



Friend—

First and foremost, we hope you are doing ok! We hope you are healthy and able to stay safe. And we hope you are able to settle into our new reality.

With every crisis comes opportunity, and seeing governments, organizations, and individuals mobilize to address the coronavirus is a window into how the climate crisis might (or might not) be addressed, as well as a glimpse of what can be done if we put our minds to it.

Neighborhood council meetings suspended

We know that neighborhood councils can do a lot to organize and support communities, and the NCSA board has asked City leadership to allow neighborhood councils to meet virtually, in alignment with Governor Newsom's waiving of certain Brown Act restrictions. You can see our letter at ncsa.la/letter-to-city-re-suspension-of-nc-meetings.

LA's Green New Deal neighborhood council toolkit

While some of the ways we can support LA's Green New Deal have been suspended, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment are moving forward with the Green New Deal toolkit in the works and have convened an advisory group that is helping the City identify ways for neighborhood councils to address the climate crisis. Stay tuned!

Want to help promote EV adoption? Join our EV advisory and working group

The NCSA is working with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and TreePeople to help spread the word in the central and eastern parts of the City of LA about how great electric vehicles (EVs) are and how affordable they can be. As a first step, we are convening an EV advisory/working group that will help lead the effort. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lisa Hart at lisahart@ncsa.la or 323.660.2780.

Join our transportation working group

The NCSA has launched a transportation working group to promote public transit, bikes and bike lanes, micromobility, carpooling, and electric vehicles and charging stations. We are also seizing the moment to promote permanent telecommuting for minimal traffic and carbon emissions and maximum clean air in a post-virus world! If you want to join us, email Nancy Matson at nancyloum@gmail.com.

Limit vehicle idling

Thank you to the Arroyo Seco, Arts District Little Tokyo, and Los Feliz Neighborhood

Councils for filing community impact statements on the vehicle idling motion (19-0604). Once you're back up and running (or if you've passed a motion in support but haven't yet submitted the community impact statement), keep 'em coming! You can visit ncsa.la/vehicle_idling to learn more.

It's not too late to help trees by filing a public comment on the sidewalk repair program draft environmental impact report!

We all want our sidewalks repaired, but we cannot afford to lose our urban tree canopy. The good news is that alternatives to tree-removal exist. Thanks to the efforts of many people across the city, the public comment period was extended to April 24 so that more neighborhood councils could weigh in, and although we do not know if it will be further extended due to the coronavirus and the suspension of neighborhood council meetings, individuals can submit public comments.

Visit ncsa.la/safe_sidewalks_la_sidewalk_repair_program to learn how you can contribute.

Want to share your vision for our parks? Join us Tuesday, April 7th at 7 pm

The [Los Angeles Parks Foundation](https://losangelesparksfoundation.org/), a nonprofit created as a public-private partnership to support the City of Los Angeles's [Department of Recreation and Parks](https://www.laparks.org/), has a new focus on sustainability, climate change, and social equity, and wants to hear **from you** about the park-related needs and priorities of our communities and to surface ideas for future projects and programs. If you would like to participate in a conversation (via Zoom) about what the future of our parks looks like, sign up at ncsa.la/vision_for_our_parks. (Believe it or not, this meeting had always been planned as a virtual one, even before the specter of the coronavirus!)

Sustainability guidelines for developers

In June of 2019, we convened a group of planning and land-use committee members, urban planners, architects, developers, sustainability experts, etc. to discuss how neighborhood council planning and land-use committees can work with developers to encourage sustainable practices. Out of that meeting arose a working group who developed draft sustainability guidelines for developers, which are currently with the department of City Planning so that they can identify which guidelines are already mandatory. (There is no reason to have to negotiate for what is already required!) Please visit ncsa.la/sustainability_guidelines_for_developers to see the guidelines, and be sure to let us know what you think!

Participate in the Census!

It can be hard to know, short of staying home, how we can help our communities at the moment. But one thing each of us can do is complete the Census questionnaire. So make sure to do it! By April 1, every household should have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. Please visit 2020census.gov to learn more.

Stay connected!

In this era of physical distancing, we need other ways to connect. Please keep in mind the other ways to connect with us in addition to the ncsa.la website:

- facebook.com/neighborhoodcouncilsustainabilityalliance
- facebook.com/groups/LosAngelesNCSA
- instagram.com/ncsa_la

- twitter.com/la_ncsa

We wish you safety and good health!

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)

<http://www.ncsa.la/>