



Office of

# Sustainability

NEWSLETTER

Summer-Fall 2013

The Office of Sustainability delivers policy and programs that integrate efforts related to buildings and neighborhoods, urban nature, transportation, water, energy, waste reduction and eco products and services. For these areas, the Office of Sustainability has the primary responsibility within the City of Long Beach for setting the agenda and goals, and works with City Departments to jointly implement projects and programs to accomplish these goals.

## SUSTAINABLE NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Long Beach is now the first in the nation to have created a mulch wall. In late May, the 600 foot long by twelve foot high barrier was installed along the TI-103 freeway, and houses 800 cubic yards of mulch. The mulch wall was built for its' visual aesthetics, cost reductions, and environmental benefits in comparison to traditional brick and mortar walls. The mulch wall reuses green waste from City tree trimmings, and has the opportunity to absorb freeway pollution and noise.



## CIVIC CENTER EDIBLE GARDEN



In June 2013, a "living gate" was installed at the entrance of the Civic Center Garden. It features a succulent garden vertically grown within a gate frame that encourages new perspectives of urban gardening in minimal spaces.

On another note, the garden staff will be teaching free gardening workshops once a month on Wednesdays during the fall. Some upcoming workshop topics include learning when your vegetables are ready for harvesting, how to store produce to keep them fresh longer, and how to properly store seeds. Attendees will also learn how to prepare seeds for fall and winter planting.

To RSVP for future workshops RSVP to [civiccenterediblegarden@longbeach.gov](mailto:civiccenterediblegarden@longbeach.gov) or call Tiffany Chen at (562)570-6396.



## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

### Civic Center Edible Garden Workshop

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

**August 28: Basics of Harvesting, How to Store Produce for a Longer Life Span, and How to Store Seeds**

*Civic Center Edible Garden | 11:30am-1:30pm*

### Friends of the Colorado Lagoon

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

**Every Saurday until August 31: Summer Science Shack**

*For kids of all ages! Weltand & Marine Science Center (WAMSEC) 5119 E Colorado St. | 1pm-4pm*

### Aquarium of the Pacific

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

**June 15: Explorers Day.** All ages invited! *Long Beach's 'Golden Shores Marine Biological Reserve | 10:00am-12:00pm*

### California Coastal Cleanp Day

<http://www.longbeach.gov/naturecenter/default.asp>

**September 21: Cleanups will take place at local beaches throughout the city.** *For more information and group registration, call (562)570-4876. 9am-noon*



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LONG BEACH

HISTORIC PAST

INNOVATIVE PRESENT

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For more information visit us at [www.sustainableLB.com](http://www.sustainableLB.com)



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## PROGRAMS



### MULCH PROGRAM

Every Year, Operation Mulch-A-Lot places 6,000 tons of mulch on vacant City lots, with an additional 600 tons annually being delivered to Long Beach residents through the Mulch Delivery Program.

Mulch offers landscaping advantages such as weed reduction, added nutrients, soil temperature moderation, water retention, improved soil structure and root systems, and beautification.

Please visit [sustainablelb.com](http://sustainablelb.com) for a mulch request form, or visit the self-service Mulch Yard at 2702 California Ave. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

## GREEN BUSINESS FEATURE

### BLUE GECKO LANDSCAPE DESIGN



Blue Gecko Landscape Design has been recognized for demonstrating green business practices in areas such as recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, green purchasing, alternative transportation, and community involvement and education. Blue Gecko offers landscape design and consultation, and specializes in drought-tolerant, organic, and sustainable landscapes.

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### PLASTIC BAG BAN EXTENDS TO LOS ANGELES

According to a 2008 LA County report, 25% of trash flowing down the Los Angeles River is plastic bags. Plastic bags that accumulate in the Pacific Ocean and on our local beaches are also mistakenly consumed by sea animals.

In June 2013, to bring awareness to the pollution and tragedies, Los Angeles took a stand to omit plastic bags from being distributed in larger chain stores by January 2014, and in smaller stores by July 2014.



### CSULB AWARDED FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

CSULB has been awarded the Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Best Practice Award from EnerNOC Inc. EnerNOC helps organizations use energy more intelligently with technology enabled energy management solutions and has helped many campuses with energy efficiency. CSU Long Beach won in the Monitoring-Based Commissioning category.

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### LONG BEACH AWARDED GRANT TO STEER POLLUTION FROM COASTLINE

Long Beach has been awarded a 4.9 million grant from the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program in order to improve recreational water quality.

The grant will allow the construction of three Low Flow Diversion Systems and two Vortex Separation Systems; they will be able to divert motor oil, dog waste, and lawn fertilizer away from the coastline. [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov)

### PORT OF LONG BEACH INSTALLS DOCKSIDE POWER GRIDS TO HELP CUT POLLUTION

The Port has taken another step to lower air pollution; a \$100 million investment will allow ships to plug into a power grid instead of running idle when they arrive to the port.

The new dockside power hookups will allow the ships to turn off their diesel engines but will still maintain power to operate. Connecting a large ship to the grid is the equivalent of taking 20,000 to 30,000 cars off of the road. [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com)



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