



EcoNotes



Volume 9, Issue 1

Claremont McKenna College

September 2002

The Environmental Concerns Committee

Claremont McKenna College has long valued the environment and taken great efforts to protect our natural resources. One part of that commitment to ecology is CMC's Environmental Concerns Committee. The Environmental Concerns Committee is comprised of students, faculty, and staff who meet to discuss key issues. They research and implement environmental efforts on a local, regional, and global level. They produce this newsletter and organize other events to bring attention to environmental issues.

If you have ideas for improving efforts to reduce utilities, increase recycling rates, avoid waste and encourage resource preservation, or if you would like to write an article for a future issue, please contact Tim Lopez at x71637.

--Tim Lopez, Environmental Concerns Committee Chair

Recycle!

For more than fourteen years, Facilities and Campus Services has been working with the Claremont McKenna community to recycle as much trash as possible. Each office, residence hall, classroom, and meeting area has designated "recycle only" containers and regular trashcans. All waste placed in the "recycle only" containers is taken to the larger recyclable bins on campus and then processed by the City. Our goal is to recycle 75% of the waste on campus. Following is a list of items that can be recycled:

- Aluminum cans and foil
- Metal cans
- Glass
- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Mixed paper (copier paper, colored paper, junk mail, catalogues, envelopes, & magazines)
- Plastics rated 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 on the bottom
- Waxed drink cartons (milk, juice, etc.)
- Styrofoam

As long as these containers are not contaminated (either mixed with non-recyclable items and/or food waste), they can be

placed in the "recycle only" containers and they will never reach a landfill. Unfortunately, the building attendants do not have the time to separate the bins. They must rely on you for that. The success of the recycling program depends on everyone doing their part.

Last year at this time we were recycling 41% of our trash. Our goal is 75%. We thank you for your efforts thus far and ask for your continued support.



EcoNotes

Rideshare ... It's the American Way to Go

Is the “freedom of the open road” perhaps not as free as it seems?

With half the oil Americans use being imported – most from the Middle East – how much oil we use affects our economy and national security, according to the US Department of Energy. “In the past, dependence on oil has cost our economy dearly,” claims the agency’s web site at www.fueleconomy.gov. “Oil price shocks and price manipulation by the OPEC cartel from 1979 to 1991 cost the US about \$4 trillion – almost as much as we spent on national defense over the same time period.”

Cars and trucks use a full two-thirds of the nation’s oil. When you make fewer trips to the gas pumps, you not only have the personal benefit of saving money, but you’re also showing your stripes by reducing the need to import oil or ruin the beauty of the nation by drilling here.

So, yes, affixing a flag to your antennae is one way to demonstrate your pride when on the road. Here are a few more:

- Carpool, vanpool or take transit to work.
- Going to a meeting off site? Ask if someone else is going too, then share the ride.
- Do what’s called ‘trip-chaining’ – running all your errands in a row so you’re restarting a warm, more fuel-efficient engine.
- If you currently carpool with one person, recruit an extra rider once in a while.
- Handle meetings by phone when possible.

Rideshare week is October 7-11 and is a great chance to try carpooling, vanpooling, transit, or even bicycling or walking to work.

Pitch In On California Coastal Cleanup Day

On Saturday, September 21st, tens of thousands of volunteers will turn out to beaches from San Diego to the Oregon border, to the lake front of Lake Tahoe, to the inland creeks and rivers of Sacramento, Fresno, and Sisikyou counties, and to many other waterways throughout California. The common thread linking these volunteers is their individual and active commitment to maintaining the beauty and health of California’s streams, rivers, and ocean, and protecting animals from the hazards of marine debris. In 2001, over 37,000 Californians picked up over 1,000,000 pieces of debris that weighed in at over 580,000 pounds of trash and more than 100,000 pounds of recyclables. The data that is collected during the Cleanup becomes a powerful voice for conservation once tabulated by The Ocean Conservancy, which sponsors the International Coastal Cleanup. By cleaning up, collecting data on what you find, and recycling, you’ll demonstrate that environmental stewardship and protecting our coast and waterways is fun, easy, and is a responsibility we all share.

To make sure you are ready for this year’s Coast Cleanup, just follow the easy steps listed below:

Select a location and contact the coordinator.
(Call 1-800-262-7848 for more information.)

Go to the beach and check in.

Collect data and pick up trash.

Thank you for being part of the solution.

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.

¹ Taken from the Southern California Association of Government web page <http://www.socalcommute.org/>,