

LAFAYETTE AS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.

– Marshall McLuhan

The students in Janet Thomas' Environmental Science Class at Acalanes High have an idea. It's pretty simple, actually; they want to save the world – starting with Lafayette. It just so happens that the City Council has the same idea.

One of the Council's priorities for 2005-2006 is to consider adoption of a municipal environmental strategy, including a Green Building Ordinance. The process started with research by the Acalanes students on environmental strategies used by other cities in California, nationally and internationally. The strategies that were most adaptable to Lafayette were reviewed and discussed by a small group of City representatives, Acalanes High School faculty and students, and a few interested citizens.

Over the course of several months, the group developed a draft mission statement, guiding principles, and goals. In September, the City Council considered their recommendations and adopted the Mission Statement for Lafayette's environmental strategy. At the same time, the Council established the Environmental Strategy Task Force to further develop the program.

What is a sustainable community?

Sustainability is related to the quality of life in a community. Ideally the economic, social and environmental systems that

make up the community should provide a healthy, productive, meaningful life for all residents, present and future. However, when society, economy and environment are viewed as separate, unrelated parts of a community, the community's problems are often viewed as isolated issues and that

can cause a number of problems. For example, solutions to one problem can make another problem worse, piecemeal solutions may create opposing groups and decisions that focus primarily on short-term benefits may have long-term adverse affect.

Rather than a piecemeal approach, a sustainable community takes into account the links between the economy, the environment and the society and makes decisions that will be best for all in the long term.

What does this mean for Lafayette?

Lafayette's environmental strategy does not include implementing sweeping programs or making drastic changes in the community. Rather, the goal is to focus the entire community on taking small steps and making conscious decisions today that will allow the city to thrive not only for the next 20, 30 or 40 years, but far into the future. On the following pages are some actions that you can take immediately that will help ensure that future generations will have a healthy Lafayette to love.

Environmental Mission Statement

The City of Lafayette is committed to developing and implementing environmental policies and programs that will enable the City and its residents to meet their present needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Draft Guiding Principles

- Broad community cooperation – among the City government, businesses, residents, and all community stakeholders – is necessary to achieve an environmentally sustainable community.
- The concept of environmental sustainability guides City policy.
- Protection, preservation and restoration of the natural environment are high priorities of the City.
- The City is committed to procurement decisions that minimize negative environmental impacts.
- Community awareness, responsibility, participation and education are key elements of an environmentally sustainable community.
- Environmental quality, economic health and social equity are mutually dependent.
- Those environmental issues most important to the community will be addressed first, and the most cost-effective programs and policies will be selected.
- Lafayette recognizes that it is part of a wider community.



PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Lafayette has adopted an environmental mission statement to help preserve a healthy environment for generations to come. Decisions we make every day impact our environment. Here are some facts sent from Acalanes High School's Environmental Science classes that you might find helpful in making these decisions:

WATER: Bottled or Tap?

Bottled water in the U.S. is now a \$4 billion/year business. Lafayette citizens, however, might want to reconsider adding to the growth of that business. Our EBMUD tap water comes directly from the Mokelumne River in the Sierras. Often cited as among the best drinking water in the country, EBMUD water is of higher quality than the average bottle of water and is a fraction of the cost — most bottled water costs more than gasoline!

Tests on hundreds of different bottled waters found that 22% of the water tested was contaminated at levels violating California limits. In addition, from an environmental standpoint, placing water in plastic bottles — 85% of which will not be recycled — and transporting them around the country uses far more energy and other resources than tap water.



Best choice: Tap water.



GROCERY BAGS: Paper or Plastic?

Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide, billions of which end up as litter and do not degrade. Plastic bags are among the 12 items of debris most often found in coastal cleanups. On the other hand, while paper does degrade, the U.S. alone used 10 billion paper grocery bags in 1999, requiring 14 million trees to be cut down.

Best choice: Neither. Try cloth bags, and you can make a difference when you shop.

CUPS: Paper or Styrofoam?

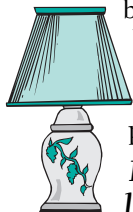
Making a paper cup takes 4–6 times the raw material and uses 300 times the wastewater than a polystyrene cup. Paper also produces 10–40 times the contaminants of styrofoam when it degrades and costs more to transport.

Best choice: Styrofoam. However, if you stop off every morning for a cup of coffee on the way to work, try to bring your own reusable container.



LIGHTING: Incandescent or Fluorescent?

Compact fluorescent lights use one-fourth as much electricity as conventional bulbs and although these bulbs cost \$6-15 per bulb, they last 60–70 times longer than incandescent bulbs. If every US household replaced four 100 watt incandescent light bulbs with 23 watt, fluorescent bulbs, the reduced air pollution would equal what is produced by 7 million cars.



