTSC is encouraging recycling and proper disposal of these products, but recognizes it must continue to work with agencies to develop infrastructure and offer more convenient options for waste pickup and disposal in various communities.

For more information on universal waste products, disposal, and recycling, visit the DTSC website, <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm>. If you are a City resident, you can take these items to a City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Center. For information on hours and locations, call (800) 98-TOXIC, or visit www.lacity.org/san/hhw.htm.

Climate Action Registry

In 2001, the California Climate Action Registry was established by California statute as a non-profit voluntary registry for businesses, non-profit organizations, municipalities, state agencies, public agencies, and other entities to track their greenhouse gas emissions, which cause global warming.

Last year, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) became the first community college district to join the California Climate Action Registry. The Colleges will work with the Registry to increase awareness of greenhouse gas emissions issues and to become an environmental role model for California's educational institutions. The Registry encourages voluntary actions to increase energy efficiency and decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in addition to other gases covered in the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement that sets targets to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.



Using any year from 1990 forward as a base year, participants can record their emissions inventory in a certified format. The State of California, in turn, will offer its best efforts to ensure that participants receive appropriate consideration for early actions in the event of any future state, federal or international greenhouse gases regulatory scheme.

The Registry also adopts industry-specific measurements, and qualifies third-party organizations that have the capability to certify reported baseline emissions. It also provides participants with referrals to approved providers for technical assistance and advice on programs to monitor, estimate, calculate, report, and certify GHG emissions. In addition to this, the Registry establishes emissions reduction goals and maintains a record of all certified GHG emissions baselines and emissions results. Biennially, it reports to the Governor and California Legislature on its successes and challenges.

The City of Los Angeles also is a member of the Registry. In 1998, the City of Los Angeles (City) developed its own plan to reduce greenhouse gases from its municipal operations. Over the past decade the City has maintained its level of municipal emissions at a stable level despite an almost 7% increase in population. The City plans to reduce its emissions to 30% of 1990 levels by the year 2010. For more information about the City's Energy Climate Action Plan (C.A.P.), visit www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-AQD/lacclimateplan.htm. Information about the California Climate Action registry can be obtained at www.climateregistry.org.

EPA Launches Children's Environmental Health Database

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a searchable database, called TEACH (Toxicity and Exposure Assessment for Children's Health), with over 1,400 references to chemicals that have the potential to affect children's environmental health. The database is designed to improve the information base related to children's environmental health risks by providing a listing and summary of scientific literature applicable to children's health risks due to chemical exposure. TEACH features a list of 16 different chemicals, including arsenic, vinyl chloride, and several pesticides. To visit the database, visit <http://www.epa.gov/teach/index.html>.

EAD Welcomes New Member to Air Quality Division

Jennifer Pinkerton recently joined the EAD's Air Quality Division as an Environmental Specialist II. She has over 10 years project experience in the environmental field, working in areas including renewable energy and solid waste reduction and recycling. She has previously worked as a consultant for the Department of Water and Power and the City's Integrated Solid Waste Management Office. Welcome Jennifer!

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

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

Corporation for National & Community Service, Learn and Serve America Grant The purpose of this grant competition is to promote the development and sustainability of high-quality community-based service-learning programs in youth-serving community organizations. Funds will be used by intermediary organizations to create curriculum materials; support training and technical assistance activities; make subgrants to local organizations that will implement service-learning programs for youth ages five to seventeen; and strengthen, expand, and anchor a network of youth-serving community-based organizations that implement service-learning programs. The application deadline is **Tuesday, March 7, 2006**. For more information, call (202) 606-7510 or email Brad Lewis at LSAcommunity@cns.gov.

The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program will facilitate reform in geoscience education by funding programs that connect the work of scientists to the practice of teaching and learning science in the classroom. To achieve this goal, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is seeking to establish new partnerships between GLOBE program participants and scientists associated with Integrated Earth Systems Science Programs (IESSP), defined as major NSF- or NASA-funded research programs related to Earth system science. This solicitation seeks proposals from IESSP teams for projects that can be used to facilitate inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the Earth systems via the GLOBE program. Proposals will be accepted from U.S. colleges, universities, professional societies, agencies, and other not-for-profit institutions and organizations. The deadline to apply is **March 8, 2006**. For more information, call Jill Leslie Karsten at (703) 292-8500 or visit <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06515/nsf06515.htm>.

National Science Foundation Informal Science Education (ISE) The ISE program invests in projects that develop and implement informal learning experiences designed to increase interest, engagement, and understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by individuals of all ages and backgrounds, as well as projects that advance knowledge and practice of informal science education. Projects may target

either public audiences or professionals whose work directly affects informal STEM learning. ISE projects are expected to demonstrate strategic impact, innovation, and collaboration. The deadline to apply is **March 21, 2006**. For more information, visit www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEWREVISIONS&revNum=0.

