

4/17: Eco Avenues at Estrella Mountain Community College

by [Jessica Van Zalen](#) - Apr. 13, 2010 10:56 AM
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Southwest Valley cities and Valley companies are banding to educate the public on [green living](#) at Eco Avenues, a free, family-friendly festival at Estrella Mountain Community College on Saturday.

The afternoon of classes, performances and product demonstrations will emphasize leading a more sustainable life.

Proceeds from vendor participants go toward a sustainability scholarship at Estrella Mountain Community College.

Last year, Goodyear conducted an eco-friendly session to demonstrate practical ways to integrate green habits into everyday living. This year's festival builds upon that foundation and broadens its reach, said manager Landis Elliot.

The result is collaboration among Avondale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Tolleson, Buckeye, Southwest Valley and Buckeye Valley Chambers of Commerce and Estrella Mountain Community College. Organizers expect 2,500 visitors.

Sessions will include several 45-minute workshops on various eco-living [lessons](#) including: Retrofitting Your House to be More Green, Composting Made Easy, Carbon Footprint 101 and How to Save Some Green on Your Household Utility Bills. The KidsZone aims to entertain and educate with a performance by Radio Disney's Street Team, [Wildlife](#) World Zoo & Aquarium

animals, bicycle activities and contests. Valley comic-book artist Bryan Kilgore will host a green-drawing workshop 9-10 a.m.

The partners wanted to create a festival that educates the public about living green and to produce something that is fundamentally green, Elliot said.

"We are hoping to run all of (the outdoor portion) on APS solar power," she said.

"It will help any vendors that need power. There will be e-waste disposal and [recycling](#), too."

This expo also aims to promote Valley and national eco-friendly businesses.

The Vendor Expo will allow exhibitors to introduce visitors to the latest green products and services. Among the participants, CantaMia by Joseph Carl Homes, is a green homebuilder in the Valley. CantaMia will have a booth with the "green garage" eco-friendly features it includes in homes.

The company was impressed with the way the cities have come together to create this

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opportunity, said Susan Williams, vice president of sales and marketing for Joseph Carl Homes.

"We viewed the electronic flier and jumped in to participate," Williams said.

The Estrella Mountain Community College scholarship is another exciting aspect, she said. "We are impressed with the sustainability program at Estrella, and we have been seeing them as a great role model."

Top 5 things to see and do: 1. E-waste disposal: Goodwill Industries will be collecting "e-waste" - items such as computers, TVs, batteries and other electronics, almost anything with a power cord.

2. Carbon Footprint 101: This 45-minute class helps visitors understand what their carbon footprint is, how to calculate it and how to reduce it.

3. Bicycle activities: The KidsZone has many bike activities, s including an obstacle course and Pedal-a-Watt bikes that generate [electricity](#). Kids can bring their own bikes or use those provided.

4. Giant whale: Fourth-grade students from Desert Mirage Elementary will be "tour guides" through this 100-foot inflated [whale](#).

5. Radio Disney: This popular kids' stage performance is 10-11:30 a.m.

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