

clearing the air

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2001

Will L.A. Community College Campuses Go Green?

Public Support Needed for Critical Board Decision

by Kevin Finney, Climate Change Program Director

Last spring, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition A — a **\$1.25 billion bond measure** for new construction and renovation on the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD). Now, as planning for this massive new building program gets underway, a coalition of students, faculty, environmentalists, and community groups is urging the LACCD Board of Trustees to adopt a sustainable or “green” building policy. Such a policy would ensure that the new buildings are healthier, safer, less polluting, and more efficient than traditional buildings. The Coalition for Clean Air has been spearheading the campaign effort, along with the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and Global Green USA.

Few people know that buildings are responsible for almost 35% of the energy use in the United States and produce about the same share of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Moreover, building projects often use old growth forest products and building materials containing toxic chemicals. Traditional building projects usually generate substantial construction waste as well.

Green building is a movement within the architectural and design profession to improve the environmental performance of buildings by increasing their efficiency and making them healthier environments. Green builders look at ways to reduce energy and water use, use non-toxic and recycled building materials, and work to reduce construction waste. As a result, green school buildings have been found to increase overall student productivity while reducing annual operating costs and the number of sick days taken by faculty and staff.

Bellevue Community College in Washington State estimates that its new green building will save over \$1 million in energy and other operating costs during the 30-year depreciable life of the building. The building, which uses a geothermal heating and cooling system and other green innovations, is also expected to save more than 4 million gallons of water and 24 million cubic feet of natural gas. (See accompanying photo)

The adoption of a strong green building policy at LACCD would be a landmark not only for California, but also for the nation. Other community colleges are in the process of building a single “model” green building, LACCD could be the first community college to adopt a strong green building policy for all new construction and renovation on all of their campuses (although the Foothill-DeAnza College District in the Bay Area is in the process of developing such a policy).

LACCD is the largest community college district in the United States and has one of the most diverse student populations in the nation. Its nine campuses are located throughout the Los

continued p. 5



A green building designed for Bellevue Community College in Washington State.

INSIDE

- 2 COALITION NEWS
- 3 DUMP DIESEL
- 4 HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES
- 5 CLIMATE CHANGE
- 6 VOLUNTEER INFO

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

David Allgood
PRESIDENT

Wendy James
VICE PRESIDENT

Abby Arnold
TREASURER

Lisa Rawlins
SECRETARY

BOARD
MEMBERS

Donna Andrews
Juliette Anthony
Ed Begley Jr.
Susan Frank
Cindy Harrell Horn
Jamie Knapp
Kim Lewand
Hutson Morris-Irvin
Felix Oduyemi
Ralph Perry
Jon Rainwater
Anne Shen Smith
John Stodder

Welcome New Staff!

We are pleased to announce that Bonnie Foote has joined our staff as the new Development Associate. Bonnie is responsible for assisting the Executive Director with foundation research, grantwriting, corporate donations, and special development projects.

Prior to joining the Coalition, Bonnie taught for UCLA and the Princeton Review and worked as a freelance editor. Bonnie has an M.A. in English Literature from UCLA and a B.A. in Humanities from Yale.



If you have any ideas about fundraising for the Coalition, or if you'd like to make a donation to the Coalition, please contact Bonnie at bonnie@coalitionforcleanair.org or (310)441-1544 x309. She looks forward to hearing from you!

Fun Fact: If every household in California replaced four (100-watt) incandescent light bulbs with four equivalent (27-watt) compact fluorescent light bulbs, we would save enough energy to SHUT DOWN 17 POWER PLANTS!

Coalition's E News Is Born Promotes Action, Not Spam

On October 10th, the Coalition's first E News was emailed out. The electronic newsletter was created as an easy way for readers to take action on Coalition campaigns. With only a few clicks, recipients of our E News can send an email, letter, or fax to voice their support on important air issues. They can also quickly communicate their suggestions to Coalition staff. Besides action alerts, E News gives brief updates on Coalition activities and upcoming events. Here are just a few comments we received on our E News from readers who agree that it's a great source of information, not just electronic spam:

I love the newsletter. I have a suggestion for letting your representatives know that you are interested in what they are doing about clean air. Find all the phone numbers of the representatives and make them easily available.
- Adam Johnston

I liked it – relatively short and very easy to read.
- Andi Liebenbaum

Informative, timely and useful!
- Steven A. Lipman

If you did not receive our first electronic newsletter, we encourage you to let us know your current email address. Please contact Lori Shimonishi to let her know you'd like to receive the Coalition for Clean Air E News!