National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Collaboratives The Undergraduate Research Collaboratives (URC) Program seeks new models and partnerships with the potential to expand the reach of undergraduate research to include first- and second-year college students; broaden participation and increase diversity in the student talent pool from which the nation's future technical workforce will be drawn; and enhance the research capacity, infrastructure, and culture of participating institutions. For this program, research should be in the chemical sciences or in interdisciplinary areas supported by the chemical sciences. Projects should allow students to create new knowledge that is potentially publishable by providing exposure to research of contemporary scientific interest that is addressed with modern research tools and methods. The deadline to apply is **March 21, 2006**. For more information, visit <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06521/nsf06521.htm>.

The A+ for Energy Program was developed by BP to recognize California teachers for innovation and excellence in teaching energy and/or energy conservation in the classroom. Any K-12 teacher currently teaching in a California public or private school is encouraged to participate. BP awards up to \$2 million in grants to K-12 California teachers for innovative classroom, after-school, extra-curricular, or summer activities focused on energy and/or energy conservation. Grants of \$5,000 or \$10,000 are awarded directly to teachers, based on the budget submitted with the application. In addition, grant winners receive energy education curriculum units designed and developed by the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project. For more information about the grant program, visit www.aplusforenergy.com, or email Irene Brown at Irene.Brown@bp.com. For classroom materials, visit www.need.org. The deadline to apply is **April 7, 2006**.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

All Month Long



Docent Spring Training at the Children's Nature Institute (CNI)

Interested in nature walks? Join CNI in March and April for volunteer training. Trainees will be led through courses in plants, birds, animals, and much more. Training takes place every Tuesday in March and April from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Franklin Canyon Park. For more information, or to sign up, call CNI at (310) 860-9484, or visit www.childrensnatureinstitute.org.

Healthy Children, Healthy Planet

This discussion course, sponsored and held at the El Dorado Nature Center, is to understand the pervasive effects of ads, media and consumer culture upon a child's view of the world. Participants will discover ways to create meaningful family times and healthful environments for kids. Explore ways to develop each child's connection to nature and to foster creativity. Each participant will help lead the conversation. Tuesday evenings 7 to 9 pm, **through March 7, 2006**. \$20 materials fee. For more information, call the Center at (562) 570-1745. The El Dorado Nature Center is located at 7550 E. Spring Street in Long Beach.



Cabrillo Whalewatch

Go to sea any day of the week **through the end of March** in search of gray whales on their migration along the Southern California coast. Whalewatch volunteers will lead two-hour boat trips from various landings. Join the fantastic viewing by calling Cabrillo Whalewatch at (310) 548-8397. The trips take place Tuesdays through Fridays, from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Fees vary by landing.



Encounters: The Fur Trade at the Museum of the American West

Using computer media, hands-on sets, interactive displays, and rich eyewitness accounts, this fascinating and unique exhibit depicts the political, ecological, and sometimes disastrous costs of trade between indigenous peoples and the new explorers of the American West, as the latter ventured to capitalize on the richest of America's natural resources. Runs through **October 8, 2006** at the Museum of the American West, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. For more information, call (323) 667-2000.

Saturdays, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25

Water Efficient Landscape Classes

The Metropolitan Water District and City of Torrance provide hands on instruction on how to build a water saving, beautiful landscape. Class topics include: basic landscape design; landscape plant selection irrigation systems and sprinklers; landscape maintenance—sprinklers, controllers, water, and fertilizers. The fee is \$5 per

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.

class, per person. The classes will take place from 9 am to noon at the Madrona Marsh Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo in Torrance. For more information, call the Nature Center at (310) 782-2989, or Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32-MARSH.

Sat, March 11

Sustainable Seafood Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific

Learn about consuming environmentally-preferable seafood, and how seafood consumption choices can save the seas. Free with Aquarium admission. Activities take place all day, from 9 am to 5 pm. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information, visit www.aquariumofpacific.org, or call (562) 590-3100.

Los Angeles County Environmental Education Fair

The largest, most fun, and most informative event dedicated to environmental education for kids and adults in Los Angeles County. The event takes place from 9 am to 3 pm at the Los Angeles County

THIS MONTH: (continued)

Arboretum, located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. Be sure to stop off at the EAD table. Free with admission. For more information, call the Arboretum at (626) 821-3222, or visit www.arboretum.org. Sponsored by the LA County Arboretum and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Thurs, Mar 9, 16, 23, 30

"California and Water" Course



Learn about the latest news on water, one of California's most limited resources. This course is taught by industry experts and explores current issues relating to California's water budget, threats to water quality, desalination, and the allocation of water resources such as the Colorado River Basin. In this course, find out where California's water comes from, how it is allocated among competing uses (municipal, industrial, agricultural, and environmental), how it is distributed from sources to users, where the wastewaters go, and much more. For more information and to register, call (562) 590-3100 ext. 0, or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org/EDUCATION/ADULT/cal_water.htm. Fee. Location TBA.

Sun thru Thurs, Mar 12-16

The NHA Annual Hydrogen Conference 2006: Global Progress Toward Clean Energy will be held in Long Beach, California. Exhibitors, technical workshops on industry issues, and speakers will highlight this five-day

informative event. Featuring hydrogen ICE and Fuel Cell vehicles from a variety of manufacturers. For more information, visit www.hydrogenconference.org, or call (202) 223-5547. Sponsored by Air Quality Management District, British Petroleum (BP), American Honda, and Chevron.

