

Climate, Environment + Sustainability Newsletter



CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Community engagement was critical in creating the Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP). Our goal is to continue that relationship through ongoing updates on progress and opportunities for involvement.

Click here to view upcoming City Council meetings and see how to make public comments.



Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf with Pollinator Posse Co-Founder Tora Rocha holidng up the City of Oakland Council Resolution.

May 22nd Declared as Oakland Pollinator Posse Day

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, in an event hosted at the Gardens of Lake Merritt, proclaimed May 22 as Pollinator Posse Day -- a day to celebrate the ecological services provided by pollinators and other natural elements of Oakland ecosystems.

This proclamation continues our work to make Oakland a more sustainable city, directly addressing ECAP Action A-6: Expand and Protect Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity, in addition to aiding natural carbon removal (ECAP Actions CR-2 through CR-4). The Pollinator Posse is a non-profit initiated by the Oakland Public Works Park Maintenance Department. Since its foundation the Posse has made important

impacts, including training gardeners, and the work is paying off: Last year monarch butterflies were observed for the first time in recent history overwintering at Lake Merritt. Oakland has taken steps to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, reducing pesticide use, restoring natural habitat and enacting programs that promotes wildlife success, becoming a national model for what cities can do to reverse species decline.



Each month the Environmental Sustainability Team will highlight timely environmental topics tohelp share valuable information and empower community members in our collective sustainability actions.

Water Conservation Resources - Drought is Here!

The East Bay is currently facing <u>Exceptional Drought</u> conditions, the most severe drought ranking possible. Now is the time to start taking action to conserve. East Bay Municipal Utility District is offering extensive resources, as well as rebates to help you save water AND money!

- <u>Track and Manage Your Water Use</u>- Sign up to track your water usage, receive notifications of potential leaks, and save money on your utility bill.
- Water Conservation Rebates- Receive rebates up to \$2,000 for residents, and \$15,000 for commercial when you take simple actions to help reduce and monitor water use. From upgrading your washer to a high efficiency model to lawn conversion and setting up a graywater system.
- <u>Graywater Water Resources</u>- Graywater is water used indoors that is captured and reused. Start watering fruit trees and shrubs with your laundry water rebates to help you set up your own system.
- <u>WaterSmart Garden Grants</u> of \$500-15,000 are available to community organizations creating publicly accessible community gardens or urban farms that demonstrate water conservation!
- To get real-time notifications on your water use, apply for EBMUD's flowmeter rebate program.
- <u>See WaterSmart Gardener Tips</u>- Check out the <u>landscape design calculator</u> to see how much water you can save by replacing your lawn with a low-water use garden, all while receiving rebates on your water bill. View more resources on <u>outdoor water conservation here</u>.

New Electricity Billing Method - Time Of Use Rates

You've probably seen the "Keep it Golden" ads encouraging Californians to use less electricity between 4 and 9 PM to keep the grid stable and utilize greener power. That's because from 4 to 9 PM, energy demand is high, and less wind and solar power are typically available. To help address this, in May 2021 residential customers throughout Alameda county were placed on Time-of-Use (TOU) rates, in which the price of energy varies based on the time of day. The transition to TOU rates is intended to support the state's ongoing shift to cleaner energy.

But you still have options! The default rate is TOU-C, with peak hours 4 to 9 PM every day. But you can also select TOU-D (peak hours 5 to 8 PM on non-holiday

weekdays) or remain on the E-1 flat rate. Note: if you are already on a time-of-use rate or EV rate, this change will not affect you. EBCE is offering bill protection for customers who transition to the new default plan. For more information, visit ebce.org/timeofuse.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS







Report Your Volunteer Hours

Do you know that Oakland tallies all the litter removed by volunteers in a legally required annual water quality report to the State of California? And that volunteer cleanups are helping Oakland keep the city clean, and achieve water quality goals for the Bay? Your data is critical to our understanding of litter and all that is required to clean Oakland. To enter volunteer hours and other workday results, go to the Oakland Volunteer Community Hub and click on the survey "Report Your Volunteer Hours." Contact adoptaspot@oaklandca.gov with questions.

Host a Project for Team Oakland This Summer!