Best choice: Fluorescent. Try the new “soft lighting” options now on the market.

TURN THE TIDE

Problems like greenhouse gases, wildlife extinction, and resource depletion are all huge issues and it may seem daunting to think about “saving the world” all on your own. However, even very small actions, taken consistently day after day, year after year by many thousands of people can make a difference. Here are ten simple things you can do right away that will pack an environmental punch:

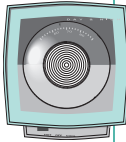
- 1. Skip a car trip each week.** Replace a weekly 20 mile car trip by telecommuting, biking or combining errands and you'll reduce your annual emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide by nearly a thousand pounds!
- 2. Replace one beef meal each week.** Livestock currently consume 70 percent of America's grain production and for every 1,000 of us who take this action, we save over 70,000 pounds of grain, 70,000 pounds of topsoil and 40 million gallons of water per year.
- 3. Shift your shrimp consumption.** About 60 billion pounds of sea life die each year as “bycatch” – animals caught accidentally as a result of wasteful fishing techniques. For every 1,000 of us who stop eating shrimp, we can save over 12,000 pounds of sea life per year.
- 4. Declare your independence from junk mail.** Surely we don't need to twist your arm to do this one! Get and pay your bills on-line. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT and visit www.dmaconsumers.org to get off of direct marketing and credit card offer lists. For every 1,000 of us who succeed in halving our personal bulk mail, we will save 170 trees, nearly 46,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and 70,000 gallons of water each year.
- 7. Eliminate lawn and garden pesticides.** Americans directly apply 70 million pounds of pesticides to home lawns and gardens each year and, in so doing, kill birds and other wildlife and pollute our precious water resources.
- 8. Buy local.** Supporting your local economy reduces energy consumption required by the global transport of goods. Farmers' markets are especially wonderful resources.
- 9. Avoid excess packaging.** When given a choice, select the product that is sensibly-packaged and whenever possible, reuse or recycle packaging.
- 10. Inspire two friends.** There's an easy way for you to triple the positive impact you are making with these ten actions and that is to convince two friends to join you in your effort!



ENERGY TIPS FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Five Action Steps to Cut Natural Gas Use

- 1. Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees.** For every degree that you lower your heat in the 60 to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5% in heating costs. Set the thermostat back to 55 degrees or off at night or when you're not home for an extended time, and you'll save 5-20% of your heating costs.
- 2. Replace or clean furnace filters once a month.** Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted will result in savings up to 5% of your heating costs.
- 3. Reduce hot water temperature.** Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120%, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Reducing the temperature can result in a 7 to 11% savings of your water heating costs.
- 4. Seal up the leaks.** Caulk leaks around windows, doors, and where pipes, vents or electrical conduits go through the wall, ceiling or floor.
- 5. Consider replacing your old gas appliances with an ENERGY STAR® water heater or furnace.** If your water heater is over 12 years old, consider replacing it with a more energy efficient model that has an Energy Factor of at least 0.62 EF. If your furnace is over 15 years old, consider replacing it with an ENERGY STAR rated model that is about 15% more efficient than standard models.



Fast and Free Tips for Saving Energy

- 1. Let the sunshine in.** Open drapes and window coverings during the day and let the sun heat your home.
- 2. Rearrange your rooms.** Move your furniture around so you are sitting near interior walls – exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty.
- 3. Keep it shut.** Traditional fireplaces are an energy loser – it's best not to use them because they pull heated air out of the house and up the chimney. When not in use, make sure the damper is closed tight after all smoldering embers are out.
- 4. Eliminate wasted energy.** Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug the spare refrigerator in the garage – keeping your sodas cold can add 10-25% to your electricity bill. Turn off kitchen and bathroom fans after they've done their jobs.
- 5. Shorten showers.** Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs. Cutting your shower time in half will reduce your heating costs by 33%.
- 6. Use appliances efficiently.** Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use cold water in your clothes washer – your washer's energy use will be reduced by 75%.
- 7. Put your computer and monitor to sleep.** On computers with Windows, open your power management software and set it so your computer goes to sleep if you're away for more than 5 to 15 minutes.



On Macintosh computers, look for "Energy Saver" setting in your Control Panel and set it accordingly. When you're done with your computer for the day, turn it off.

- 8. Plug "leaking energy" in electronics.** Many newer electronics use electricity even when they are turned off. If possible, unplug electronic devices and chargers that have a block-shaped transformer on the plug when they are not in use. For computers and other devices plugged into a power strip, simply switch off the power strip after you turn off your computer.

