

An Environmental Affair

Volume 18, Issue 3

March 2007

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.

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Coping with the Urban Coyote in L.A. County

Everyone enjoys observing wildlife in its natural environment. However, many well-meaning residents of urban hillside and rural areas have promoted boldness in coyotes by intentionally or unintentionally feeding them. Coyotes are highly adaptable, capable of surviving on whatever food is available, including rodents, pet food, and food from easy-to-open trash cans. Consequently, coyote populations and range have expanded enormously in recent years. They can also be a threat to family pets and, in isolated cases, have attacked small children.



There are thousands of coyotes in Los Angeles County, making night sightings common. However, there are many preventive measures that you can take to deter coyotes from your property including: making sure that all pet food is cleaned up, securing your trashcans tightly, and clearing brush from around your property to reduce the amount of rodents (thus discouraging the presence of coyotes).

Remember, it is against the law for residents of LA County to feed coyotes and certain other wild animals. Additionally, it is illegal to shoot, poison, or harm wildlife. Being defensive about coyote-abatement is the most effective means of control. If you do however, continue to experience consistent problems, call the Los Angeles City Animal Services at (888) 452-7381.

For more preventive measures on deterring coyotes and protecting pets and children, visit <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/scripts/coyo.htm>.

Port of Los Angeles and SCAQMD Introduce Electrically-Powered Tractor Demonstration Project



The Port of Los Angeles and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) have partnered on a demonstration project to use electrically powered tractors to tow cargo containers from the port to local warehouses and rail yards. The \$527,000 initiative funded by the Port of Los Angeles and AQMD will explore the feasibility of replacing diesel-powered tractors with ultra-clean, electrically-powered units for container hauling. The all-electric tow tractors will have fast-charging capabilities, a top speed of 25 miles per hour, a range of 40 miles per charge, as well as sufficient torque and power

(Electric Trucks ... 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: ead.info@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.

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EPA Urges Homeowners to Test for Radon Overexposure

Radon exposure is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall. According to EPA estimates it is responsible for nearly 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year, with about 2,900 of the deaths among non-smokers.



A common source of radon exposure that can easily be avoided is that within the home. Radon, an invisible radioactive gas, can seep into homes from underground, and can reach harmful levels if trapped indoors. The only way to know if your home contains high radon levels is to test for it. Nearly 80 percent of American homes have not been tested for radon, even though a simple test costing as little as \$25 can help detect a possible radon problem. If radon is found, homeowners should consult with qualified professionals who can reduce radon exposure for a cost similar to many common home improvement repairs. State radon offices can help the public find qualified radon professionals.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a campaign to inform people about radon, and is working with organizations across the country to educate the public on how to protect themselves from radon exposure in their homes. Local government agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, health care providers, radon professionals, and other community groups will work together to host events and activities to increase awareness about radon, promote testing and mitigation, and advance the use of radon-resistant construction.


For more information on the dangers of radon and how you can get your home tested, visit the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/radon>.



★ 28th Annual Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair ★

★ At the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden at 301 North Baldwin Ave. in Arcadia. ★



★  ★ **Saturday, March 10th 9 am – 4 pm** ★
 ★ **Sunday, March 11th 12 pm – 4 pm** ★



★ Come join hundreds of educators, students, parents and others interested in the future of the planet. There will be hands-on activities, on-going tours, and nature games presented by a variety of exhibitors, including the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department. Teachers that attend will be eligible for prize-drawings. Bring the family and join the fun! Free with Arboretum Admission. For more info, visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-3222. ★

★ "A greener tomorrow ... Today!" ★



Free Mulch!



Spring is here, and it's time to enjoy the blossoming flowers of your garden once again. Keep your garden healthy with mulch, made from organic material such as yard trimmings and compost; place it around plants to prevent excessive evaporation and erosion, enrich the soil, and inhibit weed growth. And lucky-for-you, because the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation is giving mulch out for *free*, most open 7 days-a-week, at 5 convenient locations. Just bring your shovel, and take as much as you need!

For more information, including maps of the locations, visit http://www.lacity.org/SAN/Mulching_Poster_and_Map.pdf/, or call the Bureau of Sanitation at (800) 773-2489.

