



**A G E N D A**  
**CITY OF CARSON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

701 East Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
Wednesday, April 3, 2013  
6:30 p.m.

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **FLAG SALUTE:**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

4. **AGENDA POSTING CERTIFICATION:** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the City Clerk's office at 310-952-1720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. (Government Code Section 54954.2)

5. **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

6. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** a.) March 6, 2013

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**7. NEW BUSINESS**

a.) LA River Presentation, Carol Armstrong, City of Los Angeles

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**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a.) California International Gateway (SCIG) Final EIR, Response to Comments  
b.) Website Development

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**9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

a.) None

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**10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

a.) Audience  
b.) Commissioners  
c.) Staff

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**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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Upcoming Meetings: • May 1, 2013 • June 5, 2013 • July 3, 2013 • August 7, 2013

**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
March 6, 2013**

**6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Members

**ROLL CALL:** Planner Saied Naaseh called the roll as follows:  
Present: Commissioners: Boyer, Hopson,  
Jimenez, Love, Taylor, Mack, and Pinon.  
Absent None

Staff Present: Planner Saied Naaseh

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

N/A

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Approved

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Approved February 6, 2013 minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Carson Master Plan of Bikeways  
Planner Naaseh presented the draft master plan of bikeways exhibit and circulated flier for the upcoming Carson Bike Tour
- b. Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) Final EIR, Response to Comments  
Planner Naaseh presented the SCIG FEIR response to comments and indicated that the project is set for a hearing on March 7, 2013 for certification of the FEIR.
- c. Website Development  
Planner Naaseh requested commissioners to research other cities websites to determine appropriate content and name for Carson's website.

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Commission
  - Shell ethanol project
- Staff Naaseh
  - Distributed
    - Pay Sheets for February
    - Applications for appointment to commissions and indicated they are due to City Clerk by March 28, 2013
    - Energy update California flier
    - Carousel Tract update, power point and Regional Water comment period letter for the Pilot Testing Program due April 5, 2013
    - Climate Action and Sustainability Best Practices handout

## AJOURNMENT

At 7:24 pm, the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 6:30 pm.

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CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

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SAIED NAASEH, ASSOCIATE PLANNER

CITY OF CARSON

STAFF COMMUNICATION TO  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

April 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) Final  
Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) Certification

REQUEST: Update the Commission Regarding the Certification of SCIG  
FEIR

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I. Introduction

One March 7, 2013, the Los Angeles Harbor Commission certified the final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) intermodal rail-yard. On March 13, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and City of Long Beach, among others, appealed the decision to the Los Angeles City Council.

II. Background/Analysis

The City is currently is developing a strategy on how to proceed in light of recent developments. Further updates will be provided to the Commission in future meetings.

III. Recommendation

Receive and File.

IV. Exhibits

1. None.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Saied Naaseh, Associate Planner

CITY OF CARSON

STAFF COMMUNICATION TO  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

April 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Website Development

REQUEST: To initiate the development of the format, goals, and content of a webpage related to the improvement of the environment

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I. Introduction

At the March 6, 2013, the Environmental Commission discussed the development of the city webpage as it relates to environmental issues. The Commission reached a consensus on researching the websites for cities of Long Beach, Santa Monica, and Irvine to develop ideas regarding the format, content, and name of city's new web page.

II. Background/Analysis

Staff has done a preliminary research on these websites. All three seem to be excellent resources. The information on these websites is overwhelming at first glance. Attached are pages from Irvine's and Santa Monica's web pages. Santa Monica's main sustainability page includes green buying, education, energy, green building, hazardous materials, landscape, resource recovery and recycling, sustainability, transportation, urban runoff, and water.

The commission should discuss these categories and any other categories deemed appropriate by the Commission. The commission could develop sub-committees to further research each category to provide the foundation for the web page. During these discussions, goals and priorities should be developed along with the name and the format of this web page.

Attached is short article that provides some insight on sustainable communities.

III. Recommendation

That the Environmental Commission initiate the discussions on the format, goals, and content of the website related to the improvement of the environment.

**IV. Exhibits**

1. City of Irvine Web Pages
2. City of Santa Monica Web Pages
3. A trip to Sustainaville

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Saied Naaseh, Associate Planner



# CITY OF IRVINE

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

- [Home](#)
- [Environmental Programs](#)
- [For Residents](#)
- [For Businesses](#)
- [For Developers](#)
- [For Schools](#)
- [Resources](#)

Thursday March 28, 2013

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[Household Recycling](#)

[How to Be A Smart Consumer](#)

[Multi-Unit Recycling](#)

[Reuse Tips](#)

[Water Quality Tips for Residents](#)



# CITY OF IRVINE

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

- [Home](#)
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Thursday March 28, 2013

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[Zero Waste in the Office](#)

[Zero Waste for Manufacturers](#)

[Zero Waste for Restaurants & Food Services](#)

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# CITY OF IRVINE

## Environmental Programs

- [Home](#)
- [Environmental Programs](#)
- [For Residents](#)
- [For Businesses](#)
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Thursday March 28, 2013

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[Zero Waste for Contractors & Developers](#)

[Zero Waste for Manufacturers](#)

### Recent Eco News



- [Easy Tips to Go Green and Save Green Mar 2013](#)



# CITY OF IRVINE

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- [Home](#)
- [Environmental Programs](#)
- [For Residents](#)
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- [For Schools](#)
- [Resources](#)

Thursday March 28, 2013

Search..

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[Home](#) / [Schools](#)

[Eco-Tips for Students](#)

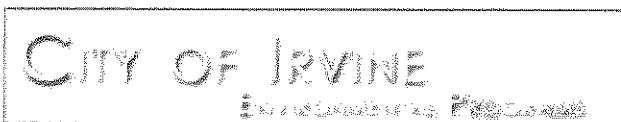
[Kids Zone](#)

[Start A School Recycling Program](#)

[Zero Waste](#)

### Recent Eco News

-  [Easy Tips to Go Green and Save Green Mar 2013](#)
-  [Free Homeowner Workshop April 4 Mar 2013](#)



- [Home](#)
- [Environmental Programs](#)
- [For Residents](#)
- [For Businesses](#)
- [For Developers](#)
- [For Schools](#)
- [Resources](#)

Thursday March 28, 2013

Search..

