

# Ojai Valley Green Coalition Bulletin

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## WEBSITE

[www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org](http://www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org)



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

## Coalition and Community

**Presentation Series:** Hot Dog! Soy that is. The Food & Agriculture committee put on a very informative and well planned presentation. We had 80+ attendees even with several other events in town and had a generous \$106.85 donated. The Watershed committee is up next on May 22. Co-chair Paul Jenkin has extensive public speaking experience on the subject and will present "What is a Watershed?" We hope Sara Benjamin will bring her beautiful Watershed relief map that was displayed at Earth Day. And we hope you will bring a friend and join us in supporting our presentation committees.

The **Ojai Reads** project is up and running. So, save the date June 10, 7pm for the Ojai library. There's still time to start the book Plan B 3.0 by Lester Brown and join the discussion. All the details can be found on the Coalition website. Please feel free to download the flier and send to your contact list.

The **Ojai Music Festival** is going green and they've asked OVGC to head up a Green Team. Ten volunteers will staff zero waste stations, water stations and bike valet throughout the June 5-8 affair. Volunteers get a Music Festival organic t-shirt and 2 tickets to the event. Volunteers who sign-up for the most time slots will take priority. Email Deborah at [coordinator@ojavalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojavalleygreencoalition.com) for an application and more details. We finalize the list on May 10.

Reminder from the Waste Management Committee – composting is one of the more fun and healthy ways to reduce your landfill contribution. Oh look, there just happens to be a **Composting Workshop** with Jessica Cravens at the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden May 10, 10am-12 noon.

## And the winner is....

The Ojai Valley, if the Coalition helps push forward the opportunity the city staff has initiated with a Sustainability Roadmap. City staff is planning to formally present the Roadmap to the city council for review at their May 13 meeting. Let's pencil the date in and plan on attending if the Roadmap makes it on the agenda. The Coalition is also calling a special meeting for all members on May 10; 10am, to start compiling our questions, suggestions and concerns and help the city answer some of its questions. Those questions being: 1) Are there programs that are already happening in the Ojai Valley that aren't listed on the Roadmap? 2) What are the programs that aren't already happening in the Ojai Valley that should be listed on the Roadmap, like environmental health issues? 3) What partner agencies/groups are not listed on the map? 4) Like the Methane Gas Recovery Program listed on the Roadmap, are there other programs that might not make sense for the Ojai Valley?

We will confirm the Roadmap is on the agenda a couple of days before the 13<sup>th</sup> and at that time confirm a location for the Coalition meeting on May 10. Contact Deborah for a copy of Santa Barbara's 2007 annual sustainable report – an example of a roadmap in action. Reminder you can download the Ojai Roadmap from the Coalition website.

Featured Forum**The Future of the Central Coast Regional Transportation System****Saturday, May 10, 2008****(National Train Day)****2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

Ruby's Café of Oxnard

348 South Oxnard Blvd.

Oxnard, California

(Just steps from the train station at the Oxnard Transportation Center )

Guest Speakers:**Rick Cole**, City Manager, Ventura**Grant House**, Councilmember, Santa Barbara**Katherine Perez**, Transportation Planner, Southern California Transportation & Land Use Coalition**Ron Botoroff**, Ventura County Civic Alliance

Please RSVP Deborah if you would like to attend and join an Ojai carpool. To RSVP directly contact Carmen Ramirez at (805) 658-0810 ext. 213 or [carmen@coastalalliance.com](mailto:carmen@coastalalliance.com).

Check It Out!

The Coalition website has a master calendar now! Find all meetings and events in one location.



For Waste Management committee presentation on June 26. Do you own EcoSpun clothing you'd be willing to model or loan for their eco-fashion show? Can you collect 6 pack plastic rings and single serving plastic bottles easily for them? Email Deborah at [coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com).

They also need sponsors for their reusable bag campaign. \$500 gets the sponsor's logo on 3000 bags. That's .1667 a bag! The bags will be distributed at all Coalition events. Only 4 of the 8 spots are left. Contact Deborah at the email address above for details.

**Building & Construction – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 7pm, Chaparral High School, Rm 6.** Reggie Wood has proposed an all-committee workshop for the Ojai Roadmap to Sustainability. Committees would determine and recommend specific actions to city and county governments.

**Communication & Publicity – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:30 pm, 202 W. Aliso St.** Completion of OVGC Sponsor and Donor Program documents for Resource Committee. New calendar graphic for website. Completion of e-Bulletins, e-Newsletters and Green column for the Ojai Valley News. Responding to OVGC phone line and website requests.

**Events – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 221 E. Matilija St. Ste. J.** Call 646-7229 for confirmation. Ongoing planning and support for Committee Presentations. Completed event planning form from chairs is needed 8 weeks prior to presentations. Seeking more committee members, especially those with event planning expertise.

**Energy – Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. 7 pm, Chaparral High School, Rm. 6.** Power Purchase Agreements are being discussed with Casitas Municipal Water District. VCREA's assistance may be enlisted. Also looking at light pollution in Ojai's night skies. Solar thermal water heating systems are also under discussion.

**Environmental Health – Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 6:30 pm, Rainbow Bridge.** Committee's booth at Earth Day had many enthusiastic, knowledgeable visitors who learned about non-toxic cleaning products. Still looking for new members. Would like to see an OVGC Green Directory so people could find green resources in the valley.

**Food & Agriculture – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 6 pm, 221 E. Matilija St. Ste. J.** Call 646-7229 to confirm. Committee Presentation on April 24, with a media slide show. A practice run took place the day before.

**Resource – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 6 pm, 414 E. Ojai Ave, Tim Baird's office.** Sponsor levels and Donor program structure complete, posted on website and in Donor Packets, which will be provided to each board member for seeking contributions. Ojai Rotary West presentation on May 27<sup>th</sup> regarding Green Home & Building Tour in October.

**Transportation – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:30 pm, 308 Drown Ave.** Kick-off of 'Ojai Reads' program at Earth Day. Discussion group will be on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, Ojai Library. Looking at possibility of bike lanes between the 'Y' and 5 points at El Roblar. Researching City's plans for bike lanes. Working with school district on 'Idle-free' program.

**Waste Management – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7 pm, Oak Grove School Main House.** Call Deborah at 649-8631. 'Day without a Bag' will be on June 28th. OVGC reusable bags will be promoted. Committee's Presentation entitled 'Batteries, Bottles & Bags' will be on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Watershed – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. 7 pm, Chaparral Auditorium.** 20 more trees were planted in the Ojai Valley, thus helping to restore canopy, generate shade and maintain our aquifers. An Ojai Valley overlay map is in the planning stages. It would map the watershed, green businesses and other resources. A bio-diesel co-op is also in the planning stages in Ojai. One already exists in Ventura at Patagonia.

**All Committees –** Short meetings and bite-sized tasks can help your members stay actively involved. Now is a good time to contact those members who have been missing lately and invite them back into the fold. Those additional committee members may provide more points of view, which are helpful when working toward consensus on important issues. As the old saying goes "Many hands make the work light."

Oak Grove School is soliciting feedback on Earth Day for next year. Email Deborah at [coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com)