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Environmental Stewardship



Thank you MLK Day of Service Volunteers

The City of Oakland would like to send a final thank you to the more than 2,100 volunteers and 36 event coordinators who partnered with us to make the day such a success. Our efforts had a significant and measurable positive impact. Together, we removed an estimated 1,800 bags of trash and 200 bags of green debris from Oakland neighborhoods, delivered resources to our unhoused neighbors, and served our communities in other ways—big and small.

- View our celebration video of the event [here!](#)
- View more photos of the day's events [here!](#)

To learn how you can serve your community year-round by Adopting a Spot, visit <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/environmental-stewardship>.

Volunteers with Adopt-a-Spot and Adopt-a-Drain can get City support to care for and maintain public spaces in Oakland.



Oakland Earth Day Site Registration Opens February 19th

On **Saturday, April 20, 2024**, the City of Oakland is celebrating **Oakland Earth Day!** This is a day of community service, education, and commitment to practices to keep our environment clean and green. Groups and individuals of all ages and abilities are invited to join, or even host their own, events throughout Oakland. Site registration is now open and interested parties can begin signing up.

Visit oaklandca.gov/earthday to learn more about registration and Oakland Earth Day!

Adopt-a-Drain Before the Rain!

You can help reduce flooding and keep trash out of our waterways by adopting a storm drain and keeping it clear of debris! The City of Oakland's Environmental Stewardship Team provides tools, supplies, and debris pick-up for Adopt-a-Drain volunteers. Remember, "Clear the drain before the rain" and report storm drain maintenance needs to Oak311!

Visit www.adoptadrainoakland.com or scan the QR code to adopt one or more storm drains in your neighborhood or near your workplace!



Transportation

Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Goods Movement Blueprint

In 2021, **Ava Community Energy** received a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a [Blueprint for zero-emission trucking](https://avaenergy.org/medium-heavy-duty-blueprint/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). This Blueprint outlines five key areas: vehicles, infrastructure, financing, workforce development, and community benefit. It details actions to be taken by Ava and others to make our service area a first-mover market for zero-emission Class 2b-6 trucks and vans by 2030, and Class 7-8 trucks by 2040.

Learn more at: https://avaenergy.org/medium-heavy-duty-blueprint/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Buildings & Energy

Bay Area Regional Energy Network Events

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is hosting two exciting events for Oakland real estate professionals in March.



First on **March 5th & 6th** is a chance for REALTORS® to earn their National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Green Designation for free! Attend this two-day training designed to introduce realtors to green real estate concepts, principles, practices, and benefits.

Afterwards, join us **March 28th** in the field to tour a 1940s Oakland bungalow that has undergone substantial energy upgrades to see energy efficient and all-electric features firsthand and understand how you might market this to your clients.

Both events, as well as others hosted by BayREN, can be found at: <https://www.bayren.org/events-training>.

Building Electrification Clubhouse in Downtown Oakland

The Building Electrification Clubhouse is a monthly workshop for building industry professionals in downtown Oakland. On the first Thursday of every month, come enjoy a fun evening with interesting speakers, engaging conversation, and light refreshments! This is a space for contractors, tradespeople, designers, project managers, and others to share knowledge, hear from expert peers, and get your questions answered. Learn More: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/building-electrification-public-engagement>

City of Oakland launches new rapid permits!

The City of Oakland is excited to announce a significant enhancement in its permitting process with the introduction of ten new "rapid permits" available through the Online Permit Center. Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical Permits are now available on the same day! This initiative aims to streamline and expedite the issuance of permits, providing applicants with instant approval upon completion of the application and fee payment.

Press Release: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/news/city-of-oakland-introduces-ten-new-rapid-permits-for-instant-approval-through-online-permit-center>



Ava Community Energy: New Name, Same Great Services, and Exciting New programs for Saving Energy and Electrifying

East Bay Community Energy is now **Ava Community Energy**! Ava is your local electricity provider, founded in 2018 by Alameda County, the cities in Alameda County, and the City of Tracy. Learn more: <https://avaenergy.org>

Here's more from Ava:

- New PG&E rates went into effect January 1, 2024. Learn more: [AvaEnergy.org/pge-2024-rate-increases-explained](https://avaenergy.org/pge-2024-rate-increases-explained)
- Local Sponsorship Applications: Ava awards community sponsorships to local organizations up to \$2,500. The application is currently open to sponsorships awarded in April! Learn more: [AvaEnergy.org/community-sponsorships](https://avaenergy.org/community-sponsorships)
- Apply to join Ava's Community Advisory Committee! **Applications due 12:00pm on Monday, March 4th.** To Apply: [AvaEnergy.org/CACapplication](https://avaenergy.org/CACapplication)
- Commercial Induction Rebate: Upgrade your commercial kitchen to induction and get to \$17,500 in rebates <https://tinyurl.com/iccrebate-ava>
- Save money when upgrading to a heat pump water heater with up to \$400 in rebates now! Visit: <https://avaenergy.org/programs-residential/>
- evFleet Consulting Program: Transition your commercial fleet to electric vehicles

Ava Community Energy Provides \$16M in Bill Credits

Ava Community Energy (formerly East Bay Community Energy) is giving back **\$16M** to customers in one-time bill credits from November 2023 through February 2024.