Search

[Home](#) / [Resources](#)

## Resources



### [Additional Links](#)

[Calendar](#)

[City Programs and Resources](#)

[Contact Environmental Programs](#)

[Contact Local Utility Companies](#)

[Eco Holidays](#)

[Eco News](#)

[Educational Handouts & Materials](#)

[E-Newsletter Archive](#)

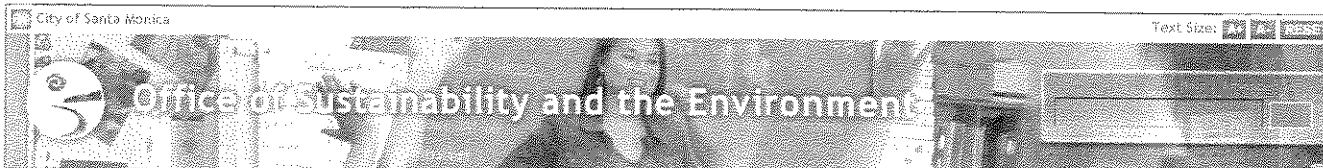
[Environmental Quiz](#)

[Green Jobs and Training](#)

[One Person's Trash Newsletter](#)

[Schools and Education](#)

### **Recent Eco News**



- [Home](#)
- [About-Contact-Find Us](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Rebates](#)
- [Go Local](#)
- [Sustainable Food](#)
- [Printed Material](#)
- [Task Force](#)

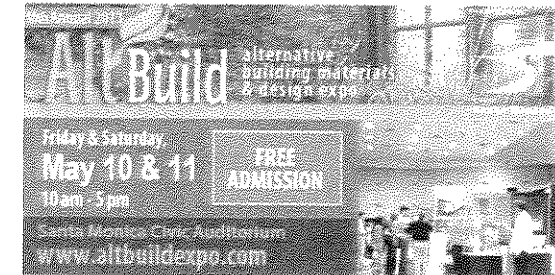
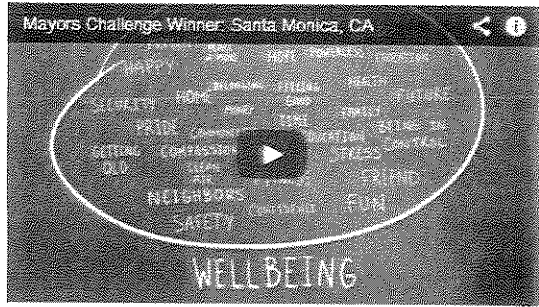
- [Buying Green](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Green Building](#)
- [Hazardous Materials](#)
- [Landscape](#)
- [Resource Recovery & Recycling](#)
- [Sustainability](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Urban Runoff](#)
- [Water](#)



**News & Networks**

- Top Ten Lists**
- [Sustainable Community Works](#)
  - [Sustainable City Plan Successes](#)
  - [Sustainability at School](#)
  - [Sustainability at Home](#)
  - [Sustainability at the Office](#)
  - [Addressing Climate Change](#)

**Santa Monica Wellbeing Project WINS Bloomberg Challenge!**  
 The Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge invited cities to propose innovative solutions to entrenched problems. Five cities, out of over 300 were selected for a prize. Santa Monica won a \$1 million dollar prize to fund the Wellbeing Project.



Green Building Innovations at 2602 Broadway

- Events**
- April 2013
- Apr 2, Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm [Green Living Workshop](#)
  - Apr 6, Saturday 7:00am - 2:00pm [Free Compost Giveaway!](#)
  - Apr 6, Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm [Household Hazardous Waste Drive-up, Drop-off Event](#)
  - Apr 9, Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm [Green Living Workshop](#)
  - Apr 13, Saturday 9:30am - 12:30pm [Kidical Mass Family Bike Ride](#)
  - Apr 16, Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm [Green Living Workshop](#)
  - Apr 20, Saturday 9:30am - 1:00pm [Master Gardeners at the Market](#)
  - Apr 20, Saturday 10:00am - 12:00pm [Heal The Bay Beach Cleanup](#)
  - Apr 20, Saturday 12:00pm - 5:00pm [Blue Green](#)
  - Apr 22, Monday 6:00pm - 7:00pm [Children's Tree of Life 30th Anniversary Rededication](#)
  - Apr 23, Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm [Green Living Workshop - PS1 School](#)
  - Apr 30, Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm [Green Living Workshop - PS1 School](#)
- May 2013
- May 4, Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm [Household Hazardous Waste Drive-up, Drop-off Event](#)
  - May 7, Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm [Green Living Workshop - PS1 School](#)
  - May 10, Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm [Alt Build Expo](#)
  - May 11, Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm [Oil Recycling & Free Filter Event](#)
  - May 11, Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm [Alt Build Expo](#)
  - May 18, Saturday 9:30am - 1:00pm [Master Gardeners at the Market](#)
- June 2013
- Jun 1, Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm [Household Hazardous Waste Drive-up, Drop-off Event](#)
  - Jun 8, Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm [Free Document Shredding/Electronics Recycling Event](#)
  - Jun 15, Saturday 9:30am - 1:00pm [Master Gardeners at the Market](#)

City Services

City of Santa Monica Text Size:

Office of Sustainability and the Environment

- Home
- About-Contact-Find Us
- Business
- Rebates
- Go Local
- Sustainable Food
- Printed Material
- Task Force

OSE Categories

- Buying Green Home
- Case Study
- Green Office Buying Guide
- Presentations
- Procurement Policies
- Resources

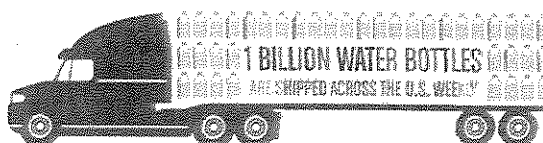


News & Networks



Buy Local Contact:

**Karl Bruskotter**  
 Environmental Analyst  
 (310) 458-2255  
 karl.bruskotter@smgov.net

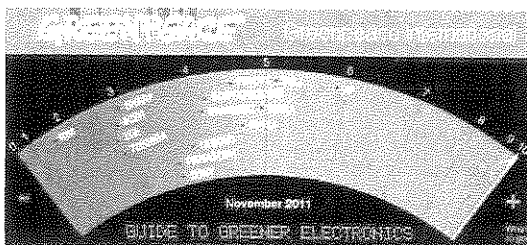


That's a lot of transportation and environmental costs to pay for something that we already have coming out of the tap. [Ten Reasons to Drink Tap Water](#)



Buying Recycled - check out the great site that the State of California set up. RecycleStore showcases innovative recycled-content products and puts you in touch directly with their manufacturers.

