



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

FROM: Sona Kalapura, Environmental Programs Manager
Mark Leyman, Sports and Aquatics Manager

DATE: July 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Consideration of the City's Support for the Dartmouth College "Big Green Bus"

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file this report indicating the City's support of the Dartmouth College "Big Green Bus."

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with the City's support of the Big Green Bus event, other than staff time to coordinate the event, and advertising costs to publicize the event to the community.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has been very supportive of community based events that seek to educate its businesses and residents on the need to sustain the environment and the economy. With the success of its Environmental Task Force, and positive participation in events like the International Day of Climate Action and Earth Hour, the City has taken a lead role in promoting environmental protection to its community.

The Dartmouth College Big Green Bus is a program that epitomizes the values of sustainability. The Big Green Bus is traveling the country to educate communities on simple lifestyle changes that conserve money, energy, and resources by improving efficiency in every day activities. If City Council chooses to approve its support of this event, the Big Green Bus will make a stop in Manhattan Beach so that the community can benefit from this hands-on environmental training tool.

The Big Green Bus is designed as a model sustainable home, and is an easily accessible example of what individuals can do to "go green." The bus includes solar panels, bamboo flooring, energy efficiency air conditioning, and grease filters to purify vegetable oil received from restaurants—enabling the Big Green Bus to run without the use of fossil fuels. The bus is not only an example of cutting edge green technologies, but is also a hands-on training tool complete with flat screen TVs (solar-powered), and touch screen displays designed to be truly interactive with the community.

DISCUSSION:

The Big Green Bus has organized several activities and set-up educational resources to help promote the message of sustainability. The bus serves as a model for sustainable living, and the Dartmouth students will relate their educational message to the bus wherever possible. The educational message has been organized into several categories, including: Reducing Over-consumption and Waste; Transportation; Household Appliances; and Energy Efficiency.

There are plenty of opportunities for the Big Green Bus to interact with our community, including our schools, afterschool programs, local businesses, and the Farmer’s Market. Staff proposes that the Big Green Bus stop in Manhattan Beach for two days, August 2nd and 3rd 2010, and will coordinate the logistics of planning for this event if City Council should approve the City’s participation.



the big green bus vehicle for change



CONCLUSION:

The City’s commitment to “Going Green” has led to several opportunities for the community to participate in environmental events. The Big Green Bus provides a unique and informative way for the City to continue teaching its community about the value of sustainability. Staff recommends that City Council support the Big Green Bus and allow for the community’s participation in this event.

cc:
Richard Gill, Parks and Recreation Director