(310)441-1544 x 320
lori@coalitionforcleanair.org

Local Power Generation: The Good, the Bad, & the Other

During the past century we have used fossil fuels – coal, oil, and gas - as our main electricity source. The power lines that run through our neighborhoods connect our homes to the power grid, which connects us to the power plant, or source of power. These power plants are often major polluters, as they burn fossil fuels to bring the public electricity. The ease with which we consume energy has allowed us to forget the association between turning on the TV and the land mined for coal or the smoke plumes released from coal plants in other states.

The energy crisis of 2001 made us all more aware of the relationship between electricity production and consumption. Many Californians have started to look into other sources of power to keep their business or home “on-line” during another energy crunch. Recognizing this need, the Coalition worked with several other groups to release *The Good, the Bad, and the Other*, a new report on local, or “distributed”, power generation.

Local power generation is “energy production that occurs near the place where it is used”. Normally, there is a significant loss of energy when it’s transported over power lines for hun-

dreds of miles. Local power generation is advantageous due to its energy efficiency and ability to reduce the burden on the electric grid. Distributed generation can come in many forms, including solar panels, portable diesel generators such as the ones used at local carnivals or in highway projects, fuel cells, and wind tur-



Kevin Finney in front of CSUN’s Capstone Microturbines – an example of good distributed generation.

bines. The report pushes for standards to ensure that dirty, unhealthy local power generators are properly regulated. According to the California Air Resources Board, a person’s lifetime cancer risk increases by 50% if he/she lives near a one-megawatt diesel generator that runs only 250 hours (approximately 11 days) a year.

continued p. 8

USC & the Coalition Team Up

The University of Southern California’s School of Engineering is teaming up with the Coalition for Clean Air to tackle the question: how can Southern California dramatically improve its transportation system for both people and freight over the next two decades? According to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), freeway congestion is expected to slow from today’s average of 32 mph to a miserable 15 mph by 2025. This means even more time in stop and go traffic, and more idling cars, trucks and buses on our highways. Mobile sources generate two-thirds of California’s air pollution. Diesel pollution alone accounts for over 70% of the air toxics found in California’s air. If MTA’s projections are realized, improving the emissions performance of trucks, buses and passenger cars will not be enough. Southern California will also need to consider several alternative transportation modes such as express bus sys-

tems and heavy- and light-rail systems to help alleviate the region’s congestion and air pollution concerns.

Two teams of USC engineering students plan to work with Todd Campbell, Policy Director for the Coalition, to explore new transportation approaches that hold promise in alleviating both traffic congestion and improving overall air quality in Southern California. The students will be examining various transportation modes that include planes, rail, trucks and bus alternatives. The students will also consider strategies that include aftertreatment applications, the implementation of alternative fuel and advanced propulsion systems, express bus lanes, light and heavy-rail systems, etc. The students plan to present their findings at the end of 2001. The Coalition staff will use their findings to support our advocacy for transportation system improvements.

COALITION STAFF

Tim Carmichael
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Todd Campbell
POLICY DIRECTOR

Kevin Finney
CLIMATE CHANGE
PROGRAM
DIRECTOR

Lori Shimonishi
EDUCATION &
OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

Bonnie Foote
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATE

Joan Lerner
OFFICE MANAGER

p: (310)441-1544
f: (310)446-4362
www.
coalitionforcleanair.
org

Hybrid Electric Vehicles

Ushering in a More Sustainable Transportation Future

FOR MORE INFO

CA Air Resources Board
1-800-END-SMOG
www.zevinfo.com

For most of us, driving a gasoline or diesel car is the single most damaging thing we will ever do to the environment.

Consumer Energy
Center
Best fuel economy
(916)651-9852

Guide to Cleaner Cars
1-800-363-7664

ACEEE's Green Book
www.greencars.com/by
class.html

HYBRID ELECTRIC INCENTIVE

Starting in late November, 2001 California consumers and fleet operators who purchase the Honda Insight or Toyota Prius can receive incentives up to \$1,000 per vehicle. Available at the time of purchase or lease on a first come, first serve basis.