San Pedro
1400 N. Gaffey St.
7am – 5pm, 7 days-a-week

Lake View Terrace
11950 Lopez Canyon Rd.
7am – 5pm, 7 days-a-week

East LA
2649 E. Washington Blvd.
9am – 3pm, Friday, Saturday & Sunday

West Valley
16600 W. Roscoe Blvd.
7am – 6pm, 7 days-a-week

West LA
6000 W. Jefferson Blvd.
7am – 5pm, 7 days-a-week

LADWP Residential Rebate Programs



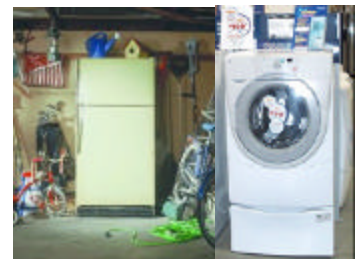
The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) offers two rebate programs for residential customers that choose to recycle their functional refrigerators, or purchase and install qualifying high-efficiency washing machines. A total of \$225 worth of rebates is available, with an unlimited amount of potential to save money through reducing household energy costs.

Through the REfrigerator Turn-In and REcycle program (RETIRE), LADWP residential customers are eligible to exchange an old refrigerator or freezer that is in working condition for \$35 and 6 compact fluorescent bulbs (a \$40 value). By turning in your old refrigerator, you can save up to \$192 per year on your energy bill, and with the fluorescent bulbs, you can save even more money and energy. Even more importantly, you can help improve air quality and contribute to the preservation of our natural resources, while preventing landfill overcrowding and contamination.

Washing machines are the single largest user of water in homes; new high-efficiency washing machines use as much as 50% less water. LADWP is offering up to \$150 in rebates for residential customers who switch over. The new washers can save users up to 14 gallons of water per load, use less energy for water heating and clothes drying (by spinning more water out of the clothes), and can decrease water, sewer and energy costs by up to \$100 per year.

For the RETIRE program: to schedule a free pick-up of your refrigerator, call 1-800-246-0441. For more information and to download a rebate application, visit <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp000497.jsp>.

For the high-efficiency clothes washer program: call (800) 203-7380 to receive an application, and visit <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp000399.jsp> for guidelines and a list of approved models.



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

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

2007 Mantis Award Program awards garden programs that are charitable or educational in nature one of 20 Mantis tiller/cultivators (each with border edger attachment) to the applying program. In order to apply, simply send a picture of your garden space and a diagram of the garden's dimensions and layout, along with any brochures or printed information about your garden or program. For more information and to download an application, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp>. **Applications are due by March 31, 2007.**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation fosters cooperative partnerships while working with grantees and conservation partners to stimulate private, state, and local funding for conservation through matching grants. Matching grants are awarded to projects that address priority actions promoting and work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests. **Project pre-proposals are due by April 1, 2007** in order to qualify for the next cycle, but are accepted throughout the year. For more information, visit <http://www.nfwf.org>.

"A+" For Energy is a BP Education Program aimed at giving California K-12 teachers the tools necessary to teach kids about energy and energy conservation. Grants of \$5,000 or \$10,000 will be awarded to teachers who have, or would like to develop, innovative classroom, after-school, extra-curricular, or summer activities focusing on such issues. For more information and to download an application, visit <http://www.aplusforenergy.org/California/APPS.htm>. **Applications are due no later than April 7, 2007.**

The Environmental Media Fund believes that popular media is one of the best methods available to bring important issues to the public's attention and affect social change. The organization funds projects that are able to reach a wide audience through a variety of distribution formats with an emphasis on emerging digital, internet, and interactive technologies. Projects should further understanding of the complexity and interrelated nature of environmental issues, and communicate facts and information in an unbiased, carefully weighed and thoroughly scientific manner. Letters of inquiry are accepted throughout the year. For

more information about the application process, visit <http://www.environmentalmediafund.org>.

The Rohm & Hass Responsible Neighbor Community Program provides support to programs focusing on education, environment, civics and community, health and human services, or arts and culture. Educational programs should address academic enrichment for K-12 students in subjects of math, science, technology and the environment, while fostering the professional development of their teachers. Environmental grants support after-school and sustainability programs that build environmental awareness and understanding, while promoting development that meets the needs of the present society without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Grant values typically range from \$250 to \$10,000. Applications are accepted throughout the year. For more information, visit <http://www.rohmhaas.com/community/giving/giving.html>.

The Arthur B. Schultz Foundation funds grants to organizations or groups that provide or support improved access for recreationalists with disabilities in America's great outdoors, with an emphasis on non-motorized backcountry and wilderness settings. Programs should address barriers to disabled participation in such endeavors, such as needed trail or infrastructure improvements, lack of adaptive equipment, or financial considerations. Letters of inquiry are accepted on a continual basis. For more information on this grant, and other grants offered, visit <http://www.absfoundation.org>.

The Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship Program is committed to not just donating to community programs, but to ensuring the sustainability and self-sufficiency of organizations with whom they partner. United States grants encompass a variety of areas, including educational and environmental issues. Applicants must be a qualified charitable or educational organization or an accredited K-12 educational institution in order to qualify. Applications for California programs are accepted year-round. For more information, and to apply online, visit <http://www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/community/index.html>.

MARCH 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)



LA Zoo Youth Programs at the LA Zoo offer a variety of playful classes designed for ages 2, 3 to 4, 5 to 6, and 7 to 10 years of age. Program itineraries range from story times, games and crafts, to outdoor adventures and animals interactions. The cost of a program varies between members and non-members. The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles. For more information, or to register for a class, call (323) 644-4211 or visit <http://www.lazoo.org/education>.

Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination



at the California Science Center is the first exhibit of its kind that combines costumes and props from all six *Star Wars* films with real-world technologies, video interviews with filmmakers, scientists and engineers, and two large Engineering Design Labs, where visitors can build and test speeders and robots. Visitors will explore prototypes, learn about the engineers and designers who are creating new technologies, and discover intriguing similarities between how scientists and filmmakers think. Free. Through April 29, 2007. For more information visit their website at <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org>



The Travel Town Transportation Museum

is an outdoor museum which preserves and celebrates the railroad heritage of the western United States – its history and its artifacts. Particular thematic emphasis is placed on the history of Southern California and how the railroads aided its development. For over 3 generations, Travel Town has been a favorite family destination, with picnic tables, barbeque facilities, scale train rides, and recreation center. The center is located at 5200 Zoo Drive. For more information, call (323) 662-9678 or visit <http://www.laparks.org/grifmet/tt/index.htm>.

2007 Adventures in Nature

Beginning March 1, 2007 you can register for the Adventures in Nature program at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum. The museum offers Pre-K through grade 8 children the opportunity to explore a wide variety of museum topics, including Earth's features, creatures, and cultures from around the globe. The summer classes are hands-on and interactive, sparking children's natural curiosity and creativity. Register on-line at www.nhm.org/ or register by phone from 9 am to 4 pm by calling (213) 763-ED4U.



Family Nature Walks



Throughout the month, the Children's Nature Institute holds docent-lead nature walks for the entire family. The educational nature experiences

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

Commissioners:

Misty Sanford—President
Alina Bokde—Vice President
Maria Armoudian—Member
Teresa Villegas—Member
Joyce Perkins—Member

are geared toward newborns to eight-year-olds. Older siblings are welcome to come and act as helpers for their younger siblings. A donation of \$7/family is suggested. Reservations are required. Visit their website to view the monthly calendar and make reservations. For more info, call (310) 860-9484.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat, March 3

Keep Los Angeles Beautiful to Kickoff the 2007 Great American Clean-Up

The kickoff begins at 8 am at Los Angeles City Hall located at 200 N. Spring Street between First and Temple Streets. Volunteers will take part in a clean up and greening events at LA City Hall, as the first of many events held throughout the City to promote community beautification and volunteerism. Help the City stay beautiful! Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Office of Community Beautification. To submit a project, or to learn more about beautifying Los Angeles, call the Office at (213) 978-0228

Sat, March 3 & 17

Tours of the Los Angeles Eco-Village

Learn the history, context, accomplishments, pitfalls, transitions, plans and visions for the LA Eco-village and its intentional community. Also, get the information you need if you are considering starting an eco-village in your own neighborhood. 11 am to 1 pm. \$10/person. Reservations are required. The LA Eco-Village is located at 117 Bimini Place in Los Angeles. To make a reservation call (213) 6738-1254 or email crsp@igc.org.

Sat, March 10

Sustainable Seafood Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific invites you to learn about cooking environmentally-

Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair at the Arboretum

March 10 and March 11
See page 2 for details!

friendly seafood dishes, and how your seafood consumption choices impact the ocean ecosystems. From 9 am to 5 pm. Free with aquarium admission. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 591-3100 or visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org>.

Sun, March 11

Eco-Home Tour Learn about new technology and resources for turning your home into a "greener" environment that takes into account time, space and budget. Everyone leaves with at least one usable idea to reduce their personal contribution to global warming. Eco-Home is the only residence in L.A. that offers regular tours to educate visitors on urban sustainable living. The tour is conducted by Eco-Home Network. Call for address and required reservations. The tour takes place from 2pm to 4:30 pm in Los Feliz. \$10 donation. For more info and reservations, call (323) 662-5207.

Wed, March 14

Urban Garden Talks: Attracting Birds & Butterflies

This free lecture is a part of an ongoing series held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall Garden. Led by hand-selected experts, the lectures are designed to provide gardeners of all skill levels with tips on creating and maintaining

healthy and vibrant gardens. Free. The concert hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave. in Downtown Los Angeles. For more information call (213) 972-4311.