Mar 13-16 (San Diego)

The 16th Annual Association for Environmental Health & Sciences (AEHS) Meeting & West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water

For the past fifteen years, this annual conference has helped to bring the environmental science community closer together by providing a forum to facilitate the exchange of information of technological advances, new scientific achievements, and the effectiveness of standing environmental regulation programs. For conference information, visit www.aehs.com, or contact Brenna Lockwood at (413) 549-5170 or e-mail brenna@aehs.com.

Sat, Mar 25

Marine Technology and Research Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific will focus on remarkable advancements and some of the challenges that scientists and manufacturers have overcome to understand and address environmental concerns. Learn how scientists study the ocean. This event will feature demonstrations, information booths, and interactive displays hosted. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about the technology that the Aquarium's Programs and Exhibits Department uses to build our exciting interactive exhibits. Join

the Aquarium's exhibit designer Bill Dambrova as he demonstrates the use of 3D sketching software, SketchUp, to create Aquarium exhibits. For more information, call (562) 437-FISH.

The 5th Annual Deane Dana Friendship Park Center Open House

will feature more than twenty naturalist exhibitors. Enjoy live animal exhibits, sign up for classes, and have fun at the Nature Center. For more information, call (310) 519-6115. The event takes place from 10 am to 4 pm. The Center is located at 1805 W. 9th Street in San Pedro.



NEXT MONTH:

Thurs, Apr 6

Waves of Change in Los Angeles Water

Author and television host Patt Morrison will talk about fragile water sources in Southern California. She will talk about this vital, but endangered resource, and the increasing demand and decreasing quality that requires innovative water management in Southern California. \$35. To register call (818) 949-7980. The event takes place at Descanso Gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Drive in La Canada-Flintridge, at 7 pm.



Earth Day Saturday, April 22

The April edition of *An Environmental Affair* will have an expanded calendar of Earth Day events.



Celebrate the Earth!

Independent Panel Review Considers PFOA a 'Likely' Carcinogen

A chemical used in the manufacture of Teflon and other non-stick and stain-resistant products should be considered a "likely" carcinogen, according to an independent scientific review panel advising the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The recommendation included in the panel's final draft report is consistent with its preliminary finding, which went beyond the EPA's own determination that there was only "suggestive evidence" from animal studies that perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its salts are potential human carcinogens.

"The predominant panel view was that the descriptor 'likely to be carcinogenic' was more consistent with currently available data, while a few panel members reached the conclusion that the current evidence fails to exceed the descriptor 'suggestive,' of carcinogenicity," the panel said in a draft report released in January. Officials with Wilmington, Delaware-based DuPont Co., the sole North American producer of PFOA, took issue with the panel's conclusions. Although disagreeing with the panel's recommendation on the cancer classification, DuPont officials stated the company continued to support the EPA's draft risk assessment, and stated the company is confident that PFOA does not pose a cancer risk to the general public. Company officials also stated that the carcinogenicity classification was based on animal data and does not reflect data from human studies.

PFOA is a processing aid used in the manufacturing of fluoropolymers, which have a wide variety of product applications, including non-stick cookware. The chemical also can be a byproduct in the manufacturing of fluorotelomers used in surface protection products for applications such as stain-resistant textiles and grease-resistant food wrapping.

In addition to disagreeing with the EPA on the potential carcinogenicity of PFOA, also known as C-8, a majority of members on the review panel also recommended that the EPA's risk assessment include additional data on PFOA's potential to cause liver, testicular, pancreatic and breast cancers. A majority of panel members also recommended that the chemical's effects on hormones and on the nervous and immune systems be included in the risk assessment, and that studies should not be limited by age, gender, or species in assessing human risk. The findings of the panel, which was established by the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), was reviewed by SAB officials in February.

In January, EPA announced an initiative asking DuPont and seven other companies that manufacture or use PFOA, its precursors, and similar compounds to reduce environmental releases and levels of those chemicals in products by 95 percent no later than 2010, using the year 2000 as a baseline. The EPA also wants the industry to work toward the elimination of PFOA and related chemicals from emissions and products by no later than 2015.

For more information on PFOA, visit <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/pfoa/>. To read the final draft report and SAB review, visit <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/pfoa/pfoarisk.htm>.

(Paints and Plasters...Continued from page 1)

clay plaster has caught the interest of green building designers as an innovative way to cover interior walls. The natural clay plasters' qualities have been described as having a more healing effect (in the way that it improves sound qualities of a room) and has a negative electrical charge. Manufacturers also indicate that clay is a natural biocide, although biocides can be added to the product in heavy splash areas, such as kitchen or bath areas. Natural clay plaster can be applied on a painted wall by using a sanded primer, can be worked to produce interesting textures, but cannot be used to cover acoustic ceilings.

More information on paints and plasters can be obtained by contacting the Green Building Resource Center, which provides free design advice about green building strategies. To contact them, visit their website at www.globalgreen.org/gbrc/, or call (310) 452-7677. They are open to the public.



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) 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 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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