Greenpeace publishes a Guide to Greener Electronics ranking leading mobile phone, TV and PC manufacturers on policies and practices to: reduce their impact on the climate; produce greener products; and make their operations more sustainable.



Responsible Purchasing Network

Join the experts in buying green - an international network of buyers dedicated to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable purchasing. The network provides small and institutional purchasers alike with cutting-edge procurement tools and resources designed to save money, conserve resources, reduce waste, and improve efficiency. RPN routinely hosts responsible purchasing webinars and has developed Purchasing Guides for a variety of products and services. [responsiblepurchasing.org](http://responsiblepurchasing.org)



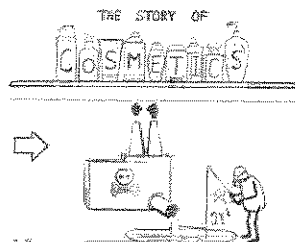
What's in your paper?

Paper is a highly consumable product, which has many significant impacts on the environment and human health that are mostly hidden from the consumer. Is your paper endangering forests? Does it utilize recoverable or recyclable materials? Does its production release harmful chemicals into the environment? Visit [whatsinyourpaper.com](http://whatsinyourpaper.com) to learn more.

How Safe are your Cosmetics?

There is mounting concern about toxic chemicals in our everyday environment, and the health-risks they may pose--especially to children. To learn about steps being taken to address this issue, visit the [Healthy Child Healthy World](http://Healthy Child Healthy World) website.

A good place to start learning is with [The Story of Cosmetics](#) video, which gives perspective on practices in the cosmetics industry and the challenges facing regulators.



Watch the video.

Green Purchasing in the News

A recent blog in the [New York Times](#) focused on the importance of identifying genuine

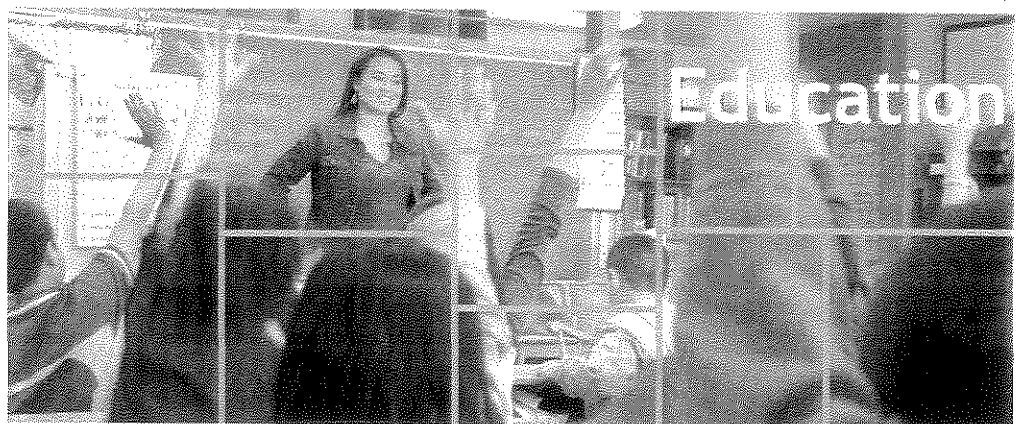
City Services

City of Santa Monica Text Size:

# Office of Sustainability and the Environment

- Home
- About-Contact-Find Us
- Business
- Rebates
- Go Local
- Sustainable Food
- Printed Material
- Task Force

- OSE Categories**
- Education Home
  - New Library Books
  - Peer Partners Program
  - Farmers' Market Education Programs
  - School Recycling
  - Local Field Trip Opportunities
  - School Garden Programs
  - Marine Education Programs



**News & Networks**

**Education Contact:**  
**Andrew Basmajian**  
 Communications Coordinator  
 (310) 458-8916  
[andrew.basmajian@smgov.net](mailto:andrew.basmajian@smgov.net)

Environmental education is the simple process of bringing information about our environment into our everyday decision-making process, into our homes, and into our classrooms. Santa Monica is committed to offering teachers and parents the tools they need to offer exciting educational experiences for all ages. Explore the dozens of opportunities available to the Santa Monica community.

**Guided Learning Opportunities at the Santa Monica Pier**

**Making the Single-Use Carryout Ban work**

**SAMOH! Students Looking Out**

Students in SAMOH!s Team Marine club have made a significant contribution to the ongoing task of making the City's plastic bag ban ordinance function. Long-term data gathering and statistics work yielded valuable information that will be integrated into outreach and education campaigns.

Read [article in the Santa Monica Daily Press](#).



Parents and teachers - take advantage of a wide range of award-winning lesson plans built around the dynamic activities available at the Santa Monica Pier. These curricula for students from K thru 12 cover everything from history to science to health to career-building and more. [Check it out!](#)

[Santa Monica Pier Curriculum](#)



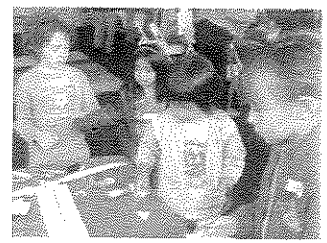
**A Bridge to Nature for Students**

NatureBridge is all about getting kids connected with nature. The May 5th Hike-A-Thon in the Santa Monica Mountains is a fundraiser and a fun-filled day for families and individuals. NatureBridge educators will be on the trail to engage you in hands-on environmental educational experiences. There will also be green vendors, campfire-style music, and kid-friendly activities. Find out more at [NatureBridge.org/hike-socal](http://NatureBridge.org/hike-socal)

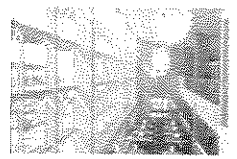
Southern California Hike-A-Thon  
 Sunday, May 5, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Temescal Gateway Park  
 15601 Sunset Blvd.  
 Pacific Palisades CA 90272

**ReDiscover**

ReDiscover is a community resource that promotes creativity in early childhood and elementary education while encouraging environmental responsibility. This year has been especially fruitful with numerous visits to Will Rogers and John Muir elementary schools.



