Creating Green Zones in the City of Los Angeles —Clean Up Green Up LA!

Clean Up Green Up is a cutting-edge environmental policy that will establish “Green Zones” in three LA “toxic hotspot” communities—areas with high concentrations of pollution sources adjacent to homes, schools, and family daycare centers. Exposure to these toxins can cause high rates of asthma, cancer risks, birth defects and other health problems. The Los Angeles City Council will soon consider a measure that would create LA’s first Green Zones in three areas: Boyle Heights, Pacoima and Wilmington. Neighbors and community leaders are organizing the Clean Up Green Up campaign to fight local pollution while calling for targeted financial assistance and incentives to stimulate safe, clean and green businesses and local jobs.

Proposed L.A. Green Zones
Q.: What is a “Green Zone”?  
The federal Environmental Protection Agency supports the concept, and there’s a statewide campaign to establish Green Zones across California.

Q.: Green Zones in an urban area like Los Angeles sound great. What does Green Zone mean here in LA?  
A: A geographic district called a Green Zone would be created within pilot Clean Up Green Up neighborhoods. The City of Los Angeles would work with neighbors there to:  
- **Reduce pollution** by improving industrial facility inspections and enforcement  
- **Prevent pollution** by making sure new facilities meet high, good-neighbor environmental standards and safeguards  
- **Revitalize neighborhoods** by concentrating financial and other incentives to help businesses clean-up and modernize with new technology, while improving streets, sidewalks, green space, buffer zones and public facilities to create more livable communities

Q.: Why would a neighborhood even need a Green Zone?  
A: Residents in toxic hotspot areas suffer from a myriad of health problems. They not only contend with the dirty air that we all breathe, but with additional toxic burdens such as paint emissions from auto body garages, caustic chemicals from muffler shops, dust from concrete recycling plants and chemical pollutants from oil drilling and refining. Green Zones use existing local land use protections to prevent further environmental hazards in the most overburdened neighborhoods—reducing pollution for these residents and improving air quality for all who live in Los Angeles.

Q.: Are the neighbors creating these Green Zones themselves?  
A: Community organizations from toxic hotspot areas have partnered with City Council champions to draft an ordinance to improve neighborhood health and revitalize local businesses. In addition, more than 30 public health, environmental, faith-based and community groups are supporting the Clean Up Green Up campaign.

Q.: How does Clean Up Green Up revitalize a neighborhood economically?  
A: A healthier community equals a healthier local business climate. Clean Up Green Up creates support for the things that make a neighborhood more livable and friendly—better signage, cleaner streets. And there are many economic support programs available in Los Angeles that small business owners don’t know about or know how to access. A Green Zone designation means businesses there will get priority and help accessing such programs as:  
- **Business assistance loans**  
- **Industrial development bonds**  
- **Energy upgrade assistance loans and rebates**  
- **Favorable business tax treatment**  
- **Small business counseling and technical assistance**  
- **Streamlined permit process that cuts red tape**

Q.: Would there be Green Zones throughout Los Angeles?  
A: Green Zones will first be established in only three areas of Los Angeles—the idea is to launch Green Zones on a pilot basis to test, refine and improve the model before expanding it elsewhere.

Find out more on the Clean Up Green Up website: www.cleanupgreenupla.org