Green-Themed Events

by Heather Larson

GRANDPRIX ARIZONA™

Grand Prix Arizona

As bad as daily commuting is for the environment, car racing is worse.

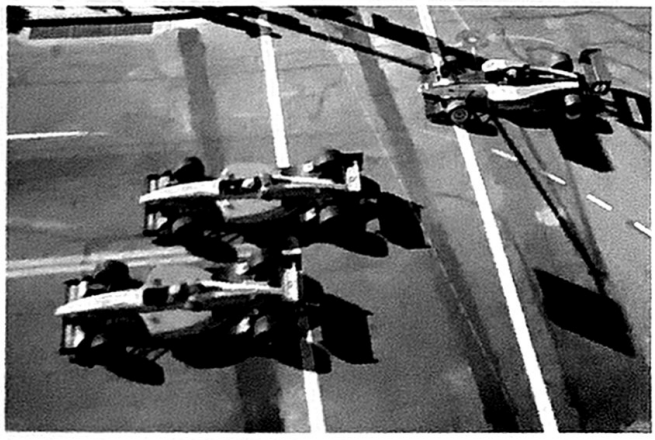
Let it be known that every detail of the Grand Prix Arizona has been carefully planned to leave no impact on the Arizona environment. Built according to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) specifications, the Arizona Grand Prix track boasts high standards in environmental performance. Even the infrastructure of the event won't fuel our brown cloud because the prefabricated elements eliminate standard construction – the creator of particulate matter.

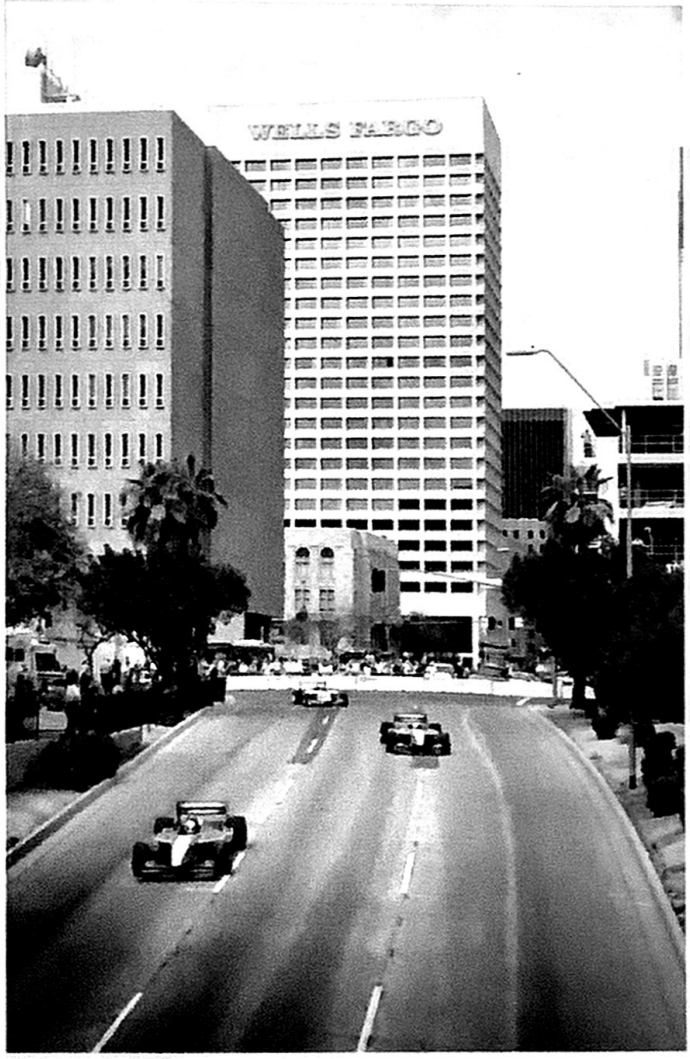
Worrying about the effect the race will have on the steadily-growing, brown cloud resting on the city? Worry not. Absent from the race will be carbon emissions. Rather than traditional gasoline, the racecars are fueled by methanol, a renewable resource that is biodegradable. In its purest form, methanol creates no particulate matter when combusted, with noise pollution said to be equivalent to that of a power saw.

There's also a little something for gearheads, too. The event will showcase future electric racecars, as well as other alternative fuel technologies.

The most exciting thing about the race is something spectators can breathe rather than see. While a typical NASCAR race produces 15,000 tons of CO2, a Champ Car race sneezes out about 300-1,100 tons. The attendees bring in more pollution by driving to the event than the racecars themselves. This is why carpooling to the Grand Prix is strongly encouraged.

Tickets range from $35 to free. grandprixarizona.com





The Grand Prix cars race through downtown Phoenix during a sound and track test held earlier in March.