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## DANA POINT NEWS

SOUTH COUNTY NEWS

Register

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### ENVIRONMENT

# Recycling festival organizers seek to create community awareness

By Tiffany Sparks  
The News

It's got health food, music, environmental groups, social groups, artists and a chiropractor. It's probably like nothing else.

It's the first Recycling Generation Festival, and organizers say they want Saturday's celebration to be an annual event. Mario (Maji) Melendez and Kerry Langdale say it's not what most people think.

"The name's kind of misleading at first," said Langdale, 21, a Capistrano Beach resident. "A lot of people think it's a recycling festival where you bring cans. It's not so much a festival as an attitude. We're tired of everybody dubbing us the 'me generation.'"

Langdale explained that he and Melendez, 21, came up with the name "recycling generation"

as opposed to the "me generation." With the festival, they hope to get people more community-centered, and not so much self-centered.

“We're trying to get (young people) to create their own future, trying to get people more aware.”

**Kerry Langdale**  
Festival organizer

"A lot of people our age don't care what's going on," Langdale said. "We're trying to get them to create their own future, trying to get people more aware."

"So many people have tunnel vision. We're trying to open up people's views a little more and show what it used to be like."

Both Langdale and Melendez describe themselves as locals — people who grew up in this community. Growing up here, they

remember a time when there was more community spirit. They'd like to see that return.

"We're trying to develop some community camaraderie," Melendez said. "People can come down and spend an afternoon, bring a barbecue, get an idea about what's happening in Orange County and meet some neighbors."

"It's really low key, low stress," he added.

Basically, it's a hodge-podge for all ages.

Melendez said they contacted 47 environmental groups in Orange County, and 10 are participating: Save The Headlands, SAVE (Students Against a Vanishing Environment), Biological Society of Saddleback College, the Green Party, Greenpeace, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Surfrider Foundation, Save Dana Strands, and the Juaneno

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