

# Flex Week Activities: Responding to Plastics in Our Oceans & Our Inner Otters

[Thursday August 29](#), 10am–12noon, HORT 5005

## **Responding to Plastics in Our Oceans While Finding Success on Land**

[The Clean Oceans Project](#) is working to eliminate plastic in our oceans. This workshop will discuss a new technology that turns plastic into fuel and can divert millions of tons of plastic from entering our landfills and oceans. Captain Jim “Homer” Holm of the [Clean Oceans Project](#), in conjunction with the [Climate Initiative Task Force](#) will provide fascinating information, and a demonstration and glimpse into the future of re-use of an oil-based product that litters our environment. We will explore bringing this technology to Cabrillo for practical, sustainable, educational and research possibilities.

This workshop will be presented by Jim Holm (Captain Homer) and Karen Groppi. The [Climate Initiative Task Force](#) and [Sustainable Curriculum Working Group](#) will also be available to answer questions about other sustainability initiatives on campus. Flex Week activities are normally limited to Cabrillo faculty, staff and administrators, but students are usually welcome at [CITF](#) Flex Week events.

Another Flex activity of interest to Cabrillo faculty, staff and administrators who are sustainability advocates will be [“Our Gang Discovers Our Inner Otters!” on Saturday, August 24th](#), 9am–2pm.

## **Our Gang Discovers Our Inner Otters!**

Our Gang will explore the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. We will visit the interpretive center and have a docent educate us, but much of the activity will require us to walk, kayak, and get our hands muddy in the wetlands of the Monterey Bay. Participants will be able to select some options (kayak or not) from a menu of activities; we will reconvene as a group after the various events are done. We will discuss how changes in the natural environment reflect Cabrillo College’s ability to respond to change. When faculty, staff and administrators have to navigate the wetlands of our beloved, but sometimes unpredictable landscape, we experience some of the same problem-solving processes our students face at Cabrillo. This flex activity requires walking and paddling, so wear comfortable clothes and rubber-soled shoes; bring some back up clothes in case you get wet. We will most likely eat a meal in Moss Landing after our time at the Elkhorn Slough. Meet in parking lot E in front of the 400 building at 8:40am to carpool. Please reserve a space with Michael Pebworth or Paul Harvell. Entrance fees and schedule to be announced later!