4

Dramatically reducing pollution from transportation sources – cars, trucks, buses, trains, planes, and ships – is critical to achieving clean, healthful air in California. That is why the Coalition staff spends a majority of our time advocating and educating about ways to reduce pollution from transportation sources, whether it be through technological advances or habit change.

For most of us, driving a gasoline or diesel car is the single most damaging thing we will ever do to the environment. Each of us needs to look at our driving habits and needs, consider the environmental impacts, and try alternatives which pollute less. Can you walk, bike, carpool or use mass transit for your errands or daily commute? Can you “survive” one day a week without using your car?

What we drive is just as important as *when* we drive. We must embrace cleaner cars as they become available. The Coalition has long advocated for the auto manufacturers to produce, and for the public to purchase, zero and very low emission cars. Unfortunately, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to purchase or lease a zero emission vehicle (ZEV) right now.

However, two auto companies, Toyota and Honda are currently manufacturing and selling low emission hybrid electric vehicles. Hybrids combine a small internal combustion engine and a battery pack to improve efficiency and reduce pollution. They are a wonderful step in the right direction. While some automakers continue to foster the myth that the public isn't interested in greener vehicles, the Prius has a waiting list of 90-120 days, while the Insight's sales have increased 38.2% from September 2000 to September 2001.

Andy Boyd, Public Relations Manager at the

American Honda Motor Company, suggests that people are interested in hybrid-electrics because “number one, you don't need to plug them in. The Insight operates like a normal vehicle; it doesn't need special maintenance, care, or attention. It gets better fuel efficiency and saves you trips to the gas pump.” The Insight does get amazing fuel efficiency. In real-world driving the Insight could go 600-700 miles on a single tank, its an “idealist's vision”, says Boyd. For those who want a more familiar-looking car, Honda is releasing a hybrid electric Civic in Spring 2002. (Not everyone considers plugging in to be a hardship, especially if it means fewer trips to the gas station. Plug-in hybrids offer the *option* of plugging in and even lower emissions. Renault just came out with a plug-in hybrid in Europe. Look for more on this in the next newsletter!)

The Toyota Prius's fuel economy is 45 mpg on the highway and actually improves to around 52 mpg on the streets in traffic. Its technology allows the battery to be charged when going downhill or braking. “The Prius is a real world car, with no compromises for the customer”, says Ed La Rocque, National Advanced Technology Vehicle Manager at Toyota. The just released 2002 model is a

...operates like a normal vehicle; it doesn't need special maintenance, care, or attention

four door with traditional options such as cruise control and side impact airbags. A more futuristic option is also available: a navigation system (GPS) for the car's LCD monitor. Both the 2001 and the 2002 Prius are super ultra-low emission vehicles (SULEVs), while the Insight just achieved this status with the 2002 model.

Too often we choose our cars based only on current trends. It is the hope of the Coalition that as we realize 1) how much our driving impacts the environment, and 2) how our thirst for gasoline

continued p. 8

Get Yourself a Discounted Hybrid Electric!

EV Rentals, a division of Budget which rents environmentally friendly cars, is currently replacing their older hybrid electric models. In this case, older means within the last three years. This is an opportunity to get an environmentally

sound car for much less. A few of their Honda Insights are on sale for as low as \$13,500. For more information visit their website at www.evrental.com/resale.html or contact Tammy Larsen at (310)642-4581.

Pavley in the Palisades

The Coalition thanks *Sid and Peter Greenwald* for their generosity in opening their beautiful home for a fundraising reception on September 30th. The Coalition also thanks our guest speaker, *Assembly Member Fran Pavley*, for attending the event and sharing her thoughts on a variety of environmental legislation. Everyone who attended enjoyed wonderful food and wine and a great fall afternoon.



Assemblywoman
Fran Pavley

L.A. Community Colleges Continued

Angeles area, including three campuses in the San Fernando Valley (Pierce, Mission, and Valley College). Other colleges in the district are City College, East L.A. College, West L.A. College, L.A. Southwest College, Harbor College, and Trade-Tech.

The Coalition for Clean Air has called on the district to require that each new building be at least 25% more energy efficient than is currently required by the California building code (Title 24, Ch. 6) and to undertake substantial upgrades in energy efficiency whenever an existing building undergoes a major renovation.



James Provenzano,
Jennifer Warthan and
Nikitas Vlahopoulos at
the Greenwald event.

Finally, we are actively encouraging the Community College District to install solar photovoltaic systems on all new college buildings. Each kilowatt of solar power will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 30,000 pounds over the lifetime of the system.

