



Hope your October is going well! The NCSA has a lot going on this fall - please check out highlights, below, and get involved with us!

Join the NCSA at two important community climate action events

Please join the NCSA, [Climate Resolve](#), and many other local organizations and stakeholders for [Path to Positive: Los Angeles Climate Day](#), to be held on Friday, **November 6, 2015** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles. This galvanizing event will bring together community leaders from all over the region to address climate change here.

Then, Save the Date and plan to participate in an NCSA-hosted climate action forum on Saturday, **December 5, 2015** (1-4 pm) at the [Junipero Serra Branch Library](#). We'll receive expert updates on climate change impacts and solutions, from Paris to LA, then build on the outcomes of the Path to Positive: Los Angeles Climate Day event to discuss ways that Neighborhood Councils can support healthier and more resilient communities in LA through climate action.

In preparation for this forum, if your Neighborhood Council has taken on any climate-related education and outreach, service project, or advocacy efforts, [please tell us about your experience!](#)

"Cool Blocks LA" initiative submitted to LA2050 Grants Challenge; voting now open

The NCSA is honored to be among many esteemed entrants in the 2015 My LA2050 Grants Challenge. Our submission, "Cool Blocks LA," will build planet-friendly, disaster resilient, socially connected neighborhoods in LA, block by block. In collaboration with Neighborhood Councils and community transformation authority David Gershon, we will support neighborhood block teams across LA in reducing their carbon and water footprints by an average of 25% while getting to know their neighbors and building their personal and collective resiliency.

Public voting is now open. Peruse the submissions, get inspired, and [cast your vote](#) today! Help shape our future LA.

NCSA partners with local organizations on LADWP Community Partnership Grant

The NCSA is delighted to partner with environmental nonprofit [Selva International](#), the [Surfrider Foundation West LA/Malibu Chapter](#), and [UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture program](#), in order to increase the number of LA residents who apply for [LADWP "Cash in your Lawn"](#) and [SoCal Water\\$mart rebates](#), and complete California Friendly Landscape (CFL) conversions. With the support of a new, 12-month LADWP Community Partnership Grant, and in collaboration with Neighborhood Councils, we plan to address barriers to installing CFLs with full ecological benefit. We'll be using an evidence-based Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) approach (which you can read more about, below) to evaluate the effectiveness of existing outreach tools, then test pilot behavioral strategies for addressing these barriers. Stay tuned for more details!

NCSA online water resource hub project team joins forces with USC Code the Change group

Building on feedback generated at a Neighborhood Council (NC) stakeholder engagement workshop held in May, a team of NCSA and NC volunteers from across the city have joined forces with USC's "[Code the Change](#)" program -- which selects one "social good" or nonprofit software development project per semester -- to develop an online water conservation resource sharing hub for Neighborhood Councils. We expect to have a beta version of this online community platform, including blog, event calendar, and discussion forum features, ready for testing by November. It's not too late to join us! We invite stakeholders with an interest in online collaboration tools and/or water conservation, and who can commit 4+ hours a month (mostly virtually), to shape our platform development and content. For more information, please send us a note: NCSA@EmpowerLA.org.

NCSA gets interactive with LA2050 at Congress of Neighborhoods

Many thanks to the outpouring of creative ideas, strategies, and commitments to action that were shared by more than 60 [Congress of Neighborhoods](#) attendees on September 26, through an interactive design exhibit hosted by the [Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance](#). Congress attendees' feedback was generated in response to the "[LA2050](#)" initiative — which aims to make LA the best place to learn, create, play, connect, and live by 2050. The engagement was facilitated by the award-winning [Co-Design Group](#) of Vancouver, Canada. During the Congress and at a post-Congress NCSA mixer, attendees collaborated with the Co-Design team to create more than 25 illustrations that depict participants' desired LA by 2050.

All drawings and related rating data will be shared with the [Goldhirsh Foundation](#), which is driving the LA2050 initiative, and are available for viewing or further feedback by contacting the NCSA. The NCSA extends its deepest gratitude to its event partners ([Co-Design Group](#), [Goldhirsh Foundation](#), and [TreePeople](#)), the Congress steering committee, and a magnificent team of volunteers for making the engagement possible!

Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) workshops coming to LA this January

As we collectively work to get people to make voluntary reductions in water use, change their landscaping, and make other sustainable choices one thing is clear. To make environmental change we must do more than educate people -- we must move them to action. But how to get people to actually change behavior? NCSA partner [TreePeople](#) is thrilled to once again host two vitally needed workshops in LA by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, international leader in the behavior change field. His approach -- Community-Based Social Marketing -- offers practical, evidence-based steps to achieving results, and is a welcome shift from to conventional programs aimed at fostering sustainable behavior. Learn more [here](#).

Opportunities to get involved

The NCSA is coming up on our first year anniversary and building momentum! We encourage you to get involved with us, share your voice, and help us shape a sustainable future for LA:

- **Connect with us online:** Connect with NCSA and NC green leaders at our Facebook [page](#) and [group](#) to: stay abreast of the latest sustainability news that affects LA and Neighborhood Councils; share resources and calls to

action with other NCs and NC green and sustainability committees; or get help with questions!

- **Become a member:** Ask your Neighborhood Council to join Atwater Village, Harbor Gateway North, Historic Highland Park, Northridge East, Reseda, Silver Lake, South Robertson, and Valley Village as inaugural members of NCSA! Together, we can have a stronger voice on environmental and sustainability issues. Please review our [bylaws](#) and [learn how your Neighborhood Council can join](#).
- **Start a green committee:** Join the growing number of Neighborhood Councils that have formed sustainability or green committees, as did Greater Wilshire, Studio City, and Van Nuys recently!
- **Join a committee or working group:** Current opportunities include: Advocacy, Collaborative Tools / Technology, Communications / Marketing, Fund Development, Governance, Programming, and Water. (We ask for a minimum commitment of four hours per month.) To learn more, please contact us: NCSA@EmpowerLA.org.
- **Become an NCSA Outreach Liaison:** We currently have opportunities in the Harbor, South LA, and West LA Planning Areas. For details, please contact us: NCSA@EmpowerLA.org.

Sustainability advocacy opportunities

The [Advocacy Spotlight](#) page on our website highlights advocacy opportunities for Neighborhood Councils.

Also, be sure to check out [our running list of council file motions](#) that relate to sustainability!

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)
<http://www.ncsa.la/>