- Customers qualified under the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) or Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) programs will be receiving a **\$50 credit**, for a total of \$6M overall.
- All Ava residential customers will receive \$7.74 bill credit and commercial customers will receive volumetric savings based on their electricity usage. Total savings will be \$10.5M across residential and commercial bills.

For more information, please visit avaenergy.org. For questions about your bill or the service in general, email customer-support@avaenergy.org or call 1-833-699-3223.



TECH Clean California Heat Pump Water Heater Incentives

- As of February 6, 2024, single family market rate heat pump water heater incentives are fully reserved for electric investor-owned utility (IOU) customers in PG&E service area. Learn more about the update [here](#).
- **Single family Equity incentives** are still available. To learn more about Equity incentives, visit <https://switchison.org/techcleanca/hpwh-equity/>



Induction Cooktop Lending Program and Rebates!

Induction is the safest and most energy-efficient cooking technology available today. The difference is in the technology. See for yourself!

- **Ava:** [Reserve your Induction Lending Kit today](#), including a portable cooktop and compatible pan, operating instructions, and recipes. The loan period is 21

days. The induction Cooktop lending Program is available to all residential electricity customers residing in the East Bay-- Ava customers as well as non-customers who receive service from PG&E.

- **PG&E:** PG&E's new Induction Cooktop Loaner Program offers plug-in countertop induction units for two-weeks, at no cost, to all residents. To borrow and learn more about induction cooking, visit pge.com/inductionloaner where you can start the loan process. PG&E will provide shipping details and cover shipping costs.

Ava is also offering **up to \$250** per eligible residential customer for an induction cooktop/range, when you replace an existing gas appliance. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis for qualifying residents with homes built in 2016 or earlier. Restrictions apply. Learn more and apply [here](#) today!

Urban Greening

Oakland's Urban Tree Dreams in the News

Bay Nature featured a comprehensive story exploring Oakland's plan to address urban tree inequities and restore its declining tree canopy in underserved neighborhoods. The City's draft Urban Forest Plan aims to prioritize equity, biodiversity, and community engagement for a more sustainable and resilient urban environment. You can view the article [here](#).

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Save the date for the following Bringing Back the Natives Garden tours! In-person and virtual tours are planned for April and May. Please join us for any or all of these events, which will be held on the following dates:

- Virtual tour: **Saturday and Sunday April 6th and 7th**, 10:00am-3:00pm
- In-person tour: **Saturday and Sunday May 4th and 5th**, 10:00am-5:00pm

Registration is required! You can register [here](#). For more information, please visit <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/agenda-and-welcome-to-the-2023-online-event>

Zero Waste

Does your nonprofit or business prevent waste in Alameda County?

\$1.1 Million in Grant Funding Now Available!

Food Waste Prevention & Recovery

Community Food Systems

Reusable Foodware

Food Donation Equipment

Reuse & Repair

Reusable Transport Packaging Equipment

LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT: www.StopWaste.org/Grants?t

Applications due March 14, 2024

STOPWASTE

\$1.1 Million for Grants in Six Categories from StopWaste

StopWaste is offering grant funding for innovative projects that focus on waste prevention, reuse, and recovery of food, goods and materials, as well as development, marketing, and products made with recovered materials.

- Projects must be located in or serve Alameda County.
- Available to businesses, nonprofits, institutions, and school districts (varies by category).
- **Application deadline is March 14.**
- Watch the 2024 grants [webinar](#) for application details.
- Click the button below to explore these grant opportunities

Explore Grants

Reducing Waste: Shining a Spotlight on Oakland Non-profits

This month, [The Crucible](#) (West Oakland) applied their creativity to making fashion accessories out of old bike tire tubes. And at [Omni Commons](#) in the Temescal neighborhood, Oaklanders are preventing fashion waste through the open sewing lab. These events are open to all, and show the power of what happens when economic justice, the arts, and material reuse come together. For more information on how to participate in these events, please visit the followings websites.

- <https://www.thecrucible.org/course-search/>

- <https://omnicommons.org/blog/calendar/>

Announcements

Oakland Launches Micro Business Support Program for Immigrant Communities

The City of Oakland's Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) is launching a new **Immigrant Micro Business Support Program** in partnership with The Unity Council and Feed the Hunger Fund, thanks to funding received via the Local Immigrant Integration and Inclusion Grant (LIIG) of \$275,000 from California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz). This program provides workshops, financial coaching, and low-cost financing to Oakland's micro-enterprise and small businesses, with a focus on immigrant- and women-owned businesses.

Click [here](#) to view the entire press release.

Spring Farm Festival at Mills Community Farms



Northeastern Oakland's Climate Justice and Sustainability Hub will be holding their Spring Farm Festival this year on March 15th from 4:30-6:30pm at Mills Community Farm. There will be live music, booths with craft activities, and food provided! All are welcome. RSVP is required to attend - [linked here](#).

If your organization would like to have relevant community events or opportunities posted here, please email us at climate@oaklandca.gov.



City of Oakland, 1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

[Manage preferences](#)