They reuse everyday discards donated by businesses - plastic, fabric, wire, wood, metal, glass, and more - and give them new purpose as hands-on learning materials. Through workshops and other opportunities, they show parents, educators and children how to reuse

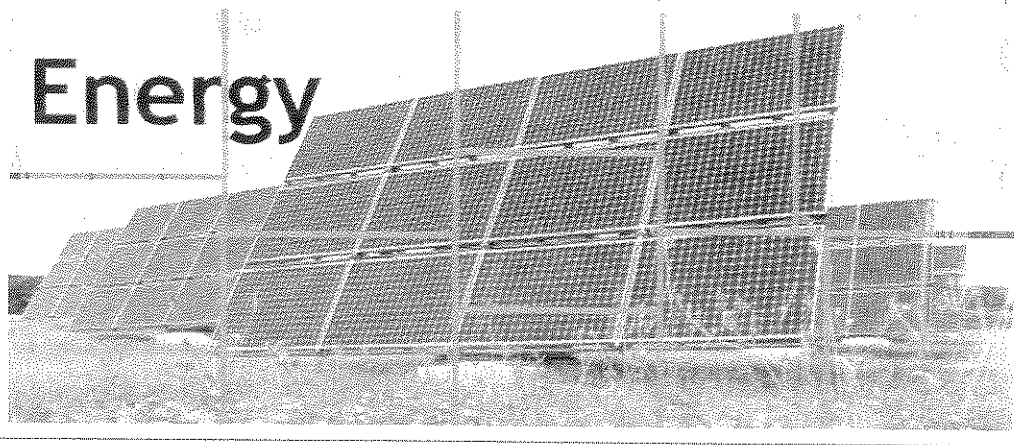


**The Library Goes Sustainable All Over!**

Whether you are a professional or student researcher, or just a parent trying to get through another science project for your child, the Library's Sustainable Santa Monica Collection is a powerful resource right at your finger tips. The Library itself is a phenomenal green story.

City Services

- OSE Categories**
- [Energy Home](#)
  - [Air Conditioning](#)
  - [Cool Roofs](#)
  - [Efficiency Programs](#)
  - [Efficient Appliances](#)
  - [Efficient Lighting](#)
  - [Efficient Office Equipment](#)
  - [Electric Vehicles](#)
  - [Green Energy Purchasing](#)
  - [Insulation & Weatherization](#)
  - [Solar Santa Monica](#)



**Energy Contact:**  
**Matt Henigan**  
 Energy Efficiency Engineer  
 (310) 458-2238  
[matt.henigan@smgov.net](mailto:matt.henigan@smgov.net)

## CAPTURE THE WARMTH OF THE SUN Go Solar to Heat Your Water!

Rebates for solar thermal systems from the California Solar Initiative are available now! Find out more at [www.socalgas.com/solar](http://www.socalgas.com/solar).

### Net Zero Energy

Learn about the successes of the City's Solar Santa Monica program in this new short film produced with the [California Sustainability Alliance](#).

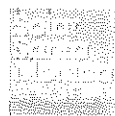


### Got Solar?



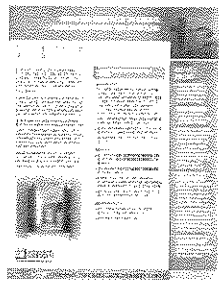
Interested in how your neighbor went solar and what their experience was like? Check out our Case Studies of both Residential and Commercial systems.

Learn more about the free [Solar Santa Monica](#) program online, or give us a call at (310) 458-4992. We will help you meet your sustainability goals.



### Save Energy at Home and at Work

Southern California Edison has a new [two-page brochure](#) full of ways you can save energy at home and at the office. Find out what simple steps you can take, then put them into practice. Saving energy is easier than you think.



City of Santa Monica in Energy Leader Partnership with Southern California Edison - Something to Cheer About!

City of Santa Monica

Office of Sustainability and the Environment

Home | About-Contact-Find Us | Business | Rebates | Go Local | Sustainable Food | Printed Material | Task Force

OSE Categories

- Green Building Home
- Code Requirements
- Guidelines for Design
- Case Studies
- LEED Buildings in Santa Monica
- Local Suppliers
- Incentives
- Links

News & Networks

Green Building Contact:  
 Brenden McEneaney  
 Green Building Program Advisor  
 (310) 458-8549  
 brenden.mceneaney@smgov.net

Green Building Innovations on Display at 2602 Broadway

2602 Broadway

Confused about the new LEED AP continuing ed requirements? Check out the files below:  
**Presentation:**

Real-Time Solar in Santa Monica

The 180 kW solar array atop the Civic Center Parking Structure can be monitored using a system called Fat Sparnet. To see the power output of this groundbreaking building, click on the images or here.

How you can monitor solar energy production from the new Big Blue Bus facility as well. Click on the graphic below or here to access more real-time data.

City Services



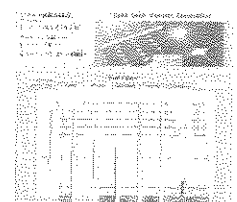
ALTBUILD alternative building materials & design expo

Friday & Saturday  
**May 10 & 11**  
 10am - 5pm

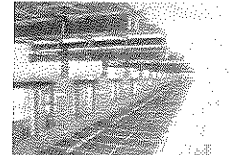
**FREE ADMISSION**

Santa Monica Civic Auditorium  
[www.altbuildexpo.com](http://www.altbuildexpo.com)

Real-Time Solar in Santa Monica



The 180 kW solar array atop the Civic Center Parking Structure can be monitored using a system called Fat Sparnet. To see the power output of this groundbreaking building, click on the images or here.



