



EcoNotes



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Claremont McKenna College

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Earth Day 2003

It is April!!! To the environmentally conscious, that means another Earth Day is around the corner. This year it's April 22nd! What will it mean to you? Will it be a time when you expand your commitment to conservation? Will you attend an Earth Day event and learn about the latest, most efficient technology? Will you start a new year's resolution by changing a bad habit?

Of course, if you haven't typically been in tune with environmental issues, we hope this will be your time to start. Some habits are hard to break, but others are a piece of cake. While you may not be able to give up your car entirely, you could think about carpooling. The same goes for your old appliances. It may be too costly to buy a new, energy-smart refrigerator, but you could start small by buying fluorescent light bulbs and water-saving shower heads. Whatever you do will help.

Please take a moment to look over our little newsletter. We put it together because there are a lot of great ideas that we want to share with you. Use what you can and pass along what you learn. And, as always, we encourage you to share this newsletter with someone new. It's another simple way to make a difference.

--*The Environmental Concerns Committee*

Composting at CMC

Composting is a practical and convenient way to handle waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and kitchen leftovers. It also reduces the numbers of bags sent to local landfills. Composted materials can be used to improve soil and plants by returning organic matter to the soil and making it more likely to retain water.

At Claremont McKenna we have three composting bins East of the football bleachers. We use grass clippings and leaves as composting materials. After two or three years we collect the compost and use it over flower and shrub beds. Composted mulch is also used as potting soil and to cover grass seed.



From this...



To this...

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The Price of Driving Expected to Rise ... and More News

Gasoline Prices on the Rise

Gasoline prices are expected to climb steadily over the new few months due to high-priced oil and the unlikely prospect of significant supplies from Venezuela before summer, the US Energy Department says. **Gasoline prices nationwide are expected to average \$1.54 a gallon by mid-spring**, about 10 cents a gallon higher than the current national average, according to the department's Energy Information Administration.

Traffic in Southland Earns a "D"

Southern California again ranked as the most congested metropolitan area in the nation, earning a "D" grade for the fourth year in a row in the Regional Report Card issued by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). **The average travel time to work increased about three minutes in each direction**, from 26 to 29 minutes. Inland Empire commuters had the longest travel times, at an average 30 minutes. On the positive side, we continue to hold the nation's highest carpooling rates.

*Taken from the February 2003 issue of *Crossroads*, a publication of the Southern California Association of Governments.

"Clean Air Affair" Scheduled

Thursday, April 24, 2003 11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m. on the north lawn of the Honnold/Mudd Library

Bring your completed Survey Form to the picnic on April 24 to receive a lunch claim ticket. If you cannot attend the picnic, return your completed Survey Form to Human Resources by Monday, April 28, and in mid-August, you will receive a free ticket to the Los Angeles County Fair. Plan to attend the picnic - even if you do not rideshare! This year's free lunch includes a sandwich from Quizno's (turkey, ham, or vegetarian), a bag of chips, cookie, and a beverage. Rideshare Participants will be eligible to win: A "Commuter Cruise" bike; two \$50 cash prizes; six \$25 cash prizes; and five \$5 gift certificates to Huntley Bookstore.

EcoNotes is published by the Environmental Concerns Committee, a group comprised of faculty, staff, and students. Any submissions or comments can be directed to the Facilities and Campus Services department. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Celebrate Earth Day 2003

In 1970, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed a nationwide "Environmental Teach-in" on college campuses across America. Denis Hayes led the organizing effort which involved 20 million Americans celebrating the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. These efforts led to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.¹



Today, more than 4000 organizations in 168 countries around the world celebrate Earth Day. Various groups organize activities and celebrations every April to call attention to such important topics as clean energy solutions, global warming, resource conservation, and water quality.

You can visit www.earthday.net for information about events around the world and, of course, in your own community. On the Earth Day web site, you will also find great information about organizing grass roots movements and testing your own environmental friendliness. If you're in a hurry, though, we have pulled up some information about local Earth Day events:

Earth Day on the Promenade

Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. - Earth Day on the Promenade provides the whole family with info about products and technologies to save money and protect the environment in homes and businesses. (Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica, CA)

Environmental EXPO at CSUSB

Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Cal State's Coussoulis Arena - An educational fun fair for the whole family. Expect to find entertainment, activities, exhibits, a food court, and more. Admission and parking are free! (5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA)

¹ <http://www.earthdayla.org/about.html>