Recent legislation (AB29x – Kehoe) encourages California Community Colleges to develop plans for achieving energy independence – by utilizing green building techniques, promoting renewable power sources on campus, and using “lifecycle cost analysis” to determine what is economically feasible. Most green building techniques, including the use of solar photovoltaic systems, will pay for themselves over their useful life.

The campaign so far has been impressive. Martin Schlageter of the Sierra Club has been going non-stop setting up meetings with College District Trustees and key community leaders as well as putting together mailings and telephone outreach to Sierra Club members. Greenpeace has contributed four young organizers (Nick Getzen, Glenn Hurowitz, Johanna Neumann & Kate Smolski) who have been working 12-hour days organizing students and faculty on the community college campuses, with great success. Walker Wells, a certified planner with Global Green USA, has testified at public workshops, contributed substantial green building expertise to the effort, and done important outreach to the Green Building network in L.A.

Lori Shimonishi, the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Coalition for Clean Air, has been lining up support from a number of other environmental, public health and community groups. A number of these organizations have endorsed the call for a strong sustainable building policy at LACCD, including NRDC, CALPIRG, the CLCV Education Fund, Community Coalition for Change, Environmental Defense, First AME Renaissance, Heal the Bay, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and several more. Many of these groups have also been active in the campaign in other ways.

If you would like to help, please send a letter of support letting the Board of Trustees know that the LACCD campuses need and deserve a strong sustainable building policy. Please send your letter to:

Board of Trustees
Los Angeles Community College District
770 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Fax: (213) 891-2035

***ACTION ALERT: Send a quick email,
or view a sample letter on our website at:
[http://www.coalitionforcleanair.org/cca/
activist.cfm](http://www.coalitionforcleanair.org/cca/activist.cfm)***

For more information, contact Kevin or Lori at the Coalition for Clean Air (310) 441-1544 or email Kevin at kevin@coalitionforcleanair.org

WISH LIST

Thank you to those who have already given so much to the Coalition! While we have accomplished much due to your generous support, the Coalition still struggles to be technologically current. We would greatly appreciate any donations, new or used, to help us in the fight for clean air!

- * Scanner
- * Photoshop Software
- * Color Printer
- * Multi-Media Power Point Projector

The Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Dump Diesel & Education/Outreach Receive Grants

The Coalition recently received a grant from the Energy Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trust and a grant from the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Both of these foundations have been steady supporters of ours for several years, and we'd like to extend a warm thank-you to them.

The Energy Foundation's grant supported our groundbreaking report on distributed power generation. Working with CALPIRG and several other groups, Todd Campbell, Kavita Paul, and Michelle Renee researched the most common ways that electricity is generated independent of power plants, including diesel and natural gas generators, solar panels, turbines, and fuel cells. The report evaluated the pollution and health impacts of each method and found that diesel-powered generators create the most pollution and have the worst health impacts. This information will be important to the California Air Resources Board as they consider regulations for distributed generation this December.

The Entertainment Industry Foundation grant supports our Education Program. These funds enable Lori to make presentations to schoolkids and community groups across the South Coast Air Basin. Thousands of people have learned about air pollution – and about what they can do to help – thanks to the Entertainment Industry Foundation's grants to us over the years.

Thanks, Energy Foundation and Entertainment Industries Foundation!

Calling All Volunteers!

We know that the Coalition's members are a motivated, diverse, and amazing group of people. Come spend some time with the Coalition and use your artistic skills, typing talents, or outgoing personality to help improve California's air! There are a number of activities we could use your help with:



TABLING

Spread the clean air message at festivals and fairs! Help answer questions, pass out literature, and lead youth-oriented activities. There are opportunities to person a table or booth an average of five times a month. There may even be an event in your own community that you could help with!

ADMINISTRATIVE

Are you great on the phone? Do you consider yourself a typing pro? Do you have database experience, or do you enjoy office ambiance? Know that your skills are valuable and imperative for an organization to run!

ACTION ORGANIZING

Help get postcards, letters, and petitions signed. Inform your community about Coalition campaigns, and then show them how to take action!

GENERAL RESEARCH

Calling all internet surfers! If you're a pro at surfing the net or calling organizations and companies for specific information, then we could definitely use your help.