How you can monitor solar energy production from the new Big Blue Bus facility as well. Click on the graphic below or here to access more real-time data.



System: Solar	180 kW
System: Energy Production	180 kW
System: PV Production	180 kW
System: PV Production	180 kW

City of Santa Monica

Office of Sustainability and the Environment

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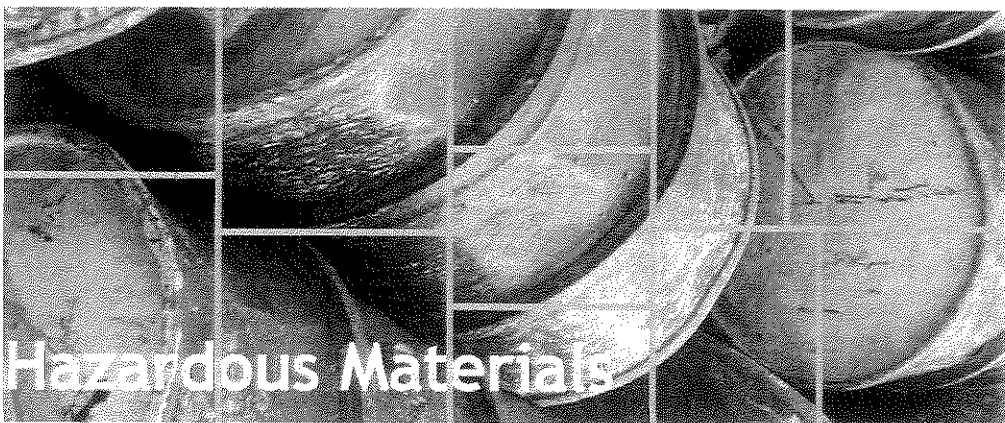
OSE Categories:

- Hazardous Materials Home
- Home Collection Service
- Household Hazardous Waste Center
- Neighborhood Drop-off Sites
- Oil & Oil Filter Recycling
- Important Phone Numbers
- Safe & Healthy Home
- Hazardous Materials - Business

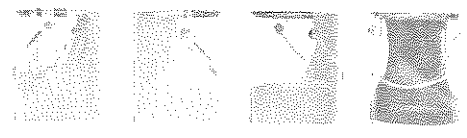
News & Networks

HazMat Contact:

James Velez-Conway  
Senior Admin. Analyst  
(310) 458-8711  
james.velez-conway@smgov.net



Hazardous Materials



Unwanted paint has always been the single largest type of hazardous waste generated by Santa Monica residents; and convenient disposal options have never existed for painting contractors - until now.

California's PaintCare recycling network, online at [paintcare.org](http://paintcare.org), features a new statewide program funded by fees from new paint sales. Sherwin-Williams, located on Pico, near Lincoln Blvd., now offers Santa Monica another disposal option for EVERYONE - seven days a week.

[Santa Monica Paint Disposal Locations](#)

Home Collection



Try Home Collection, where the Haz-Mat technician comes to you.

The service is provided on a free and unlimited basis to homeowners and renters alike, and setting up an appointment is easy.

[Reserve the service today](#)



**Household Hazardous Waste Center - Reduced Hours**  
Starting in July, the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility will be open **ONLY** on the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 2 pm. Household Hazardous Waste Center



# Office of Sustainability and the Environment

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- Task Force

## OSE Categories

- Landscape Home
- Photo Galleries
- Demonstration Gardens
- Landscape Standards
- Landscape Plans
- Sustainable Landscape Professionals
- Green Garden Honor Academy
- more...



## News & Networks



### Sustainable Landscaping Contact:

**Russell Ackerman**  
 Water Resources Specialist  
 (310) 458-8405  
 russell.ackerman@smgov.net

### Spring Gardening Checklist

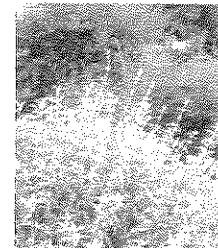
- **Add color** - choose beautiful plants that use less water
- **Save Water** - install a drip system for your shrub beds or new sprinklers for your lawn
- **Get \$3,000** - apply for our landscape rebate to do all of the above

### Airport Avenue Demonstration Gardens

These gardens are meant to inspire you to investigate what makes-up a sustainable landscape, and hopefully to install one of your own. On the [Airport Avenue Demonstration Gardens](#) page, you will find designs, plant lists, irrigation specs, and materials lists; everything you need to make your garden transformation a reality. And don't forget the [Rebates](#) that are available to help get the job done.



### All About Plants



Climate-appropriate, drought-tolerant, California-friendly, water-wise: different ways to say the same thing -- choosing the right plant material is an important part of any sustainable landscape. [Learn More.](#)

### A Website for Sore Eyes



Take a gander at some gorgeous gardens, point and click on the plants you like and voila! - you tap into a wealth of information on that particular plant species. Click again and you automatically compile a printable list of plants that can easily be handed-off to a landscaper or an attendant at your favorite nursery.

This tool will go a long way in helping you overcome some of the most significant hurdles in getting your sustainable landscape project started.

## Leaf Blower Ban



All about Santa Monica's leaf blower ban

### Principles of Sustainable Landscaping

A Sustainable Landscape is based upon a unique set of design principles. These design principles are outlined below and reflect the different elements to consider when creating

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**OSE Categories**

- Collection Services
- Construction and Demolition
- Drop-off Services
- Electronic Waste
- Food Waste
- Home Composting
- Waste Reduction Tips



## Resource Recovery & Recycling

**News & Networks**






Solid waste and recycling services are handled by the City's Resource Recovery & Recycling Division, but you were right in thinking that we would handle this information as well. Ultimately, recycling is one of the most important actions individuals, businesses and institutions can do to protect the environment and public health. We are fortunate in that Santa Monica offers some of the most comprehensive programming available anywhere.