Thurs, March 22

Planting on Hills and Slopes

The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden presents a program for canyon and foothill residents. Instruction includes planting for erosion control, slope stabilization, fire hazard zones, and beautification. Watering practices will also be discussed. 9:30 am to noon. \$20. The Arboretum is located at 301 North Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. For more information visit <http://www.arboretum.org>. To register, call (626) 821-4623.

Sat & Sun, March 24-25

Conference on Bolsa Chica: The Work Isn't Finished Come for two days of speakers and tours, as well as provided meals. \$150. For more information on the conference, and to pre-register, visit their website at www.amigosdebolsachica.org/conference.

NEXT MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat and Sun, April 28 and 29

"All Over Town, All Weekend Long": Big Sunday Weekend

Last year close to 35,000 people participated in the spirit of benefiting community. This year Big Sunday will be held two days, to help address community needs, provide public education and strengthen partnerships. For more info, visit www.bigsunday.org.

EPA Commits \$10 Million to Protect the Nation's Beaches



Thirty states and five territories will share \$10 million in grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for beach water-quality monitoring and public notification programs in 2007. Monitoring of beach water quality helps local authorities identify the necessary steps to reduce coastal pollution, and can lead to advisories or closures when bacteria concentrations are found to have reached unhealthy levels.

The grant amount given to each state is based on the length of the beach season, miles of beaches and number of annual beachgoers. All 35 coastal and Great Lakes states and territories maintain monitoring programs with funding from the EPA. California is expected to receive \$522,920 of the total grant amount.

The EPA is also focusing efforts on developing new technologies that will allow rapid bacterial contamination analysis of beaches. Studies involving state-of-the-art detection methods, coupled with population and illness surveys, are underway at various beaches to evaluate the new analytical approaches.

During the past seven years, EPA has granted nearly \$62 million under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000. The BEACH program was established to counteract the growing problem of increased risk of illness associated with swimming near storm strains, and the increasing number of related beach closures. It focuses on strengthening beach standards and testing, providing faster laboratory test methods, predicting pollution, investing in health and methods research, and informing the public.

In the past, state and local beach-monitoring programs across the country differed widely. With the passing of the BEACH act, the ability to standardize highly effective monitoring and notification programs was achieved. With 910 million beach trips made by Americans each year, the health of the nation's coastal environments, as well as the ability to inform the public, is of high priority. For more information visit <http://epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/grants/>. The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation also has an Environmental Monitoring Division (EMD) that provides environmental data, research, and assessment in support of the City's operation, compliance, and source control activities to protect public health and the environment. For more info on the EMD, visit <http://www.lacity.org/san/emd/index.htm/>.

(Electric Trucks ... Continued from page 1)

to tow up to a 60,000 pound container.

In November 2006, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach approved a joint action plan to improve air quality in the South Coast Air Basin called the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP). The five-year plan is a blueprint for the ports to significantly reduce the health risks posed by air pollution from port-related ships, trains, trucks, terminal equipment and harbor craft. Under the CAAP, \$15 million has been set aside for a Technology Advancement Program. The electric tow tractor demonstration project is the first project to be approved within this CAAP program component.

AQMD recently released its draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan which contains aggressive measures needed to achieve federal clean air standards. Smog-forming nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds will have to be cut beyond the requirements in existing programs by an additional 50% by 2020 to meet the standards. As most air pollution is generated by mobile sources, including trucks, trains and ships, the measures outlined in the CAAP are vital to AQMD's efforts to meet air pollution standards and reduce resident's health risks from air pollution. \$48 million has been committed by AQMD to help replace older diesel trucks in addition to technology advancement projects such as the electric tractor. As part of the CAAP commitment, the port has committed at least \$85 million over the next five years for truck replacement and retrofits.

For more information, visit <http://www.portofLA.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

Bees

Vector Control
On Private Property: (562) 944-9656
On Public Property: (800) 825-3400

Bulky Item Pick-up

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

Extra Trash Bin Request

Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Free Trees

Dept. of Water & Power
(800) 473-3652

Graffiti Removal

Bureau of Street Services
311

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
Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

Leaf Blowers Complaints

Sopladores de hojas
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

Infestaciones de mosquitos
L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

Odor Complaints

LA Dept. of Public Works
(866) 996-2489

Recycling

Reciclaje
LA Dept. of Public Works
(800) 773-2489

Spaying/Neutering Pets

City of L.A. Animal Services
(888) 452-7381

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