

Ojai Valley Green Coalition Bulletin

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WEBMASTER

www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org



Mission: to bring together community organizations, governments, schools, businesses, and citizens of all ages to make Ojai Valley a model green community.

Coalition and Community

OVGC had its first participation in Ojai Day. This is a popular annual event and all the nonprofit groups seem to be there with lots of activities, entertainment, food, and the arts and crafts of course. OVGC had a lot of interest, collecting 46 new sign-ups to join the Coalition with most signing on for an action committee. In conjunction with Ojai Day, a showing of 'The 11th Hour' movie was held at the Ojai Playhouse. The playhouse space was generously donated by the new owners, Kathy & Mark Hartley, so be sure to thank them if you see them out and about.

Action committee chairs attended the October 28 and final Valley Wide Discussion coordinated by Supervisor Steve Bennett's office where the Coalition had another 75 volunteers sign-up. All said and done the membership list is nearing 400 and counting.

Did you know it costs the U.S. around \$1 billion each year to dispose of all its food waste (EPA) and organic waste accounts for about 30% of CA landfills? Not to worry, the solution is near.... on Saturday, December 1, at 10:00 a.m., Jessica Craven is giving a free workshop about composting at the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden on 401 South Ventura Street, behind City Hall. No need to sign up; just put your gloves on & come on over.

Message from Communications Committee

This is a dry run for an OVGC committee member bulletin that will be sent via e-mail regularly starting in January to keep us all in the loop of Coalition business. For future bulletins, meeting minutes submitted by committee chairs, will be compiled and presented. This will help eliminate duplication of energies between committees and we hope keep us all motivated and inspired. We will keep on top of meetings and events within the Coalition, City of Ojai and Ventura County governments, and organizations relating to green issues. Also, a committee can place a Want Ad for help, talent, resources, whatever. The OVGC website will soon be **THE** resource center and all bulletins, newsletters and most Coalition business will be archived there. Each committee chair will soon receive an Information Manual for OVGC Committee Chairpersons to give committees more guidance and complete contact information. A quarterly newsletter will also start in January for the general membership, which we hope everyone will find informative and fun with the focus on 'green' information and activities and how it relates to our community. Committee Want Ads will also be listed there. Bulletin and newsletter brought to you by the communications committee – we like to talk.

Meeting & Event Calendar

- 11/26** – Resources, 6:30pm
Board Room, OUSD
- 11/28** – Environ. Health, 6:15pm
Call Theresa 646-4792 for location
- 12/1** – Composting Workshop, 10am
Demonstration Garden
- 12/4** – Bldg & Construction, 7pm
Chaparral Auditorium
- 12/4** – Communications, 6:30pm
Board Room, OUSD
- 12/6** – Energy, 7pm
Chaparral Auditorium
- 12/6** – Waste Mgmt, 7pm
Oak Grove School, Main house
- 12/6** – Watershed, 7pm
Board Room, OUSD
- 12/6** – Food & Ag, 7pm
Help of Ojai W Campus (Honor Farm)
- 12/10** – Events, 5pm
410 N. Fulton

Check It Out!

Tues 11/27, 7-9pm Building Sustainable Communities: The Portland Story. Lecture by Susan Anderson, Director Portland Office of Sustainable Development. UCSB, Girvetz 1004.
www.sustainableportland.org



Communication Committee:

Looking for great websites, books, articles on green & sustainable living to share with members plus county wide meetings/events. Send to deborah.rssc@sbcglobal.net.

Resource Committee:

Can you find time for one more valuable commitment? Looking for new members to join committee. Focus includes fundraising and bringing in valuable resources such as, locations for events, skilled volunteers.... Please contact Linda at lhart412@adelphia.net.

Action Committee Business

In future bulletins, this column will give an overview of action committee activities through meeting minutes of the previous month. This issue we have reprinted the action committee mission statements to share.

Good job, these are awesome!

Building & Construction: transform the way buildings in the Ojai Valley are designed, built, and operated by educating the public and policy makers about the benefits of Green building, and by supporting the adoption of Green building codes.

Energy: guide the Ojai Valley toward energy independence, conservation, and greenhouse gas neutrality.

*Education *Production *Efficiency *Economic Vitality

Environmental Health: increase awareness of how everyday environmental toxins affect our health and daily lives. We believe that through personal, conscious choice of healthier eco-friendly products we can save trees, oil, land and water; we can reduce pollution..... and positively affect our health.

Food & Agriculture: develop greater valley-wide awareness of the environmental impact of our food choices, and to reduce our carbon footprint by encouraging a "Buy Fresh, Buy Local, and Eat Less Meat" fruits and vegetables campaign.

Waste Management: encourage all people and businesses in the Ojai Valley to reduce, reuse, recycle and intelligently dispose of waste materials. To promote integrated waste management, composting and sustainable living practices in the Ojai Valley through education, example and advocacy.

Transportation: promote transportation options that result in reduced air pollution, traffic congestion, and reliance on petroleum as a primary fuel source. Our goal is to make Ojai a model walking, biking, and alternative transportation friendly community.

Watershed: balance and integrate people and living systems through a healthy sustainable watershed. Our target audiences will be the general public, policy makers and school children.

Administrative Committees: support the action committees to the best of our abilities with resources, funds, public relations, internal communications and even a shoulder when needed.

If this all seems so, so formal and business-like, well we hope so. Martin Luther King had a dream, but he also had a plan and he was very, very organized. It is the Ojai Valley Green Coalition's intention to be a permanent fixture and voice for change and action in the Valley and beyond. It will continue to shape and reshape itself, adapt and experience plenty of growing pains. It's all good.

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the vision and mission.