**KIA MOTORS AMERICA RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ECOLOGY CENTER**

**AND PROVIDES SOUL EV TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS**

***Automaker’s “Visionary” Sponsorship of San Juan Capistrano-Based Eco-Education Center Supports Awareness and Education about Food, Water Supply and Energy Conservation***

* + Partnership with The Ecology Center supports Kia’s diverse corporate sustainability practices
* Two electric vehicle charging stations available at The Ecology Center

**IRVINE, Calif., June 23, 2015** – Kia Motors America (KMA) today announced the renewal of its partnership with The Ecology Center, a San Juan Capistrano, California-based non-profit eco-education center dedicated to creating a healthy and abundant future for all of Southern California and beyond. In its third year as a “Visionary” partner, Kia is providing the use of a 2015 Soul EV to The Ecology Center, which complements the two electric vehicle charging stations installed as part of the partnership last year. Kia and The Ecology Center will organize and carry out sustainability-themed learning projects at the KMA campus in Irvine, California, and in the surrounding community, and both organizations will continue work together to plan hands-on conservation and volunteer activities at The Center.

“Kia’s partnership with The Ecology Center has expanded over the years and is a reflection of our conscious dedication to sustainability, which is crucial for the continued success of our organization, the health and happiness of our customers and the communities we call home,” said Tim Chaney, vice president of marketing communications, KMA.

“With valued partners like Kia, The Ecology Center is now a recognized leader for conservation and environmental awareness, and as the Center continues to expand, more educational opportunities will be available to the public,” said Evan Marks, executive director, The Ecology Center. “With the opportunity to use the Soul EV, we can carry the message of sustainability to more members of the community in Southern California and beyond.”

-more-

The Ecology Center is a rich environment for learning and education for all ages, and this summer the [calendar](http://www.theecologycenter.org/calendar) has multiple opportunities and experiences, including:

* **Farm Film Series** (Select dates June - August)
  + Free outdoor educational film screening for the entire community.
* **Permaculture Design Certification Course** (Every other weekend; now through August 23)
  + A three-month hands-on apprenticeship program mentoring future sustainability leaders on how to apply the principles of permaculture design to address our environmental challenges.
* **Farm Lab Camp** (July 8 -11; July 15 -18; August 11 - 14)
  + Four-day summer camps for kids 5-6 & 7-9 with hands-on activities such as planting, exploring the biodiversity in soil, seed harvesting, caring of farm animals, cooking from the garden, and more.
* **Green Feast** (September 12)
  + The Ecology Center’s annual farm-to-table fundraising dinner bringing together 20 top chefs, 250 sustainability leaders, and local-only ingredients sourced within 250 miles.

**About The Ecology Center**

The Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano is an educational center that engages individuals, families, and students in fun, hands-on activities that teach practical, environmental solutions at the household and community level. The Ecology Center seeks to bring all members of the community together in a solutions-based educational setting to inspire and create a healthy and abundant future for all of Southern California. The Center highlights empowering and cutting-edge environmental perspectives that can be applied to the way we live our lives, making it possible for us to coexist with a thriving environment.

-more-

**About Kia Motors America**

Kia Motors America (KMA) is the marketing and distribution arm of Kia Motors Corporation based in Seoul, South Korea, and in 2014 was the #1 ranked mainstream brand according to Strategic Vision’s Total Quality Index. KMA proudly serves as the "Official Automotive Partner" of the NBA and LPGA and set an all-time annual sales record in 2014, surpassing the 500,000 unit mark for the third consecutive year. KMA offers a complete line of vehicles, including the rear-drive K900[[1]](#endnote-1) flagship sedan, Cadenza premium sedan, Sorento CUV, Soul urban passenger vehicle, Soul Electric Vehicle[[2]](#endnote-2), Sportage compact CUV, Optima midsize sedan, Optima Hybrid, the Forte compact sedan, Forte5 and Forte Koup, Rio and Rio 5-door subcompacts and the Sedona midsize multi-purpose vehicle, through a network of more than 765 dealers across the United States. Kia’s U.S. manufacturing plant in West Point, Georgia, builds the Optima\* and Sorento\* and is responsible for the creation of more than 14,000 plant and supplier jobs.

Information about KMA and its full vehicle line-up is available at www.kia.com. For media information, including photography, visit www.kiamedia.com. To receive custom email notifications for press releases the moment they are published, subscribe at [www.kiamedia.com/us/en/newsalert](http://www.kiamedia.com/us/en/newsalert).

**\* The Sorento and Optima GDI (EX, SX & Limited and certain LX Trims only) are assembled in the United States from U.S. and globally sourced parts.**

# # #

1. 2015 K900 V8 available in select trims and in select markets with limited availability. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. 2015 Soul EV in select markets with limited availability. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)