



Ojai Valley Green Coalition

Monthly E-News

December 2009

“Go Green, Ojai!” to Give a Look at Our Valley’s Green Future

Starting this month on December 10 and running through February 14, the Ojai Valley Green Coalition will present “Go Green, Ojai!”—an exhibit that answers the questions “How green is the Ojai Valley now?” and “How much greener can it be in the future?”

In its continuing efforts to make the Ojai Valley a model green community, and in a joint undertaking with the [Ojai Valley Museum](#), the Coalition is planning its exhibit to explore the many facets of sustainability that are vital to the health and well-being of the Ojai Valley community. The event will kick off with a reception on December 13, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. at the museum, featuring Casa Barranca organic wine, nibbles

made from local produce by the Culinary Club, and music by the Foothill String Quartet. Admission to the reception will be \$25, and prior reservations are required. They can be made at the [ojaivalleygreencoalition.org](#) website, by visiting the museum office Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M., or by calling (805) 640-1390. (See form on page 5.)


Admission for “Go Green, Ojai!” will be \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children ages 6-18. Admission is free for children under 5 and for current museum members. The exhibit is being sponsored by Ventura County Contractors Association, Southern

California Edison, SV Media Relations, Ojai Community Bank, Rotary Club of Ojai, EcoLogic Life, LibertyPak, Casa Barranca, Meiners Oaks Sash & Door, California Solar, Frontier Paint, and the Cambianca Family. The Ojai Valley Museum is located

at 130 W. Ojai Avenue. For more information about the museum, go to [ojaivalleymuseum.org](#) via the link at left. For further information on the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, visit the Coalition website (link also at left) or call (805) 669-8445.

Visitors will be encouraged to add enjoyment to their holiday season by going green in Ojai! This interactive family event will highlight many areas of public interest, including what we can do



to protect our rare and valuable watershed, how reconstituting our historic wetlands recharges the groundwater, alternative modes of transportation, how to build a compost tumbler from recycled materials, the restoration of the creek in Libbey Park, reversing the decline of native trees while reforesting the valley, the greening of the valley’s food and agriculture, and Ojai’s existing green buildings. Also featured will be information of more personal interest, including how to transform a home into a green oasis with alternative energy, rainwater catchment barrels, flooring, beautiful recycled tiles, and more. 

Two Green Thumbs Up!

Two thumbs up to Tom Bostrom and the Ojai Trees group for donating and planting a 15-gallon sycamore tree in the Ojai Creek at Libbey Park during the Coalition's creek-restoration project. Ojai Trees has been working in local neighborhoods to maintain Ojai's community forest by planting trees at low cost. Visit ojaitrees.org to learn more.

And Ojai's own Geoff Wardle deserves a thumbs-up salute for helping to create a series of five annual summits on Sustainable Mobility at the [Art Center College of Design](http://www.artcenter.edu) in Pasadena. These summits bring together leading experts from around the world in sustainability, transportation, and the auto industry. Discussion focuses on the significant challenges that the developed and developing economies of the world face in providing ecologically and economically sustainable transportation.

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This e-newsletter is produced by the
Communications and Publicity Committee

Electronics and Other "Universal Wastes" Don't Belong in the Trash – Bring Them to Our January E-Waste Event



At the Coalition's first e-waste collection event, held in January of 2009, nine tons of electronic waste material was brought to the parking lot of Ojai Community Bank for proper recycling.

If you receive new electronics or small appliances as holiday gifts, you need to know that it's illegal to throw any old items being replaced in the trash; nor should they be go into your recycling bin.

These universal wastes, as they're called, contain heavy metals and other toxic substances that can leach into the ground and groundwater. And, although they can be recycled, all such electronic waste material requires special handling because of the hazardous materials it contains.

In partnership with Ojai Community Bank, the Ojai Valley Directory, and Gold Coast Recycling & Transfer Station, the Ojai Valley Green Coalition will hold its second annual E-Waste Collection Event on Saturday,

January 9, in the bank's parking lot at 402 W. Ojai Avenue, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

We'll be accepting for recycling most types of electronics and small appliances, including radios, stereos, televisions, computers, monitors, printers, toasters, fax machines, and microwave ovens. The Coalition will also accept CDs, DVDs, iPods, cell phones, holiday lights, ink cartridges, toner cartridges, and household batteries weighing up to five pounds. The event is open to all Ojai Valley residents and businesses.