Good Energy Saving Investments

- 1. Choose ENERGY STAR® appliances and electronics.** A new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator uses about 20% less energy than a new standard refrigerator. A new ENERGY STAR® clothes washer uses nearly 50% less energy than a standard washer.
- 2. Install a programmable thermostat.** If you have a heat pump, select a model designed for heat pumps. Setback thermostats can save up to 15% on energy costs.
- 3. Increase ceiling insulation.** Increasing your insulation to R-38 can reduce heating costs by 5 to 25%.
- 4. Seal ducts.** Leaking ducts accounts for more than 25% of heating costs in California.
- 5. Install high efficiency windows.** If you are planning to replace your windows, choose ENERGY STAR® windows to reduce your heating and cooling costs by up to 15%.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

April 22

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL – Saturday, Noon-4pm • Lafayette Plaza Park • The best way to predict the future is to create it. *What can one person do?* Find out. Join us for speakers, demonstrations, music, and booths with experts that will be addressing what we can do to lower our power use and our comprehensive footprint. Together we can use our abundance of local talent and resources to create a Community Partnership for Sustainability. If we work together, we can create a long-term future that works for everyone.

May 27-28

FREE E-WASTE RECYCLING – Sat & Sun, 9am-3pm • Acalanes High School Main Parking Lot • *Electronic items accepted:* Televisions, fax machines, MP3 players, monitors, printers, VCRs, DVD players, computers, copiers, cell phones, computer components, toner cartridges, telephone equipment.



HUMMER VS. HYBRID

Driving through Lafayette these days, it seems that more and more people have opted for larger cars to navigate the suburban wilderness. What many of these drivers may not have considered is the damage that they do to the environment and their bank accounts by driving overlarge vehicles.

The Hummer is the newest, biggest car to buy and dealers say that the vehicles average 8 to 10 miles per gallon. Therefore, the estimated annual cost of gas for a Hummer is \$4,167. Furthermore, the vehicles emit approximately 10.6 tons of green house gas per year.

Now compare this to the mileage of the hybrid Ford Prius which gets 60 miles per gallon in the city and 51 miles to the gallon on the highway. This costs the driver only about \$670 per year for fuel and creates 3.4 tons of green house gas emissions per year — a third of what is created by the Hummer.

Taking fuel efficiency into consideration when buying a car is simple and can make a huge difference in the long run.

**Annual fuel costs and greenhouse gas estimates are based on 45% highway driving, 55% city driving, and 15,000 annual miles. The price of regular gasoline is based on \$2.50 per gallon.*

Most Fuel Efficient Cars

Class	Make/Model	Hwy MPG	City MPG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Tons)
Two-seater Car	Honda Insight	60	66	3.0
Minicompact Car	Mini Cooper	28	36	5.9
Subcompact Car	VW Beetle (Diesel)	37	44	5.4
Midsize Car	Toyota Prius	60	51	3.4
Large Car	Hyundai Sonata	24	34	6.6
Small Station Wagon	Toyota Matrix	30	36	5.7
Midsize Station Wagon	Ford Focus	26	34	6.3
Sport Utility Vehicle	Ford Escape Hybrid	36	31	5.5

Source: www.fueleconomy.gov

AROUND TOWN

May 20 **7th ANNUAL TOUR OF LAFAYETTE'S KITCHENS** – presented by the Lafayette Juniors to benefit the Lafayette Library. 10am – 3pm. Tickets: \$35/person (\$25 tax-deductible); a gourmet lunch may also be purchased. Tickets available at Premier Kitchens, 3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more information: www.lafayettejuniors.org or 925-962-0933.

May 26 **ROSSMOOR BIG BAND BALLROOM DANCE** – Veterans Memorial Building. Dancing: 7-10:30pm, one hour dance instruction: 7-8pm; Tickets: \$5/door or in advance at Town Hall Theater; veterans and students are free. For more information, call 284-7404.

1st & 3rd Saturday every month – Friends of the Lafayette Library used book sale 9am-Noon. Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.



City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
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For Council Members call: 284-1968

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Carol Federighi	Vice Mayor
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Messages to all Council Members:

cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	284-1968
Steven Falk, City Manager	Fax: 284-3169
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	299-3227
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	299-3213
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	299-3210

Community Development

Ann Merideth, Director	299-3218
Tony Coe, Engineering Srv. Mgr.	284-1951
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Srv. Mgr.	284-1976
Ron Lefler, Public Works Srv. Mgr.	299-3214
P.W. Hotline (to report problems)	299-3259

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Hansen, Program Mgr.	299-3216
	Or 299-3215

Parks, Trails and Recreation

Jennifer Russell, Director	284-2232
Senior Services	284-5050
Teen Programs	284-5815

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	284-5010
Police Business Office:	283-3680

Anonymous Tipline, Traffic Enforcement, Suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3232 X 2205

Fax	284-3169
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Address	3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210 Lafayette, CA 94549
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Website:	www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
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E-MAIL: Council/staff members can be reached via e-mail using this address format:

First Initial + Last Name@lovelafayette.org

Example: SFalk@lovelafayette.org

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