



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA, SPEAKER PELOSI HIGHLIGHT PROGRAMS TO CREATE GREEN-COLLAR JOBS IN LOS ANGELES

*City will invest in the green sector and promote
environmental innovation in local and regional economy*

LOS ANGELES – On the heels of Congressional passage of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined Speaker Nancy Pelosi today to discuss City and federal programs to create green-collar jobs, and announced new initiatives to boost the green sector, strengthen the local economy and address the challenge of global warming.

“As a trendsetting metropolis, Los Angeles has a responsibility to blaze a sustainable path in the 21st Century,” said Mayor Villaraigosa, joined by Speaker Pelosi and Congressmembers Lucille Roybal-Allard, Xavier Becerra, Diane Watson, Brad Sherman, and Councilmember Jan Perry. “Together, we will put this City and this nation on course to become a self-sustaining, economically booming green machine that supports a green-collar workforce for the 21st century.”

"Mayor Villaraigosa is one of the great visionary leaders in America, ensuring that Los Angeles is in the lead, now and in the future," Speaker Pelosi said. "By embracing the opportunities that climate change presents to create a new and green economy, he is creating jobs, and helping ensure the United States is a leader in innovation and competitiveness."

Standing atop the Los Angeles Convention Center's solar rooftop parking lot, part of the largest solar energy-generating convention center in North America, Mayor Villaraigosa introduced a plan to create green sector jobs in Los Angeles.

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“In the near future, whenever you see construction cranes rising, you’ll know that green-collar jobs have been created. There is a wave of innovation and opportunity headed our way, and we must harness it in order to boost our economy,” Mayor Villaraigosa said.

Under Speaker Pelosi’s leadership, Congress recently passed the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, which includes tax rebates to individual taxpayers, social security retirement benefits, and compensation and pension benefits for disabled veterans. The City’s plan includes a Department of Water and Power’s (DWP) five-point strategy for green growth:

Solar Jobs Initiative – DWP will spend at least \$270 million over the next ten years on rooftop solar photovoltaic, adding 2 megawatts of solar power per year and providing between 350 and 400 jobs in the next three years. The Solar Jobs Initiative will include:

- Building solar capacity on DWP buildings;
- Studying the feasibility of solar facilities on City-owned and commercial buildings;
- Creating public-private partnerships to leverage private capital and Federal tax incentives to install solar facilities on City-owned buildings and parking lots, other public buildings and large commercial buildings;
- Offering power purchase agreements for customers or third parties that install solar equipment in L.A. and sell electricity to DWP;
- Expanding solar opportunities and incentives to less affluent communities; integrating solar installations with energy efficiency measures and green building practices into new construction projects;
- Partnering with labor and local educational institutions for infrastructure training programs.

Small Business Direct Install Program – DWP will spend \$50 million to provide up to \$2,500 in lighting efficiency upgrades for small business customers at no charge, reducing energy costs by 25% for 20,000 small businesses.

Renewable Energy Businesses – DWP will offer a 35% rate discount for five years for new renewable businesses locating within the Enterprise & Empowerment Zones.

Green Business Incubator – DWP will develop a program to house green businesses in underutilized City facilities and develop a green technology center in conjunction with local educational institutions, labor and business.

Residential Energy Efficiency – DWP will expand its’ Low Income Refrigerator Exchange Program and distribute two free compact fluorescent bulbs to every residence in L.A. Recently DWP has increased rebates on commercial water conservation products.

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As a national leader on the issue of global climate change, Mayor Villaraigosa has made greening Los Angeles a top priority. Under his leadership, the City has tripled its use of renewable energy, developed the most comprehensive private sector green building plan in the nation, and introduced the Clean Air Action Plan which will cut overall port pollution by 45 percent over the next five years.

Last year, Mayor Villaraigosa unveiled GREEN LA – An Action Plan to Lead the Nation in Fighting Global Warming. GREEN LA sets Los Angeles on a course to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions 35 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, going beyond the targets of the Kyoto Protocol and representing the most ambitious goal of any large U.S. city. The cornerstone of GREEN LA is increasing the City's use of renewable energy to 35 percent by 2020.

GREEN LA has over 50 initiatives that will reduce the City's carbon footprint.

The Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) is considered the largest solar energy-generating convention center in North America, with an electrical capacity of 450,000 kilowatt-hours per year of renewable and environmentally safe electrical power. The LACC conserves resources and diverts 733 tons of material from landfills every year through a vigorous recycling program. All of its food services use 100 percent biodegradable utensils and packaging.

The Los Angeles Convention Center is currently undergoing a program to obtain its LEED-EB certification.

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