And remember that, year round at its monthly Chaparral Auditorium community presentations, the Coalition collects unwanted CDs, DVDs, ink cartridges, toner cartridges, iPods, and cell phones for recycling. 🌱

Thinking in Green

Deborah Pendrey
OVGC Executive Director



The Many Benefits of Volunteering ~ and of Membership

I want to warmly thank all of you members for your interest in the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, and for your support of it through 2009. From our January E-Waste Collection Event, at which we took in nine tons of electronics, to our November Creek Restoration Project, at which we crammed three forty-yard bins full of green waste for recycling, we didn't rest on our laurels once!

We'll hit the ground running again in 2010, with our second annual E-Waste Event, museum exhibit speakers, more creek restoration work, the film Fresh at Ojai Theatre, and a presentation by Ojai Trees—all of which will just take us to the end of winter, so stay tuned.

Now I'm not one for New Year resolutions, but if you like to make a list, we hope you'll consider getting more involved with the Coalition as a worthy resolution. In this regard, I looked up the Wiki definition of volunteer, and was reminded of volunteering's many benefits:

1. Economic benefits: The activities undertaken by volunteers that would otherwise have to be funded by private capital, so volunteering adds to the overall economic output of a community and reduces the burden on organizational spending.

2. Social benefits: Volunteering helps to build more cohesive communities, fostering greater trust between citizens and developing norms of solidarity and reciprocity that are essential to stable communities.

3. Individual benefits: Through volunteering, individuals can meet people and gain skills or work experience.

At our October birthday celebration, I shared that after two years of working

with the Coalition, I am a better person. My life has been enriched by those I have met, and it's true that, as a volunteer, one gets so much more than one gives. In a January mailing, we'll be listing some "at-home" volunteer opportunities, and then we always have events. Plus, our committees can always use new energy, so come on out to a meeting. We try to keep the calendar current on the website.

Hope to see you at the museum exhibit reception, and I'll talk with you again in the February newsletter. We're going to give Sonia Nordenson, our incredible newsletter editor, January off to rest her fingers.



Also, it's official! We're now a dues-based membership organization. If you haven't yet started your own membership, it's only \$25 per year. And, for another \$25 donation, we'll send your friend, family member, or colleague a holiday tree card made of 100% recycled, post-consumer cardstock. The gift card will be hand-tied to seed paper that can be planted and grown, and delivered in your name as news of a yearlong membership in the Coalition. It's a win-win gift with a really low carbon footprint!

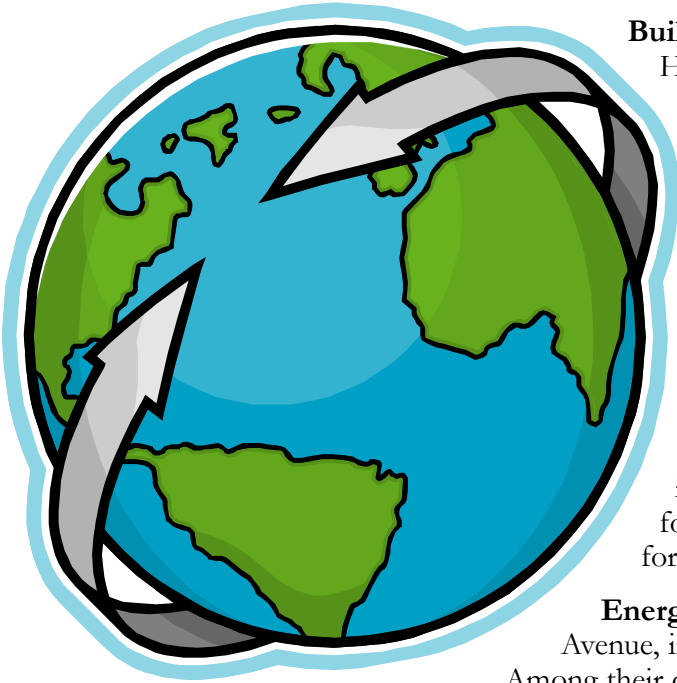
All are still welcome as community members, but it's our supporting members who give us the means to do our work. So a big THANK YOU! to the following people:

