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**MCCA ANNOUNCES FREE PARKING FOR HYBRIDS THIS EARTH DAY AT THE
BOSTON COMMON GARAGE**

Hybrid owners also eligible for new discounted monthly parking

Save some cash while you save the planet at the Boston Common Garage this Earth Day.

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority is honoring drivers of fuel-sipping hybrid vehicles next Wednesday, April 22, by offering free parking, as well as steep, carbon-crushing discounts on monthly passes for hybrid owners.

This is the second year hybrid vehicles get a free stay on Earth Day at Boston's most convenient garage.

"Owners of hybrid vehicles are giving back to the community by driving smart, and it's time to pay them back, albeit for one day," said James E. Rooney, executive director of the MCCA, which owns and operates the garage. "This is just a small part of the MCCA's effort to ensure we are and remain a green organization."

In addition, MCCA this year is offering a 15 percent discount on current monthly parking passes for any hybrid vehicle. The MCCA is also offering a 25 percent discount on any new day-access monthly pass for hybrid owners who sign up before June 1, 2009. That discount will be good for six months before it adjusts to the 15 percent discount.

Along with those discounts, there are green spots in the Boston Common Garage. The MCCA has dedicated 12 preferred parking spaces for hybrid vehicles. And at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 16 preferred spaces have been added for hybrid owners.

That's not all. Starting May 4, the Boston Common Garage will begin replacing 747 florescent light bulbs with slim, energy efficient bulbs that will save the facility \$2,600 a month, pay for itself over the next year, and create a greener space to park your hybrid. NSTAR electric is giving the MCCA a \$30,000 discount for the energy-efficient changeover.

Customers in the garage will likely begin to see the work start next month, with traffic redirected around work crews. The diversions will take place on all three levels and should end when the project is completed in five months.

About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In 2008, the MCCA hosted 239 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 914,549 attendees, generating 627,544 hotel room nights and \$522 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

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