

Climate, Environment + Sustainability Newsletter



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Environmental Stewardship









Union Point Park Revitalization Project Update

The Environmental Services Stewardship Team has begun the Union Point Park Revitalization Project, which is an effort to clean, green, and involve community in restoration efforts for Union Point Park. As part of the project, two events took place last month with Oakland youth!

On Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 11 students from ARISE High School took to the seas and collected water samples from Union Point Park all the way to the Bay Bridge! The Stewardship Team worked with the Oakland Police Department Marine Unit, California Climate Action Corps, Oakland Marinas, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and NASA's GLOBE Program to make this unique experience possible. ARISE students collected water samples from the coast of the park all the way out to underneath the Bay Bridge, and they will be using these samples to learn how to perform water quality assessments. These results will also give the City of Oakland insight into potential contaminants in the surrounding areas. The Stewardship Team looks forward to attending the students' final presentations later in December.

Cleaning and Greening

On Friday, October 21, 2022, over 270 students from Downtown Charter Academy came out to clean and green Union Point Park! Students worked with Stewardship, Parks & Recreation, and Tree Services staff to collect 30 bags of debris, round up over 140 bags of green waste, spread 30 cubic yards of mulch, and plant 22 trees with 100 smaller plants!! Thank you to the Environmental Services Division Stewardship Team, Parks & Recreation, Tree Services Division, California Climate Action Corps, Oakland Police Department, Oakland Marinas, and Downtown Charter Academy, who has now adopted Union Point Park! The Stewardship Team will be continuing to work with these students on the upkeep of the park by providing tools, debris collection services, and information on best practices.

If you are interested in joining volunteer opportunities or hosting your own, you can visit <u>oaklandadoptaspot.org</u> to learn more about the community-led and city-supported volunteer program!



Adopt a Drain Today: Reduce Flooding and Keep Trash Out of Our Waterways

You can help reduce flooding and keep trash out of our waterways by adopting a storm drain and keeping it clear of debris. Go to www.adoptadrainoakland.com to adopt one or more storm drains in your neighborhood or near your workplace.

Public Works 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 Qak311



Be #OaktownPROUD: Help Prevent and Report Illegal Dumping in Your Neighborhood

The City of Oakland launched #OaktownPROUD, a campaign for and by Oaklanders, to reduce unlawful dumping and improve our neighborhoods. Oaktown PROUD combats illegal dumping through the City's three E's: education, enforcement and eradication. Help prevent and report unlawful dumping by participating in free programs and services: use your free annual bulky pickup service, safely dispose of hazardous materials at 2100 E. 7th Street, report to OAK311, and more. For additional information, please visit www.oaktownproud.com

Transportation & Land Use



Update on General Plan Environmental Justice Communities Hub

The General Plan Update team released an update to the Draft EJ Communities Map last month. You may view the updated Draft EJ Communities Map here on the City's website. Please also take a moment to read this brief Primer on the Ongoing Development of the Draft EJ Communities Map. It contains essential information about the Draft EJ Communities Map and the process of updating it. The General Plan Update team is also working diligently to update the EJ Communities Hub to solicit feedback on the updated map. Please stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, please submit any comments or feedback

to <u>generalplan@oaklandca.gov</u>. You may also check out the General Plan Update <u>Community Events and Resources</u> page to learn about upcoming opportunities to be involved in shaping this important guiding document for Oakland.



E-Bike Discount Campaign and Webinar

Ride and Drive Clean is launching their first <u>E-Bike Discount campaign</u> from November 1 - 21, 2022 with savings up to \$2,750 or 25% off of select models. In addition, the first 100 e-bike purchases get a free helmet, 1-year service plan, and an optional 1-year no-interest financing. Not sure if an Ebike is for you? Want to learn more about the technology, the categories of bikes, and best practices for getting around safely? Join Ride and Drive Clean for a free interactive webinar. Talk with Ebike experts and owners who ride electric. And, our partners at The New Wheel can help you find the model for your budget and your needs. <u>Register here</u> for the webinar on Thursday, 11/10 at 6pm.