Tyler Suchman
Tim & Laurie Baird
Katherine Hope
Caryn & Charlie Bosson
Susan Broidy
Deborah & Wayne Pendrey
Kenley Neufeld & Leslie Davis
Angela & Anthony Ocone
David & Lisa Luckenbach
Sonia Nordenson
Ray King
Kale Starbird
Steve Olsen
Sheri Ann Cate
Len Klaif & Linda Harmon
Frances Fitting
David White
Lori Hamor & Grady Runyan
David Farber
Julia Heyman
Steven Lefler
Ruth & Larry Reynolds
Tessa Turner
Valerie Mintz
Renee Roth
Jonathan Katz & Stephanie Pincetl
Gene & Dianne Ulyon Bullard
Suzan Williams
Christine Brennan

Won't you join us, too? And, for the people on your holiday list, consider a gift membership in the Ojai Valley Green Coalition! To sign up, [click here](#). 🌱

What's Going on in the Coalition Committees

“Knowledge, Put into Action, Is Power”



Building and Construction - Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. The committee is partnering with the Energy Committee on a residential efficiency-evaluation program, and has also helped to design and build the cutaway green home display for the Coalition's "Go Green, Ojai!" exhibit at the Ojai Valley Museum.

Communications and Publicity - Meets on the 1st Thursday at 6:30 P.M., 202 W. Aliso Street. The committee's ongoing projects include website maintenance and the creating and editing of flyers, emails, display ads, and press releases, plus radio interviews, this monthly e-newsletter, and the editing of Coalition members' letters to the editor for the *Ojai Valley News*.

Event Planning - Meets on the 1st Monday at 5:00 P.M., 221 E. Matilija Street, in Suite J. Call 669-8445 for confirmation. The committee is working on details for the next monthly community presentation, and has been continuing to plan for the Coalition's museum exhibit and opening reception.

Energy - Meets on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. Among their other projects, the committee members have been partnering with the Building and Construction Committee to start a home energy-efficiency evaluation program.

Environmental Health - Meetings have been temporarily suspended, as the Committee Chair is presently working with the OUSD school district's Green Team. Call Marleen Luckman at (805) 279-2101 for more information.

Food and Agriculture - Meeting dates and locations vary. Email Dulanie Ellis-La Barre at dulanie@sbcglobal.net for information on this committee or on its Grow Food Party Crew and Culinary Club subcommittees.

Resources - Meets on the 2nd Monday at 5:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. The committee has proposed an alternative holiday gift: "Buy a Coalition membership for a friend," and is creating a unified calendar for every income-generating event. Besides fundraising, its ongoing responsibilities include obtaining grants and keeping tabs on the Coalition's budget.

Transportation - A new Committee Chair has stepped forward to reactivate this committee: Suza Francina. The monthly meeting time has yet to be announced. If this is an area of interest to you, please contact Suza at SFrancina@aol.com for more information.

Waste Management - The committee meets on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building, and will meet next in January after coordinating the e-waste event scheduled for January 9. The next Day Without a Bag event has been postponed until the spring of 2010, pending sufficient sponsors.

Watershed - Meets on the 1st Wednesday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. Email Brian Holly at brian@biorc.com for further information. The committee was awarded a grant by the Community Wetland Restoration Grant program for a creek-restoration project to eradicate invasive non-native plants and restore the ecosystem of the Ojai Creek riparian corridor within Libbey Park (see page 6).

The Green Coalition Welcomes the Ojai Economy Group into the Fold

The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is pleased to welcome the Ojai Economy Group as a project under the OVGC umbrella. The OEG was founded in March of 2009 by a small group of Ojai citizens who were excited about the potential of a new economy and the societal benefits of moving from a mindset of scarcity and competition to one of abundance and cooperation.

The group coalesced its focus around two ideas: implementing a complementary currency in Ojai and hosting a forum on the new economy. The 2009 Ojai Forum, held in September and cohosted by the Ojai Economy

Group and Meditation Mount, was a rousing success. The event was kicked off on a Friday with world-renowned economist Hazel Henderson on satellite remote, and carried through the weekend with local and regional presentations and discussions.

The complementary currency, often referred to as “Ojai Bucks,” is in development. Likely to be launched in an electronic format, the new medium of exchange will feature a plastic card to be swiped, much as one would use a debit card or gift card. The OEG’s small technology team, which has expertise in global transaction processing, is structuring the platform and

creating a strong value proposition for all participants in the program.

Members of the OEG and OVGC share a common vision of economic and environmental sustainability, so this is an exciting union of collective resources, skills, and experience that can move forward projects to benefit the local economy and the quality of life in the Ojai Valley.

The next general meeting of the Ojai Economy Group will be on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 P.M. at the Ojai Unified School District offices. For more information on the OEG, visit ojaieconomy.com.