**Spotlight on : Grease and Oil Recycling**

Partnering with GeoGreen Biofuels ([www.geogreen.com](http://www.geogreen.com)) the City of Santa Monica has started a program that offers free grease and oil recycling to local restaurants. Waste cooking oil and grease collected in containers located in parking structures downtown will be regularly picked up by the partner company, which then turns them into usable biofuel. An example of the kind of win-win synergy that moves sustainability forward for everyone. [More info...](#)



**Zero Out Waste at Your Next Event**



Events typically generate huge amounts of trash - envision the trashcans spilling over with paper, disposable cups, cans, and bottles.

A zero waste event protects our environment by significantly reducing the amount of "waste" or valuable resources that are sent to landfills. Instead of burying these materials, zero waste events collect them and divert them for reuse, recycling and composting. Create leadership - not more trash.



**Home Composting Made Easy**

The news is out: worms are not icky. In fact, they are best friends to your soil, yard and garden. The Resource Recovery and Recycling team provides discounted worm bins and home composting bins to make it easy for you to do the right thing for the environment right outside your door. Home Composting also cuts down on waste transportation costs and cuts the load on landfills. Doesn't this have a familiar ring to it? Synergy? Win-win? [More info...](#)

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- Sustainable City Plan
- Sustainable City Report Card
- Sustainable City Progress Report
- Community Sustainability Liaison
- Sustainable Santa Monica Newsletter
- Partners

# Sustainability

### News & Networks



### Sustainability Programs

#### Contact:

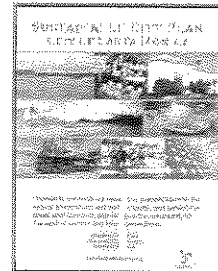
Shannon Parry  
 Senior Admin. Analyst  
 (310) 458-2227  
 shannon.parry@smgov.net

### Sustainability Quality Awards 2013

Celebrating over 100 recipients since 1995!



### Sustainable City Plan



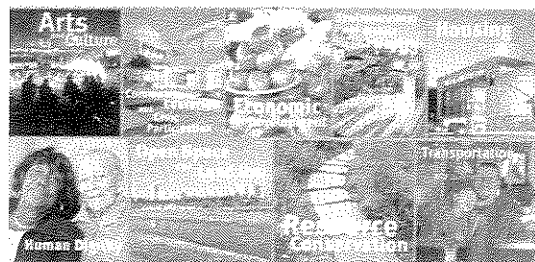
Sustainable City Plan

### Progress Report



The Sustainable City Progress Report is your portal into the ways we measure success in meeting our sustainability goals. The goals, indicators and targets defined in the Sustainable City Plan are measured, point by point, and on display.

## Sustainable Santa Monica




### 2012 Sustainable City Report Card

We Sustainability professionals are proud to be part of the City of Santa Monica's efforts to create a more sustainable community. We are committed to providing you with the information you need to make informed decisions about the future of our city.

2012 Sustainable City Report Card

Sustainable Santa Monica uses the power of community to enhance our resources, prevent harm to the natural environment and human health, and benefit the social and economic well-being of the community for the sake of current and future generations.

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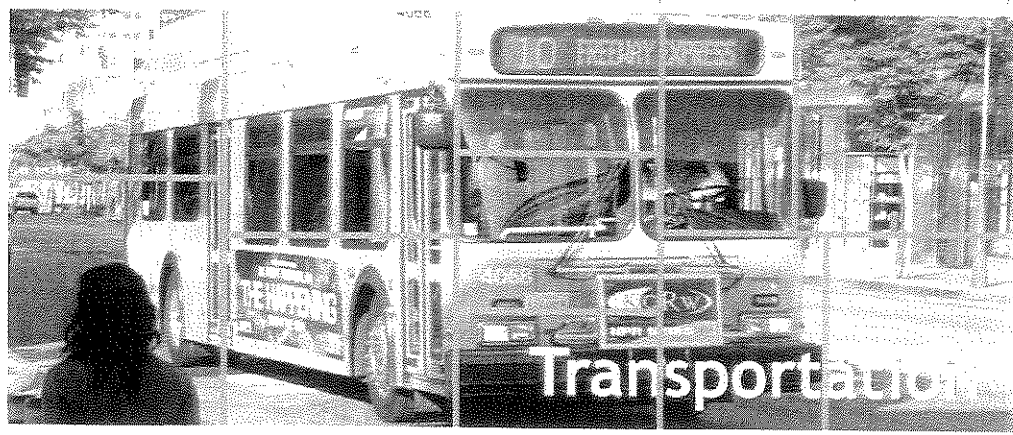


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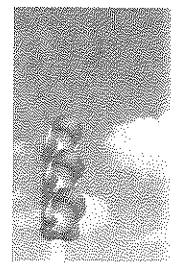



**Drive Clean**  
 Looking to reduce your carbon footprint, save money or just contribute less to that nasty smog? The California Air Resources Board provides an online buying guide to the cleanest, most efficient cars on the market. [www.driveclean.ca.gov](http://www.driveclean.ca.gov)



A buying guide for clean cars and vehicles brought to you by California Air Resources Board

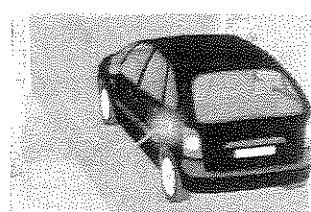
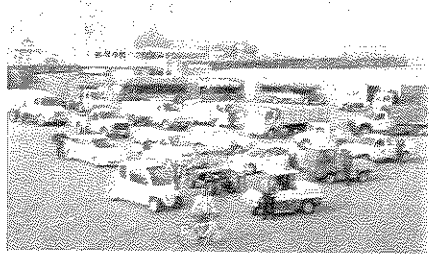
**Green-Lighted Automobiles**



Getting around has its challenges, but going green has never been easier. The market is offering up new products all the time. Survey the Greenest for, and keep your sights on the Meanest too.

[www.greencars.org](http://www.greencars.org)

**Green Fleet**  
 The City of Santa Monica has been greening its fleet of vehicles for years. For other municipalities considering making similar decisions, and for anyone interested in the latest alternative technologies, WesternCity.com has a round-up of the current state of the field.



**Ready, Set, Charge**  
 The electrical utility serving Santa Monica, Southern California Edison, has a library of resources to help consumers Get Ready to Plug-In.



