

# PREMIER'S COUNCIL FOR ACTIVE LIVING BULLETIN

## Welcome to the Premier's Council for Active Living (PCAL) Bulletin

The purpose of the bulletin is to provide people interested in promoting active living choices within NSW with relevant up-to-date news and research. The monthly bulletins will focus upon material applicable to the broad range of NSW agencies represented on PCAL and will be archived on the PCAL website at:

[www.pcal.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pcal.nsw.gov.au). If you wish to receive the PCAL Bulletin please write SUBSCRIBE in the subject area and email [pcal@heartfoundation.org.au](mailto:pcal@heartfoundation.org.au)

## Bicycle Programs Catching on in More Major Cities

This summer, Paris will put 10,000 bicycles on the streets at 1,000 stations throughout the city—more than 20,000 bikes will be available by the end of the year—in an experiment with the potential to alter the city's urban transportation landscape. Citywide bike rental programs have now been established in Brussels, Dublin, Marseille, Vienna and a smattering of smaller cities. Results from one similar scheme in Lyon have indicated bicycle traffic has increased 30 percent in the last two years and automobile use is down 4 percent, reversing a trend of a 1 percent to 3 percent increase per year. Other cities are watching Paris with considerable interest as it rolls out the world's largest bike rental program. Further information is available at:

<http://www.planetark.com/avantgo/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=42591>

## Sprawl Clashes with Warming in California

California's Attorney General has filed an unusual lawsuit against San Bernardino County over the county's recently adopted 25-year growth plan. The Attorney General accuses the Inland Empire county of failing to consider how growth and development will impact climate change. The lawsuit is one of at least seven around the state using the global warming threat to challenge building or planning proposals by developers and local governments. The lawsuits argue that low-density housing developments built far from where people work, and far from public transportation, increase everything from the energy use generated to bring water to outlying areas to the distances people drive in their cars. Further information is available at:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/05/27/>

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## Living with Risk: Promoting Better Public Space Design

A Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) report has proposed that streets and public spaces are in danger of becoming bland and standardised because of over-sensitivity to risk, arising from misplaced fears of a rampant compensation culture and unquestioning interpretations of health and safety regulations. CABE believes that many public spaces are designed for the worst case scenario rather than normal behaviour. Yet the vast majority of people are perfectly capable of assessing risk for themselves and acting accordingly. The report aims to give designers and councils the confidence to challenge risk-adverse decisions. Further information is available at: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=1932>

## Tools to Measure the Walkability and Cycleability of the Local Environment

A series of fact sheets entitled 'Tools to Measure the Walkability and Cycleability of the Local Environment' have become available on the NSW Centre for Physical Activity (CPAH) website at:

<http://www.cpah.health.usyd.edu.au/research/facts.php>. The fact sheets provide information and links to a range of tools that can be used to measure aspects of the local environment for walkability and cycleability.

The fact sheets provide relevant information and resources for public health workers, urban planners, local government, community and non government organizations. For further information or technical advice please contact Louise Farrell on 9036 3334.

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