If you have other special skills such as photography, web design, calligraphy, graphic design, event planning, or op-ed/LTE writing and are willing to help, please let us know! If your skill or talent was not listed, but you'd still like to donate your time and special abilities, don't hesitate to call.

To volunteer contact Lori Shimonishi at lori@coalitionforcleanair.org or (310)441-1544 x 320.

Summer Interns Help Improve California's Air

This past summer, the Coalition office was filled with new faces, ideas, and energy. Our four summer interns came on board, and worked on a variety of issues, from helping to create our new "energy" webpage, to co-authoring our latest report. We are happy to say that this year's interns found their experience with the Coalition a rewarding one:

The Coalition proved to be an amazing place to spend my summer. Highlights included being part of such a close, effective team of activists and the opportunity to engage in challenging work that pushed me to learn more about improving air quality. I have had various jobs throughout the environmental and policy worlds, and I highly recommend this opportunity to students who are eager to learn and want to be inspired.

- Michelle Renee

Interning at the Coalition gives a person an inside look at how people can influence others and make positive changes concerning issues that are so important yet so frequently overlooked. I think I've gained real world experience through working for a non-profit organization; but looking back, it's the Coalition's staff that made the summer memorable, enjoyable, and worthwhile.

- Lauren Faber

Thank you to this year's interns for all your incredible work, effort, and valuable input!

The Coalition believes in fostering student interest in air quality and activism. We are working to improve and define our intern program for ensuing summers. If you'd like to receive information about internship opportunities during the school year or the summer, please contact Lori at lori@coalitionforcleanair.org or (310)441-1544 x320.

.....
Please accept my tax-deductible donation toward the Coalition for Clean Air's important work.

\$15 _____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____ Interested in Volunteering _____

New Membership _____ Renewal _____ How did you hear about the Coalition? _____

Name _____

Address _____ State/Prov. _____

City _____ Zip code _____ Tel. _____

Email (for action alerts) _____

Please charge this contribution: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Other _____

Credit card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Please send a complimentary copy of "Clearing the Air" to _____

2001 SUMMER INTERNS



GRADUATE SCHOOL
Michelle Renee
UCLA, GSE&IS,
Ph.D. Program

UNDERGRADUATE
Lauren Faber
Stanford University

HIGH SCHOOL
Sam Brand
&
Adam Klappholz

There is another new way to help the Coalition - transfer stock to us! The transfer is easy to make, and what's more, the donation is tax-deductible. Please contact Bonnie for more information. (310)441-1544

All members receive "Clearing the Air" quarterly and "E News", our electronic newsletter. With a \$50 donation, members will receive a Coalition for Clean Air t-shirt.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 4TH

Last day to let the LA Community College District know you support a sustainable building policy.
Board of Trustees
(213)891-2044

DECEMBER 7TH/8TH

Town Hall Meeting
□Voices for Healthy Environments, Healthy Communities, Healthy Jobs
9550 Crenshaw Blvd.
More Info: Quintin
(310)794-5962

Local Power Generation Continued

“The Good, the Bad, and the Other” also promotes cost-effective and clean sources of local power generation such as solar, wind, fuel cells, and microturbines. It includes policy recommendations such as developing incentives for installing clean local power generation and establishing an amount of renewable electricity (i.e. wind, solar) that the state and local governments are required to purchase.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is considering standards for local power generation right now, and the new regulations are expected on November 15th. For the latest information on CARB’s decision, please visit our website. To find out more about local power generation, healthy alternatives, and what you can do to help strengthen regulations, please contact Todd at (310)441-1544 or download the report at:
www.coalitionforcleanair.org/cca/diesel.htm.
A special thank you to California State

University, Northridge for allowing the Coalition to hold the Los Angeles Press Conference on their campus. CSUN is the first Cal State University to install Capstone micro-turbine technology.

Hybrid Electrics Continued

impacts our foreign policy, more people will embrace environmentally sustainable transportation. With hybrids, we are one step closer to that goal.

For more information visit these websites:

Toyota Prius

<http://prius.toyota.com>

Honda Insight

www.honda2001.com/models/insight/index.html

Honda Civic - to view

<http://world.honda.com/Tokyo2001/auto/CIVIC-Hybrid/index.html>

Honda Civic - breaking news

www.hondanews.com

www.coalitionforcleanair.org

10780 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 210, Los Angeles, CA 90025
T: (310)441-1544 F: (310)446-4362

COALITION FOR CLEAN AIR NEWSLETTER

clearing the air