Environmental Stewardship is seeking Adopt a Spot and volunteer site coordinators to host weekly special projects for the Team Oakland youth. The program begins July 6th and runs for eight weeks. Site coordinators are needed for the afternoon 2-6pm shift. If you have a beautification project on City of Oakland public land, and are interested in working with a small group of youth and their team leader, please contact AdoptaSpot@oaklandca.gov.



Youth Employment Program Summer Jobs

Apply via the Youth Employment Program/YEP

Applications are now available for Team Oakland, summer jobs for youth. Team Oakland is a City-sponsored summer employment program for Oakland youth ages 15–24. Team Oakland participants gain practical job training experience through meaningful beautification

and cleanup projects. The program provides a formative experience for youth through crew-based work and participation in City cleanups, park maintenance, habitat restoration, fire fuel management, community outreach, and training on work & life skills and environmental topics.

- * In application, check the box "Outdoor Crew Based"
- * Team members and Team Leaders needed!

TRANSPORTATION + LAND USE

Vision: Access to safe, reliable, and affordable public transit and mobility options for everyOaklander enable an equitable transition away from cars. Auto use is minimized, and all remaining vehicles on Oakland roads are electric.



Learn About Incentives to Help You Buy an Electric Vehicle

Think you can't afford an EV? Think again! Join the (Virtual) EV Financial Incentives Clinic on Wednesday, June 16th. Learn about the many financial assistance programs available to income-qualifying consumers, including the Clean Cars for All grant, Clean Vehicle Assistance grant, and county-specific programs. Afterwards, receive one-on-one consultations for help completing your applications. This event will focus on rebate programs available to Northern California residents. See more information here.

We Need Your Input! - Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan Surveys
Electric vehicles can save you hundreds of dollars a month while reducing air
pollution in our community. But many neighborhoods in Oakland have no
public chargers. How can we ensure that all Oaklanders have access to
affordable, clean transportation? The City of Oakland is developing a Zero
Emission Vehicle Action Plan and needs to hear from you!

<u>Take the ZEVAP Survey</u> <u>Tell Us Where You Want to See More EV Chargers</u>

To learn more about the project and see the development and progress of the plan, visit the City's <u>Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan webpage</u>. Sign up for email updates here.

BUILDINGS + ENERGY

Vision: Leveraging a clean electric grid, all buildings in Oakland have equitably transitioned away from onsite fossil fuel use, creating safe and healthy indoor spaces that are resilient, efficient, and support the housing and community needs of all Oaklanders.



Get a FREE Nest Thermostat and Help Oakland Win the City Energy Challenge!

Save Energy while helping reduce blackouts with OhmConnect's City Energy Challenge! To help prevent blackouts this summer, OhmConnect is challenging communities across California to see who can save the most energy a little neighborly competition to decide California's most energy-conscious city. OhmConnect will

give the winning city \$50,000 to award 10 scholarships (community college, job training, university, etc.) to residents of their city.

When you sign up, you'll receive a free smart thermostat. Not only will this helplower your utility bills, OhmConnect actually *pays you* for reducing energy use during peak hours. With 1 Million thermostats connected to OhmConnect, wehave the ability to prevent blackouts by reducing demand on the grid at criticaltimes - a potential impact equivalent to taking 146 cars off the road for an entire year. Do your part and sign up now!



CALLING ALL RESTAURANTS! East Bay Community Energy

(EBCE)'s Commercial Kitchen Rebate applications are open to all nonresidential customers! These funds can help cover the cost of installing an electric induction cooktop or range in commercial kitchens anywhere within EBCE's service territory. Rebates are available to cover up to \$15,000 of total non-electrical project costs (e.g. equipment, labor, and

permits). An additional \$2,500

rebate is available to cover necessary electrical upgrades associated with installation (wiring, outlet changes, and service panel upgrades). For portable units, up to \$400 per unit (max 2) is available. For more program details and to apply, click here.



East Bay Green Home Tour

Sunday June 13th, 10 - 12 pm

How are East Bay residents

adapting their homes to combat

climate change, improve air quality,

generate clean energy, and move

towards a safer, greener future?

