



Solar & Green Building Tour

Sunday, October 7th from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Join Mothers for Peace and discover how your neighbors are trimming their utility bills and increasing their energy independence. See the following green buildings and homes on the tour:

Congregation Beth David Synagogue

Award winning Solar Decathlon building

Education and Admin. building of the Botanical Garden

A mixed-use commercial/residential facility in Los Osos

The home of Tom Jones, Dean of Cal Poly's College of Architecture and Environmental Design

For more information, visit the [Solar and Green Building Tour website](#).

Free Public Lecture on Sustainability in Wine and farming and 3rd Annual Fundraising Dinner

Free Lecture and Discussion on Thursday, October 4th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the PAC Pavilion. Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 4th in Santa Margarita.

The FREE PUBLIC LECTURE: Prior to the dinner, Paul Dolan will be the lead speaker at an industry panel presentation entitled "Sustainability in Wine & Farming: SLO, California and the World". For more information, please visit the [SARC website](#)

Electric Vehicle Conversion Lecture & Demo

Saturday, October 6th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ Cal Poly

Could your car be converted to run on batteries instead of gas? Would it provide the speed and range you need? How hard is it to convert? What does it cost to convert and operate an electric car? These questions and others will be answered during a one-day workshop held on Saturday, October 6th from 10am to 5pm on the Cal Poly campus.

The talk will cover general information about conversions - cost, performance, environmental issues, etc. Then speaker Mike Brown of Electro Automotive will get into the nuts and bolts, from choosing a suitable chassis, stripping it, installing the components and wiring, to charging, maintenance, and driving techniques. This event is free and open to the public but registration is required. Visit the C5 website at www.c-5.org or call Alex Bugrov at (805) 781-4654 for more information.

WH2O Xeriscape Workshop on Drought Tolerant Gardening

October 6th from 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. at St. Benedict's Church, 2220 Snowy Egret Lane, Los Osos.

The event will feature displays and handouts on water saving techniques from gardening with drought tolerant plants, to the importance of mulching, irrigation techniques and plant selection. Includes guests such as Liz Scott Graham, of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens, Tim Bolander, of Urban Soil Solutions, Ben Burgoa and Shaun Kelly, both from Bio-Resource and Ag Engineering at CalPoly, Sage Ecological Landscaping, and Joshua Carmichael, of Carmichael Environmental. Compost Bin raffle will be taking place. One free raffle ticket per participant. For Information please e-mail: Mariakelly@charter.net

North County Autumn Garden Tour

Sunday, October 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A self-paced tour of gardens in the Paso Robles area showcasing resource-friendly landscapes. Featuring free information on sustainable gardening practices, culinary tastings provided by Central Coast producers, free raffle and prizes, local artists and musicians, and more. Purchase tickets at Bay Laurel Nursery, Templeton Community Services Office, or Farm Supply. \$10.00 pre-sale, \$12.00 day of event. For more information, visit www.amwc.us or call 461-7217 ext. 17.

"The Science of Global Warming" Lecture at Cuesta

At two locations:

- *SLO Campus on Tuesdays: October 9th, 16th and 23rd, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Panel Discussion will be held on Oct 30th from 7:30 to 9:00 in Room 2402.*

- *North County Campus on Thursdays: October 11th, 18th and 25th, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. Panel Discussion will be held on November 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Batdorf Hall (N2401).*

The series presents the basic science, laws, concepts and data regarding global warming. The first three lectures will address the complexity and major factors influencing our climate. The final evening will be a panel discussion of possible responses to global warming. This event is sponsored by Cuesta College North County Campus & Associated Students (ASCC).

News

Pesticides block nitrogen fixation, decrease crop yields

A new report by scientists from four universities indicates that some chemical pesticides interfere with nitrogen fixation, a natural process that many farmers depend upon to boost crop yields. In that process, certain plants called legumes have nitrogen-fixing bacteria living within their roots. The bacteria remove nitrogen from the atmosphere and convert it into a natural fertilizer. The plants then release the usable nitrogen into the soil. Taking advantage of this process, farmers often plant legumes such as alfalfa and soybeans to provide nitrogen to subsequent crops like corn that require large amounts of fertilizer.

The new research shows that certain commonly used pesticides reduce nitrogen fixation and yield in alfalfa plants. According to the authors, these impacts may lessen the nitrogen available in the soil for subsequent crops, decreasing the value of crop rotations and leading to increases in synthetic fertilizer use.

By contrast, organic agriculture, which avoids the use of chemical pesticides, allows nitrogen fixation to flourish and enhance long-

term crop yields.

Read more about food and the environment: [UCS: Food and Environment Program](#)



Announcements

Nipomo Native Garden's Annual Fall Plant Sale

Sunday, October 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Did you know that fall is the best time to plant in California? This is when the summer heat has dissipated and rain is just around the corner. The rains reduce the need for supplemental water and help young plants establish their root systems. This fall, plant California native plants, which are naturally adapted to the local soil and climate; thrive without amendments, fertilizers, or pesticides; look beautiful; and offer incomparable habitat value. Free plant information handouts available! Come early for the best selection. Please call 929-6710 or 929-3589 for more information.

"Ending our oil addiction requires an economy accountable to standards set by a democratic polity not, as we have now, to private interests."

- Francis Moore Lappe, author of Diet for a Small Planet

P.S. Rachel Carson is the author of Silent Spring, not Diet for a Small Planet. Kudos to Bettina for catching our silly mistake.

Preserving and Protecting our Environment since 1971.

ECOSLO strives to support and create resilient, healthy, natural systems and lifestyles in San Luis Obispo County. We are committed to a sustainable future while working to improve our quality of life and economic vitality in our communities. Through education, advocacy, and community building, ECOSLO acts to protect the natural environment and environmental health on the Central Coast.



BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO

**WIN ECOSLO'S ENVIRO-GUMBY
ELECTRIC eGo SCOOTER**

TICKETS are \$10 each and can be purchased at ECOSLO.

DRAWING THIS SUMMER or WHEN 2,000 TICKETS ARE SOLD!
Proceeds benefit ECOSLO and sustains its community programs, activities, and mission.



\$2,000
Value

**For tickets, visit ECOSLO at 1204 Nipomo (at Marsh St.) in San Luis Obispo
www.ecoslo.org/raffle or call (805) 544-1777 for more information.**