

For Immediate Release
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State Government to Host \$25K Sustainability Code-a-Thon

*Hackers, computer programmers and wider civic coding community invited
to participate in groundbreaking contest October 24-25*

Sacramento, CA – Taking an important step toward opening state government data to the broader public, the California Department of General Services (DGS) and Government Operations Agency will host an open data code-a-thon Oct. 24 and 25.

The event, which has been dubbed the “Green Gov Challenge,” will engage the civic coding community to better show the work the state is doing to combat climate change.

“As the state deals with the ongoing impacts of environmental change and the drought, we in state government are seeking out innovative ways to better promote sustainability,” said Daniel C. Kim, director of DGS. “This code-a-thon allows us to leverage the creativity of the civic coding community to better show the work the state is doing to combat climate change.”

The contest will award up to \$25,000 to Californians who participate. Participants will focus on creating apps, visualizations, and other tools that can help improve government sustainability practices. The contest is open to California residents and individuals who are 18 years of age or older as of the date of entry. State employees are not eligible to enter.

“We are thrilled to invite the brightest coders, computer engineers and hackers to our headquarters in West Sacramento to help improve our service delivery to the public,” said Kim.

Further details on the contest, including eligibility, contest rules and signup information, are available at the Green Gov Challenge website.

Background

The Green Gov Challenge is one of a trio of contests being held by state departments this fall in which Californians can win up to \$25,000 for ideas to improve transportation and sustainable government practices, and help prevent underage drinking. The contests, which are being referred to as “\$25K Find a New Way,” stem from legislation by Assemblymember Mike Gatto (AB 2138). The bill was signed into law last September by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Visit www.findanewway.ca.gov (or the websites of participating departments, including DGS, Caltrans and Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control) to enter. More information is available on social media via hashtag #25KFindANewWay.

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