For those planning to attend the museum reception on December 13:

I/We would like to attend the [Go Green, Ojai!](#) Reception, December 13, 4 p.m. at \$25 per person

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I'm unable to attend, but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Payment by check Visa MasterCard

Please make check payable to Ojai Valley Museum.

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

By December 7, please return this form with your payment to the office of the Ojai Valley Museum:
130 W. Ojai Avenue, Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Your name(s) will then be on a reservation list at the door.

For further information, call (805) 640-1390.

Signature _____

In and Around the Valley

December 4-6, Permaculture and the Sacred with Starhawk. Visit OjaiFoundation.org for details.

December 9, A public talk by Joel Salatin: Pathways to Relocalization, 7-9 P.M., Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Central Library. Visit cecsb.org for more information.

December 12, Treasures from Trash children's program, 10 A.M.-12 P.M. and 1-3 P.M. sessions. Visit OjaiValleyMuseum.org for details.

December 12, Compost Workshop, 10-11:30 A.M., City of Ojai Demonstration Garden

December 13, Reception for the "Go Green, Ojai!" exhibit, 4 P.M. Ojai Valley Museum. \$25 reservation required (see page 1).

Coming Up

January 9, E-Waste Collection Event in the parking lot of Ojai Community Bank at 402 W. Ojai Avenue

The Ojai Creek Restoration Project: Phase One Is Near Completion, and a Success

Adapted from an *Ojai Valley News* Article by Linda Harmon

The Ojai Creek used to be home to year-round populations of rainbow trout, so prevalent that early travelers could catch their own supper in what is now Libbey Park. Water coursed through the creek between stands of native oaks, sycamores, and black walnut trees. Toyon, blue elderberry, California blackberry, and holly leaf cherries covered the banks, providing food for a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

Work is progressing to restore that natural habitat and bring those days back again. Brian Holly, chair of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition's Watershed Committee and a biologist working in bio-habitat restoration for more than 10 years, wrote and received a \$28,250 grant last June to restore the portion of the Ojai riparian corridor that passes through Libbey Park.

In November the funds from that grant, along with the donated labor of over 100 volunteers, were put to work on the first stage of that project: clearing the acre-plus of land surrounding the creek that passes through Libbey Park. For three Saturdays, volunteers worked alongside hired members of the [Concerned Resources and Environmental Workers](#) (the CREW), clearing patches of periwinkle, German ivy, and arundo donax, all non-natives.

The green waste was recycled at Ojai Valley Organics through the generosity of Consolidated Disposal Services, who also hauled away a considerable amount of trash after the recyclables were sorted out. (In case you were wondering about fallout from the Libbey Park Tennis Courts, the more than 100 recovered tennis balls were taken to the SPCA for the enjoyment of the dogs confined there.)

Professional crews will continue the process in December, removing the larger invasive non-natives approved for elimination by the California Department of Fish and Game, including palms, Siberian elms, and ash trees. Then the next step for the restoration will begin on January 16, when volunteer teams will be diversifying the area by planting additional native species that had been previously crowded out. They'll plant arroyo and black willow, California blackberry, and coyote brush, some of which were grown from cuttings by students of Oak Grove School. Trees to be reintroduced may include black walnut, cottonwood, black cottonwood, California big leaf maple, and of course native oak.

If you'd like to get involved, contact Deborah at membership@ojaivalleygreencoaliton.com or leave a message for her at the Coalition's number: (805) 669-8445. If you'd like to donate a tree, contact Tom Bostrom at ojaitrees.com. 🌳



A Report on Our 2nd Annual Holiday Light Exchange

Thanks to the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance and Southern California Edison, 50 more strands of highly energy-efficient LED holiday lights will glitter in the Ojai Valley this season and there will be 50 fewer incandescent



light strings. Participating in this free exchange program for the second time, the Energy Committee of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition spent a Sunday across from the Farmers Market, trading out lights and distributing information on energy conservation. They were helped by youth from the Roots & Shoots organization.

Now the Waste Management Committee kicks in, raising funds through its recycling efforts to ship the old incandescent lights to where they'll be recycled. If you're ready to give up some incandescent lights, you can still recycle them at the January 9 e-waste collection event (see page 2). 🌳

The following report was published on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 by *Agence France Presse*:

Mankind Using Earth's Resources at Alarming Rate

WASHINGTON - Humanity would need five Earths to produce the resources needed if everyone lived as profligately as Americans, according to a report issued Tuesday.

commondreams.org/headline/2009/11/24-2