EV Charger Technical Assistance for Multifamily Buildings in West Oakland

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Stopwaste are partnering with local electrical contractor Energy Conservation Options (ECO) to provide no-cost electric vehicle (EV) charging station assessments for apartment buildings in West Oakland and Richmond. The free assessment includes an onsite technical assessment and follow up report detailing project scope, cost, and available incentives. A subset of assessed buildings will receive additional assistance in applying for incentive programs and securing permits and installation contracts. To find out more and sign up, contact Ben Cooper (510-891-6511, bcooper@stopwaste.org)



EBCE EV Charging Infrastructure Rebates

East Bay Community Energy, Alameda County's public power provider, is pleased to announce a partnership with the California Energy Commission's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP). Businesses, commercial and multifamily housing properties, and public agency facilities in Alameda County can apply for rebates up to \$80,000 on eligible electric vehicle charger equipment and installation costs.

If you are new to EV charging, CALeVIP has created a list of service providers in your area to assist with developing an EV charging project for your site. To access that list, please visit calevip.org/find-an-evsp. To learn more about eligibility requirements, visit the Alameda County Incentive Project website.

Buildings & Energy



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!

- EBCE: 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--EBCE 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 <u>pge.com/inductionloaner</u> where you can start the loan process. PG&E will provide shipping details and cover shipping costs.

EBCE is also offering **up to \$300** 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 <u>here</u> today!

LBNL Wins \$1 Million For Extreme Heat Resilience in Fruitvale

On November 2, 2022, the Department of Energy announced the winners of the Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) program, including \$1 million to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to study how solar plus energy storage solutions can enhance extreme heat resilience in partnership with La Familia and Rising Sun Center for Opportunity. The project team will develop criteria for vulnerability and risk assessment based on existing climate modeling and other tools that provide downscaled local estimates for future heat waves. Using labdeveloped tools, the team will determine the most effective residential active and passive cooling measures and quantify the resilience benefits of solar-plus-storage

at various scales. Based on the developed energy resilience planning framework, the team will identify locations in Oakland and San Francisco where solar storage deployment can best support increased community energy resilience.

CEC Funds Vehicle-to-Building Charging Pilot for Resilience in West Oakland

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is funding a <u>vehicle-to-building (V2B)</u> resilience hub that will demonstrate the value of bidirectional electric vehicle charging for providing back-up power. The project will make use of stored energy from zero-emission electric buses, owned and operated by AC Transit, to provide filtered air-conditioning at the West Oakland Branch of the Oakland Public Library for local residents in the event of unhealthy heat or smoke conditions. Each battery electric bus will contribute six hours of back-up power to the critical loads at the library, and each hydrogen fuel cell-electric bus will provide up to 11 continuous hours of back-up power. This will reportedly displace nearly 100 pounds of carbon emissions per hour compared to traditional diesel back-up generators.



Discounts on Solar + Storage through Bay Area SunShares

The City of Oakland is committed to a more sustainable world and supporting your transition to cleaner energy. From **September 1st through November 15th, 2022**, we are partnering with Bay Area SunShares to bring you discounted solar + storage with pre-vetted installers.



Surveys on Building Electrification

The City of Oakland wants to hear your thoughts and perceptions on building electrification and how we can better facilitate the transition to 100% clean electricity in all buildings. Complete this **5-minute survey** here, also available in Chinese and Spanish.

Also, UC Berkeley researchers are looking for diverse homeowners and renters living in Oakland to participate in a study on household electrification. You'll receive \$50 for your time. Participating in the study involves a 30-45-minute interview inperson, preferably in your home (following local health guidelines for COVID-19) or in a video call. Researchers will address your concerns about the reliability and affordability of clean energy, and ask about your views related to any changes you have made or plan to make (or not!) in your electricity and gas consumption (e.g. purchasing back-up generators, changing from gas to electric heating, installing solar panels). Your responses will remain anonymous in the analysis and results. Please contact them via email (cristina_crespo@berkeley.edu), phone (+1 628-276-3167), or fill out this form: https://forms.gle/VRMG1Jhhttpx9Wm69



EBCE Resilient Home Program

With <u>Resilient Home</u>, EBCE has done the upfront legwork to select an experienced partner, Sunrun, and pre-negotiated solar and battery backup system incentives for Oakland homeowners. To further lower customer costs, Sunrun will pay homeowners \$1,250 after installation for agreeing to share their stored energy with EBCE when demand on the power grid is high. This will help the grid operate more reliably, and cut carbon emissions and costs for all EBCE customers.

