



## Environmental Sustainability in Lafayette

We are entering an era where it is becoming more and more clear that if we want to pass on a healthy earth to our children, we need to find new and better ways of sustaining ourselves today, while not jeopardizing the health and happiness of future generations. Two of Lafayette's most special characteristics, the commitment to children in our community and the natural beauty that exists here, makes striving towards sustainability especially appropriate. The exciting things already going on in Lafayette are listed below. Becoming sustainable will take the involvement of the whole community so we invite anyone to get involved!

### **Environmental Task Force**

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. The Task Force works towards achieving goals in resource conservation, environmental effects on public health and welfare, environmentally sensitive land use, and community education and civic involvement. The Task Force is made up of Lafayette citizens with an interest in seeing our community be sustainable. Check the City Calendar for future meetings -- anyone is welcome to attend.

### **Sustainable Lafayette**

Sustainable Lafayette is a network of residents and organizations that simply want to learn from each other about what solutions work best for making our homes, businesses, and community more sustainable. Check out their fantastic website -- the link is below. This is the place to get ideas and share your ideas about how to make our community more sustainable.

### **Chamber of Commerce Green Committee**

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has formed a Green Committee to help local businesses save money by adopting green practices. For more information contact Jay Lifson (jay@lafayettechamber.org) or Bart Carr at ([bart@sustainablelafayette.net](mailto:bart@sustainablelafayette.net)). The link to the Chamber is listed below.

### **Green Drinks**

Lamorinda Green Drinks is an informal opportunity for local businesses and residents that are interested in green practices and sustainability to socialize, network and learn from one another. They welcome anyone who is working to make their workplace or home more green, and who wants to share ideas about how to reduce our impact on the environment. Check the Sustainable Lafayette website for the next Green Drinks date.

### **Cool Cities**

Lafayette has joined thousands of cities and towns around the country in becoming a Cool City. Our Mayor signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which means that Lafayette will reduce its carbon emissions. Local governments are moving forward with innovative energy solutions that curb global warming, save taxpayer dollars, and create healthier communities. Check out their website listed below.

### **Bay Area Green Business Program**

The Bay Area Green Business Program is a successful partnership of environmental agencies and utilities that assists, recognizes and promotes businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way. To be certified green, participants must be in compliance with all regulations and meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste. As of summer of 2008, the City

of Lafayette offices will be certified green! Just a few of the things we are now doing includes using 100% post consumer recycled content paper, we use the most energy efficient office equipment, and we are reusing and reducing wherever we can. The City of Lafayette encourages Lafayette businesses as well as other government agencies to become green certified with this program. Check out their website listed below or contact Robin Bedell-Waite: [rbwaite@hsd.cccounty.us](mailto:rbwaite@hsd.cccounty.us).