



NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Green Jobs Training for Local Youth

Sustainable Vocations Program at Quail Springs Learning Oasis

What: Sustainable Vocations is an innovative program that provides a hands-on introduction to the growing green jobs market. The program prepares youth ages 15 to 24 for diverse leadership roles that integrate sustainability into their communities. Students will earn a Permaculture Design Certification and receive introductions to renewable energy and green building, with the developing option of gaining college credits.

Educational partners include Selim Sandoval of Growing Green Energy, a Ventura-based renewable energy installation and green workforce development company; Christopher Blunt of Ojai Solar Electric, a NABCEP certified renewable energy installer; Mike Lillis of Ecostructures, Inc., a LEED Accredited Professional; and local colleges who are assisting in developing accreditation of the program.

Sessions cost \$1,500-2,500 on a sliding scale, including tuition, meals & camping. Scholarships are provided for low-income youth. For more information, visit www.quailsprings.org/SustainableVocations/brochure.pdf.

When: Sessions are three-week intensive residential trainings, with field trips to area green industries and businesses. Transportation is provided from Santa Barbara. Upcoming intensives are August 4-24, 2009, March 7-27, 2010, and June 20-July 10, 2010. The program is accepting applications for its first intensive session this August.

Where: Quail Springs Permaculture Farm, a nonprofit sustainability demonstration and education center, is located in the mountains near Santa Barbara and Ventura.

Why: According to Kolmi Majumdar, program co-director, "Sustainable Vocations aligns with the deepest purpose of the green jobs movement by investing in training young people with the critical thinking skills, stewardship ethics, and practical know-how

that will empower them to implement solutions and create new approaches to the social and ecological problems and opportunities we face as a society.”

Dave Davis, Executive Director of the Community Environmental Council, adds that “the Sustainable Vocations program provides much-needed green jobs training, and will help prepare our region to face a growing demand for workforce professionals that can provide energy efficient building skills on the Central Coast.”

How: The program is accepting applications for its first intensive session this August. Download applications [here](#). Send applications and address questions to info@quailsprings.org.

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