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## February 2010 Newsletter

Your source for news and updates about adopting environmentally sustainable practices in our homes, schools, businesses and government.

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### Monthly Community Meeting

The GreenTown Los Altos monthly community meeting will be on February 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hillview Community Center, Room 2. Our featured speaker is Stuart Moody who will be talking about the environmental impacts of styrofoam and single use plastics, and how the GreenTown Restaurant Co-op will help restaurants move to biodegradable products. Please join us to hear about:

- The materials and environmental impacts of styrofoam and non-recyclable plastics
- Policy updates across the state and in different cities, such as styrofoam bans
- Our solution for helping restaurants switch to environmentally preferred purchasing
- How the GreenTown Restaurant Co-op works, timeline, benefits, and volunteers opportunities.

Please join us, and watch our website updates about the meeting.

### Los Altos Waste Contract Awarded Next Month

#### Materials Available for Public Review starting February 19

A new contract that will shape waste management practices in Los Altos for years to come is currently under review by city staff. The new 10-year contract presents a timely opportunity for improved service and critical environmental benefits at the best possible price.

#### Key Upcoming Dates:

*February 19* (or sooner) - Contract review materials will be available to the public on the agendas/minutes section of the [city council website](#).

*February 23* - Council meeting at which staff will make their vendor recommendation to the City Council.

*February 23 - March 9* - Public review and comment period.

*March 9* - Los Altos City Council meeting at which they will decide the waste services vendor.

*GreenTown Los Altos urges our members to attend these important council meetings, review the available materials, learn about the proposed new services, and speak up to the City Council about what services or considerations you think are important. The Council listens to citizens who speak up!*

By actively participating in the process, we can achieve a robust new contract that will simultaneously improve the quality of life in our community, support sustainability, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Visit our website for more information about the [GreenTown Waste Reduction Initiative](#) and the waste contract.

### **Taller Buildings on First Street?**

Did you see the article on the front page of the January 27th Town Crier? The Planning Commission has recommended that the City Council increase the height limit on First Street buildings and permit mixed-use and multi-family housing on the north and south side of the road. It's as if they've seen the GreenTown Los Altos downtown redevelopment ideas. The City Council will hear public comments in their February 9th meeting and will make a decision at their February 23rd meeting. One more reason to attend City Council meetings and make your opinion heard. Click here to [read the article online](#).

### **Earth Day 2010 Presentation on Global Climate Change**

To help celebrate Earth Day 2010, Stanford University Professor Robert Dunbar will present "Global Climate Change in the Decades Ahead: Fact vs. Fiction."

Professor Dunbar will discuss the current state of climate change and what we can expect in the future. This scientific perspective is based on his research in the Antarctic, the global ocean and the Americas, as well as his participation in the 2009 UN Copenhagen Climate Conference.

Dunbar will also address the most commonly held misconceptions about climate change and how scientists differentiate between manmade and natural effects.

Date: April 21, 2010

Time: 7:30PM

Location: Los Altos Library, 13 South San Antonio Road

Please Note: Earth Day started in 1970 and falls every year on April 22. For more information about Earth Day Events, please go to the [Earth Day 2010 site](#).

About the Speaker: Professor Dunbar is actively engaged in interdisciplinary research of global change in collaboration with environmental scientists, economists, lawyers and policy specialists. He is a member of the 2009 US delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. During his 30+ expeditions to the Antarctic and the Arctic, Dunbar studied the regions' rapidly changing environmental conditions. He has published more than 160 scientific papers and serves as a trustee for the National Consortium for Ocean Leadership.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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