The virtual East Bay Green Home Tour features short video tours of 12 homes, followed by live Q&As with the homeowner or tenant. Extras include an induction cooking demonstration and experts who can fill you in on heat pumps, air quality, solar storage, power outages, rebates, and more. Find the full tour schedule here.

FREE Energy + Water Saving Kits

Looking to save money and make your home more sustainable? BayREN is partnering with Rising Sun Center for Opportunity to provide energy and water efficiency kits. When you sign up for a Green House Call by completing a 10-minute survey, a kit will be delivered directly to your door. The best part? It won't cost you anything. Kits are available to both renters and homeowners of single-family homes and 2-4 plexes*. Take the survey online or at (510) 665-1501 ext 300 with a trained staff member. Learn more here.

MATERIAL CONSUMPTION + WASTE

Vision: Oakland has eliminated the disposal of organic materials to landfill and strengthen edible food recovery. In creating a system for the repair and reuse of existing materials, Oakland boosts the local economy and reduces the need for the high carbon consumption of new materials.



Check Out StopWaste's Resources!

StopWaste is our regional resource for reducing material + organic waste at home and at work. Explore a wide range of topics on their <u>website</u>, including: <u>How to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste the Right Way</u>

Reducing Your Food Waste

Reducing Package Waste

URBAN GREENING + CARBON REMOVAL

Vision: In addition to reducing the amount of carbon dioxide we produce, carbon removal efforts draw down existing carbon from the atmosphere to help slow climate change. These efforts aim to work with and enhance existing natural systems, leading to healthier streams, trees, agriculture, and communities along the way.



Oakland Parks Challenge June 21 - July 11

Explore Oakland's parks and win great prizes during the 2021 Parks Challenge! Join the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation for a free, fun for all ages scavenger hunt that will guide participants through parks across Oakland to discover hidden neighborhood gems, beautiful nature, public art and local

history. Complete fun missions to earn points, climb the leaderboard and take home terrific prizes. Learn more and sign up here.



Keep Oakland Beautiful Summer Internship

Applications due June 15th
Keep Oakland Beautiful is now
accepting intern applications for the
Youth Advisory Committee, open to
Oakland high school sophomores,
juniors, and seniors. Our mission is to
create and sustain a beautiful, clean,
green, litter-free Oakland through
education, community engagement, and
volunteer action. Interns will have the

opportunity to learn about community engagement, fundraising, marketing and more. Join us for an exciting year working to keep Oakland beautiful through clean up projects, tree planting, community education, and more. Applications are due June 15, visit KOB's website to learn more.

ADDITIONAL NEWS



EBCE is Hiring Summer Interns (Paid Position)

Come join our team and learn how the magic happens at your local not-for-profit public energy agency!

- Contracts and Settlements Intern Power Resources Team
- Resource Valuation Intern Power Resources Team

https://ebce.org/job-opportunities/

People of Color In Green Spaces: Panelist Discussion on Career Opportunities

Register Here - June 9th, 2021 10:00 AM PST

Join this free virtual webinar to learn from panelists about career pathways for People of Color in the sustainability sector. Panelists will answer questions and discuss job and internship opportunities in clean tech. Listen to the recording of the first workshop session here.

Belonging in Oakland: A Just City Cultural Fund

Apply Here - Deadline: Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm

This is a unique support program that funds Oakland-based BIPOC artists/cultural

practitioners to radically reimagine a racially just city. In this second round of support, the Fund seeks projects that challenge racialized systems and create new tools/paradigms/prototypes for furthering justice and equity in Oakland. The *Just City Cultural Fund* will award 6-8 two-year grants that total \$60,000-\$100,000 (grants will be allocated in equal amounts over the two-year period, that is, \$30,000-\$50,000/yr.)

California Rebuilding Fund - Loans for Small Businesses

The <u>California Rebuilding Fund</u> is a loan program to support California's small businesses – especially those located in economically disadvantaged and historically under-banked areas of the state. Businesses who employed 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees and had gross revenues of less than \$2.5 million in 2019 are eligible to apply. The loans are flexible, transparent and designed to help businesses access the capital and advisory services they need to get through these challenging economic times. <u>Fill out a pre-application</u> to be matched with a participating local community lender who will work with you on your full loan application.

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

We'd love to hear from you! For Questions or comments contact climate @oaklandca.gov