The prevailing wisdom from pundits in the "green media" is that California will play a leading role ushering in widespread adoption of electric cars in the United States and abroad. So for all early-adopters and those in the vanguard of the environmentally responsible, this is a great time to lead by example.




**Electric Vehicle Update**  
 Los Angeles Times reporter Susan Carpenter checks in on the latest developments in electric vehicle charging technology. Watch the video: a visit to the public charging station on the Santa Monica Pier.

City Services

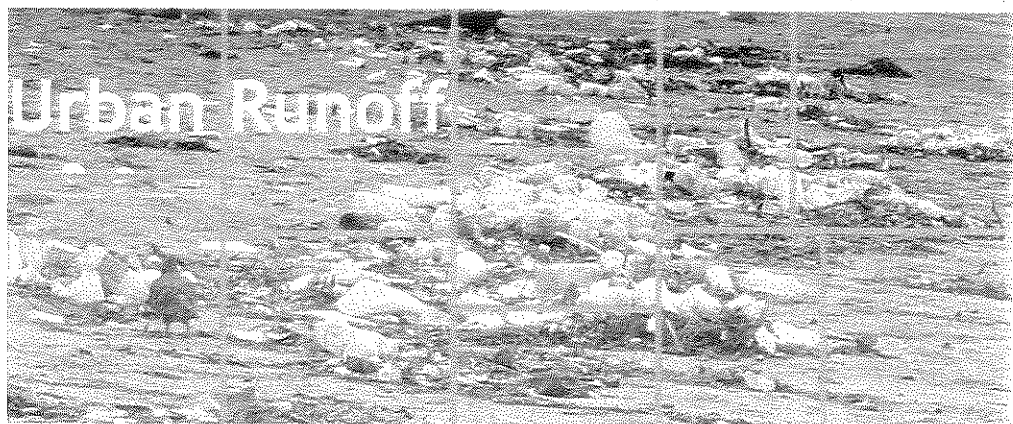
Big Blue Bus

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  - [Code Requirements](#)
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  - [Case Studies](#)
  - [Rainwater Harvesting](#)
  - [Stormwater Parcel Fees](#)
  - [Measure Y](#)
  - [SMURRF](#)



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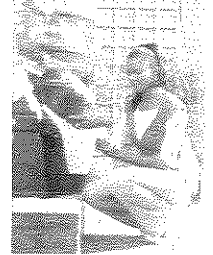


**Urban Runoff Contact:**  
**Neal Shapiro**  
 Senior Admin. Analyst  
 (310) 458-8223  
 neal.shapiro@smgov.net

**This is a big cistern**  
 Millions of gallons of polluted stormwater will be diverted from entering the Santa Monica Bay by the massive cistern constructed at this advantageous location in the local watershed.



**Rain Barrel & Cistern Rebate Program**



Harvesting rainwater protects the Bay from runoff and makes watering your yard fun.

If that's not enough incentive, what about a generous rebate?

Would that help?

Urban runoff, the surface water from our yards, driveways, and streets that flows through storm drains, is the greatest single source of pollution to the beaches and near-shore waters of the Santa Monica Bay. Unlike sewage and discharges from industrial sources, urban runoff cannot always be adequately treated before it reaches the bay and our beaches. The EPA has a list of many easy things that can be done at home and at work to help to reduce or eliminate this pollution problem. Urban runoff includes dry weather runoff and wet weather flows from rain-storm events. The oversight of urban runoff is called Watershed Management.

By reducing the quantity of runoff and improving the quality of runoff, we lower levels of harmful bacteria, toxics, and other forms of pollutants affecting the bay. Reducing the amount of urban runoff and the amount of pollutants contained in the runoff are essential for the health and safety of our community. A cleaner bay means a healthier marine ecosystem and improved quality of life for residents, and increases Santa Monica's appeal to visitors and businesses.

**Urban Runoff 101: an Introduction**

- [Fact Sheet for Residents](#)

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- Water Saving Tips & Resources
- Rules & Regulations
- Landscape & Gardening
- City Water Service
- Greywater
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Water Shortage

**News & Networks**

**Water Efficiency Contact:**  
**Kimberly O'Cain**  
 Water Resources Specialist  
 (310) 458-8972 ext 1  
[kimberly.ocain@smgov.net](mailto:kimberly.ocain@smgov.net)

**Walk for Water on April 14th**  
 Join the Samburu Project, a Santa Monica non-profit that provides easy access to water for the Samburu people in Northern Kenya, on April 14th for their 4th Annual Walk For Water. The Samburu Project was awarded a grant for this event from MWD, a family of southern California water agencies. For more information on the walk you can go to [www.walkforwater2013.org](http://www.walkforwater2013.org).

**New Rebates - Up to \$3,000**  
 Less red tape, online application. Get paid to save water and the environment. Visit our [rebates](#) section, or call 310.458.8972 x1

**\$50 off a new reading chair**

**Rebates available now!**

[www.socialwatersmart.com](http://www.socialwatersmart.com)

**Report Water Waste:**  
 Include address, violation, date and time.  
 email: [environment@smgov.net](mailto:environment@smgov.net)  
 phone: 310-458-4952

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# A trip to Sustainaville

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Posted March 9, 2011 in Green Enterprise, Living Sustainably



One thing I have learned in six months in my new position as director of *sustainable communities* at NRDC is that even a lot of environmentalists don't quite know what to make of the phrase. For some of us in the field the principles are ingrained and at this point even assumed; but, for others, sustainable communities is a relatively new and somewhat elusive concept. This may be particularly true for my fellow travelers in the legal profession, who tend to think in terms of statutory mandates and causes of action and have little patience with the fuzzy stuff.

So in this post I am returning to the basics, which bear repeating. Let's begin by borrowing from a definition I found in a planning document from the state of Maryland. It packs a lot into one paragraph:

*"Sustainable communities share a common purpose: places where people thrive to enjoy good health and create a high quality of life. A sustainable community reflects the interdependence of economic, environmental, and social issues by acknowledging that regions, cities, towns and rural lands must continue into the future without diminishing the land, water, air, natural and cultural resources that support them. Housing, transportation and resource conservation are managed in ways that retain the economic, ecological and scenic values of the environment. And they are communities where the consumption of fossil fuels, emissions of greenhouse gases, water resources and pollution are minimized."*

Note the emphasis on *places*; to a great extent, this is about what many of us have come to call “placemaking.” It starts with the built environment, but doesn’t end there.



