

EARTH DAY: Go Solar, Eat Local, Drive Less, Ditch Plastic, Choose Electric...

WITH A FOOTPRINT TO REMEMBER, the Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival emphasizes an aware path forward for all Earthlings. Thanks to our local Community Environmental Council, the Earth Day Festival will be held April 16th and 17th in Alameda Park, in downtown Santa Barbara.

“We hope Earth Day attendees walk away from this year’s festival and embrace the practical changes they can make by voting to support environmentally sound legislation, like the plastic bag ban in California, and by choosing to eliminate single-use plastic from their lives,” stated Sigrid Wright, CEC Executive Director and CEO.



This year CEC’s Earth Day Festival is broken into zones, with each zone created around a specific theme. With over 200 exhibitors, a sustainable food court, a local beer and wine garden; it’s an event for the entire family...and all their friends!

Two full days of live music performances, speakers, as well as the largest Green Car Show on the West Coast offer interest and entertainment.

Another highlight of every year is the presentation of CEC’s Environmental Hero Award to at least one eco-pioneer on the Main Stage at the Earth Day Festival. Heroes are selected based on their efforts to educate, inspire, and grow a new generation of environmental advocates and socially responsible citizens.

This year Congresswoman Lois Capps and plastic-free advocate 5 Gyres are the recipients. Both Capps and 5 Gyres co-founder Marcus Eriksen will be present on Saturday to accept the honor in person and speak about their work to protect and preserve the natural environment.

“The concept of climate change can feel overwhelming when looked at as a whole,” commented Wright. “Congresswoman Capps, through progressive legislation, and 5 Gyres, through the research and advocacy of co-founder Marcus Eriksen, both exemplify the power we as individuals have to effect positive change in the



face of global warming.”

Other opportunities to watch for include:

- The South Coast Energy Efficiency Partnership (SCEEP) will be giving away free Energy Savings Kits and Light Emitting Diode (LED) lightbulbs on Saturday only, from 1 to 1:45pm at Santa Barbara County’s booths (#166 and 167) in the Public Square section of the festival.
- A special presentation about Santa Barbara’s first hydrogen fueling station will be presented by experts at the California Fuel Cell Partnership, Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition, and Community Environmental Council. The talk will conclude with a tour of the latest hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles at the Green Car Show. Location: CEC Booth on west side of festival near Gazebo on Saturday, April 16th from 3:30 to 4pm.

• Dog Zone: If you’re bringing a four - legged friend along, two Dog Zones have water and compostable bags, sponsored by Central Coast



Canine and Heal the Ocean. Advanced Veterinary Specialists will be on site for emergency dog care. Find them at Sports & Rec on the west side of the festival near the Climbing Tower and at Eco Village near the corner of Sola and Anacapa.

Each year 300 volunteers come together to help make the festival run smoothly, assisting with kids activities, attendee counts, photography, stage needs, and more. A three hour shift will earn you a free Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival t-shirt, lunch, and new eco-conscious friends. Groups, individuals, and high school students in need of volunteer hours are all welcome to join. Volunteer today at SBEarthDay.org/volunteer.

Detailed information and stage schedules are available online at www.SBEarthDay.org

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