Keep the lights on and the fridge cold. <u>Sign up now</u> to see if a solar and battery backup system is a good fit for your home

Urban Greening & Carbon Removal

Use the Tool Lending Library for Your Next Garden Project

It's not too late to plant a garden! Oakland's <u>Tool Lending Library</u> has all kinds of tools including circular saws, gardening tools, hammers, and screwdrivers available to be checked out, just like a book! The Tool Lending Library is located at 5205 Telegraph Avenue, and open every day but Sunday.



New Alameda County Compost Hubs

Treat your California natives and fall and winter vegetables to FREE compost at one of Alameda County's newest compost hubs located in Alameda, Piedmont, and Livermore with more to open soon. Applying compost on top of your soil and around plants is one of the best ways to feed your soil, conserve water, and grow healthier plants. Compost hubs are open to everyone and in addition to providing free compost, these sites also offer resources on making and using compost. Learn more at https://www.stopwaste.org/composthub



Pest Prevention Webinar

Are Pests Invading Your Home or Garden? At this <u>free webinar</u> sponsored by the <u>Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program</u> you'll learn to manage problem ants, rodents, and raccoons without the use of toxic chemicals. Tune in on **Thursday, November 10, 5-6pm**.

Material Consumption & Waste



Recycle, Compost, and Trash Survey

We are gathering opinions from residents, business owners and property managers regarding trash, recycle, and compost collection services in Oakland. The <u>survey</u> should take less than 10 minutes to complete. All participants who complete the

survey will be entered into random drawings where two participants will be selected daily to receive **\$50 Amazon gift cards**.

Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts and opinions as the City of Oakland works to improve services.

Environmental Alternatives to Fabric Softeners

Using liquid fabric softener? Consider using wool dryer balls or a small amount of vinegar; to save money, reduce gunk buildup in washing machines, and keep your sport fabrics breathable (hang dry the sport fabrics instead). Softener and fabrics can fill in the same areas you want to keep clear so your sport clothes breathe better. Plus, many scented liquids are chemical-based and can aggravate allergies. Many times a dash of vinegar is cheaper and less damaging to your washing machine than liquid fabric softener. Learn more at https://www.treehugger.com/why-you-dont-need-fabric-softener-4858410

Thank you, Omar, for the submission!



Join us for 4 virtual weekly sessions, Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams:

NOV 15 Sustainability Overview

NOV 22 The Life Cycle of a Water Bottle / Climate Change and You NOV 29 Anatomy of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) / Compost Pile

DEC 6 Environmental Leadership / Action Days

For more information about the program and to apply visit www.OaklandRecycles.com/100changemakers







Join Oakland Recycles' 100 Change Makers Environmental Leadership Program on America Recycles Day: November 15th!

The goal of 100 Change Makers is to educate individuals, organizations and businesses in Oakland who will teach our community about how choices we make related to managing waste impact environmental sustainability. For any questions or to receive more information about the program visit https://www.oaklandrecycles.com/100changemakers/ or contact Cameron

Martin, Recycling Education Rep, Waste Management of Alameda

County, cmarti13@wm.com, 510-330-3264. We would love for you to be part of this change!



Reduce Food Waste this Holiday Season

Make the most of your food and budget with a little creative cooking this holiday season! The holidays come with a lot of waste – from Thanksgiving to New Year's, Americans produce 25 percent more! Find helpful tips on how to make the most of what's in your kitchen – from tired tomatoes to brown bananas – at StopFoodWaste.org.



Visit Oakland Launches Oakland Vegan Trail

Visit Oakland has launched the <u>Oakland Vegan Trail</u>, an online gastronomic guide that boasts 20+ plant-based restaurants found in The Town. The Oakland Vegan Trail map includes an overview of each restaurant, with menu highlights, location, and contact information.

Announcements



Oakland Welcomes 15 Climate Action Fellows

The City of Oakland recently welcomed 15 new California Climate Action Fellows to its Sustainability and Resilience team. During their 1-year term with the City, the

Fellows will be working on projects related to wildfire resiliency, urban greening, and edible food waste recovery. During their first month they have participated in park cleanups, setting up the Autumn Lights Festival, and tree plantings in East Oakland. This cohort of fellows features recent college graduates and experienced professionals making a pivot into climate action. If you are interested in learning more about participating as a California Climate Action fellow or hosting fellows at your organization, please

visit https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/climateactioncorps/



Join the Dialogue About a Climate Resilient Alameda County

Alameda County is updating its Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations. Through **November 15**, you can give <u>input on the draft plan</u> for sustainability and resilience in county buildings, fleet, and services. If you register and give input, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$100 gift card!

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