More specifically to an environmental group such as NRDC, where I work, we use the phrase to describe places where use of resources and emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants are going down, not up; where the air and waterways are accessible and clean; where land is used efficiently, and shared parks and public spaces are plentiful and easily visited; where people of different ages, income levels and cultural backgrounds share equally in environmental, social and cultural benefits; where many needs of daily life can be met within a 20-minute walk, and all may be met within a 20-minute transit ride; where industry and economic opportunity emphasize healthy, environmentally sound practices.

For a feel of what this looks like on the ground, let’s take a short journey together. On the way to our destination on the high-speed train, we pass through a rolling rural landscape dotted with farms, forests, and windmills, until we come to the urban growth boundary of the Sustainaville metro region. The landscape abruptly changes to well-ordered development.

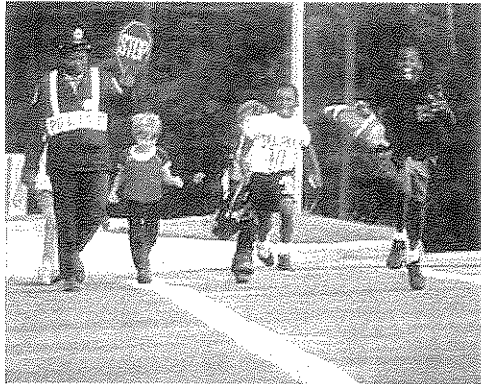
At the first stop inside the developed area, we can tell that we are in a suburb, but it doesn’t look like suburbs built in the 1960s and 1970s. For one thing, there is a lot more green space, not so much in private yards, but in neighborhood-sized green squares around which are clustered different types of homes – apartments, townhomes, and single-family, offered at different price points and mixed together, not separated. Some of the squares also have neighborhood shops, including in one instance a dry cleaner’s, a café, a convenience store and a pharmacy on the first floor of a five-story apartment or condo building. A light rail line runs down the center of the main commercial street. (We may be in a place similar in some respects to Orenco Station, Portland’s iconic transit-oriented suburb.)



We disembark and transfer to the light rail, which runs to Sustainaville’s downtown. We get off in an older, revitalizing neighborhood, largely abandoned in the 1960s and 1970s but now healthy again after a grassroots-led restoration. (We might now be in a place like Old North Saint Louis is rapidly becoming; or

Melrose Commons in the South Bronx, whose plan has been certified gold under LEED-ND; or Oakland's Fruitvale Village, whose grassroots-led rebirth was financed in part by NRDC's development partner, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation.) At the rail stop, we see carshare and bikeshare stations, cafés, shops and services.

Venturing into the residential area, we notice kids walking home from school, the little ones with their parents, the big ones with their friends, because they *can*; their homes are all within a 15-minute walk on well-connected, slow-speed

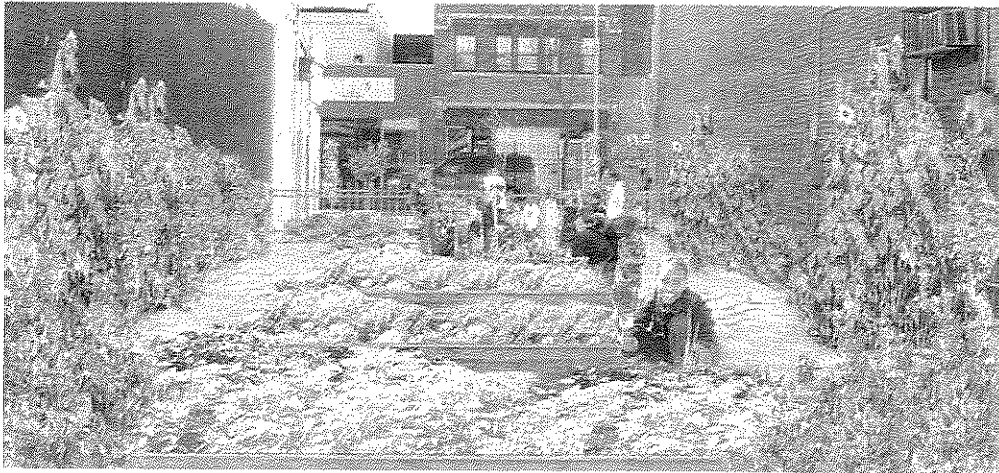


streets with porous-pavement sidewalks on both sides, native street trees, and parking spaces for cars and bikes by the curb, which buffers the street from the pedestrians. Walking further, we see that there is an elementary school beside a small park, and we can see another in the distance. The school has solar panels and a green roof, as does a condo building on the park. Both have small parking lots in the rear shaded by mature trees and surfaced with porous pavers

to filter stormwater.

Then we notice that the park has a small space in one of the corners devoted to a neighborhood vegetable garden, which is being tended by some elderly residents. One of them adds some tomatoes to her wheeled cart, which already has reusable canvas bags bearing the name of the supermarket where she just shopped two blocks away; she then continues walking to her restored townhouse, with native vegetation in the small front and rear yards. We pass a barber taking a break outside his shop.

There are other small, local businesses mixed in with homes and places of worship. Several of the small neighborhood restaurants are advertising that they serve only local food. On a basketball court beside one of the schools, two teams are going at each other furiously, but everyone seems to be joking and having a good time; one of the players drains a three-pointer and suddenly his side has hope after all.



This does not describe every aspect of a sustainable community, or every type. To be complete, we would also discuss, for example, clean industry and waterways; universal access by people of varying abilities; and more.

But it's not a bad start, in my opinion. It basically describes the vision of a sustainable community created jointly by some 25 attendees at NRDC's recent sustainable communities planning retreat. Utopian? Maybe so, but since when has the environmental community not been idealistic? We must know where we would like to go in order to choose our steps along the way.

*Move your cursor over the images for credit information.*

*Kaid Benfield writes (almost) daily about community, development, and the environment. For more posts, see his blog's home page.*