

## CELEBRATING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE UN

**2005 will be a big year of celebration in San Francisco - for the UN's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and for the environment.**

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2005 is a big UN year in the city of San Francisco. First of all, a year long celebration will commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. A weekend in June will mark the founding of the UN after World War II at the 1945 charter convention in San Francisco. 50-75 former heads-of-state from all around the world will attend the major event under the theme of "Enhancing the Vital Role of the United Nations".

### **Celebrating the Environment:**

Secondly, San Francisco has been selected host city for World Environment Day (WED) 2005 - an important day on the international environmental calendar. The day is celebrated simultaneously around the world each year on June 5, to create awareness about environmental issues. The theme for World Environment Day 2005 is "Green Cities: Where the Future Lives", a

fitting theme as the 21<sup>st</sup> century will mark the time in human history when the majority of the world's population will live in urban areas. Secretary General Kofi Anan welcomed the selection of San Francisco last summer: "It is most fitting that San Francisco, birth place of the United Nations and one of the world's most dynamic urban areas, will be the host city for the global celebration of WED 2005." This year marks the first time ever that the UN has selected a city in North America to host the WED.

### **Special Events on Specific Themes:**

From June 1 through 5, San Francisco's WED festivities will include special events focusing on urban environmental issues— from symposia and seminars to various community events such as an environmental film festival, arts programming, experimental educational activities, eco-tours, concerts, and other events. Each day of the 5-day event will focus on a

specific theme: Urban Power (energy, renewables and energy conservation), Cities on the Move (transportation), Redesigning Metropolis (waste diversion and the build environment), Pure Elements (food, water and air) and Flower Power (open space, biodiversity and greening the urban environment). The outcome will be collected in a document called "The San Francisco Urban Environmental Accords."

### **Urban Environmental**

**Improvement:** Representatives and mayors from the world's largest cities will share ideas, experiences, and best practices to establish goals for urban environmental improvement. They will identify the tools needed to achieve these goals and compile concrete commitments, goals and targets into a document called the San Francisco Urban Environmental Accords. And finally, the United Nations Association of San Francisco is planning to host a symposium on the Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability: Integrating and implementing Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.



**For more information, input to or participation in the UNA-SF symposia, please contact Ms. Jette Winckler Jensen, UNA-SF at email: [jette.winckler@ecolocity.com](mailto:jette.winckler@ecolocity.com)**