

Contact: Paul Gomez**(213) 978-0316****(213) 978-0333****Email: Paul.Gomez@lacity.org****THE BUREAU OF SANITATION ANNOUNCES NEW GREEN PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE AND RECOGNIZE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES**

LOS ANGELES (June 28, 2013) – The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) has announced the implementation of two new programs as part of the City of Los Angeles' Green Business Certification Program: the Los Angeles Green Business Program and the Los Angeles Green Arts Program, as well as the continuation of the Los Angeles Green Lodging Program.

Sanitation will partner with the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to implement and run the Los Angeles Green Business Program. This voluntary program will recognize and promote green businesses within the City of Los Angeles, initially focusing on the office/retail, restaurant and auto repair business sectors. The program was created through a motion by Councilmember Richard Alarcon (CD 7).

To become a certified green business, participants will have to comply with all environmental laws and regulations and also meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimize waste, thereby improving the livability of the City's neighborhoods.

LACCD will implement and publicize the program, provide green business program training and internship opportunities to interested students, conduct outreach to the community to encourage participation and motivate not-yet-green businesses

With the Los Angeles Green Arts Program, BOS will team up with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and Arts: Earth Partnership (AEP). This program will certify green cultural and arts facilities throughout the City. AEP will certify facilities using their Environmental Standards for Cultural Facilities; DCA will promote the program, and BOS will serve as coordinator. The Green Arts Program was created by a motion of Councilmember Bill Rosendhal (CD 11).

A partnership of BOS, the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board (LATCB), and Green Sea Inc. (Green Seal), the Los Angeles Green Lodging Program will certify green hotel and lodging properties in the City. Green Seal will certify facilities using their Environmental Standard for Hotels and Lodging Properties; the LATCB will promote the program, and BOS will serve as coordinator.

(more)

The Green Lodging Program was the first green business program to be implemented after the original motion from Councilmember Alarcon. Eight hotels have received certification, including some of the largest hotels in the City.

“One of the first actions I took when I returned to the City Council was to introduce a motion to create the Los Angeles Certified Green Business Program and I'm extremely pleased to know that it is finally coming to fruition,” said Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcon. “The green business program is a win-win-win for businesses, the public and the environment, helping business save money on resources, allowing shoppers to choose environmentally-responsible businesses and reducing our carbon-footprint and usage of resources all at the same time. I thank the Bureau of Sanitation and the LA Community College District for partnering with me on this exciting new program.”

“We are happy to collaborate with fellow City agencies and organizations on these important environmental programs and look forward to working with them to promote and recognize businesses and facilities in the City, who operate in a sustainable manner,” said Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar.

For more information on the City's Green Business Certification Program contact:
George Payba, Bureau of Sanitation at 213-485-3698 or george.payba@lacity.org
or go to <http://environmentla.org/>

ABOUT THE BUREAU OF SANITATION

As the lead agency for the City's environmental programs and initiatives, the Bureau of Sanitation protects public health and the environment through the administration and management of three major program areas: Clean Water (Wastewater), Solid Resources (Solid Waste Management) and Watershed Protection (Stormwater). These infrastructure programs collect, treat, dispose and recycle the solid and liquid waste generated by the nation's second largest city of 3.8 million residents in a 468 square mile area. Through these essential programs, the Bureau delivers a triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social benefits that sustain the quality of life in the City of Los Angeles.

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