



Overview

**Buildings & Energy · ZeroWaste · Transportation · Environmental
Stewardship · Announcements**

Buildings and Energy

Participate in a Study on Methane Emissions from Gas Appliances



Do you have gas-powered appliances in your Bay Area home? You may be eligible to participate in a new study led by researchers at Berkeley Lab on measuring methane emissions from gas appliances in California homes. Learn more at <https://indoor.lbl.gov/carmec-study>.

Value Prop Public Comment Period



Our not-for-profit electricity provider, [Ava Community Energy \(Ava\)](#), is considering changing their rates in relation to PG&E's rates for 2026. The rate-setting process is participatory and transparent, and Ava invites you to submit public comments. The deadline to provide feedback is Monday, December 8.

Learn more: AvaEnergy.org/rates

Ava Community Energy – Wrapped

Wrapped 2025

Oakland:

Total Customers on Ava Service	184,340
Ava Participation Rate	96%
Savings Since 2018	\$51,884,237
Default Plan	Bright Choice

Total energy used: 1,242,266,247 kWh



Curious about Oakland's electricity stats from the past year?

Presenting Ava Community Energy Wrapped! Ava Community Energy, our city's local electricity provider, has:

- Provided us with 1,242,266,247 kWh of electricity this year
- Saved our residents and businesses \$51,884,237 to date
- Supported our community through e-bike rebates, grants, and local programs

We're proud to be part of the clean energy transition with Ava! Learn more:

AvaEnergy.org

Zero Waste

Follow StopWaste on Social Media  

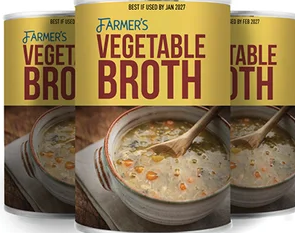
Facebook: Get tips and inspiration on how to stop waste, reuse and repair, and go green at home and school. @StopWasteOrg

Instagram: Check out food waste reduction and storage tips and composting and sustainable gardening ideas from Alameda County and beyond. @Stopwaste

LinkedIn: Join our LinkedIn group for business waste prevention resources, industry updates, and networking.

YouTube: Watch videos about reducing food waste, turning food scraps into compost, and more

Stop Food Waste in Your Home



**Take Stock
Before You Shop**
Make your food go further.

Before you get more, check what you have
and follow FIFO—First In, First Out—
don't forget to use older food first.

More tips at StopFoodWaste.org



Before you head to the store this holiday season, take a look at what's already in your pantry, freezer, and fridge. Try the First In, First Out trick—move older items to the front, so they get used first. Small practices like these can go a long way in stretching your grocery budget. Get more tips on StopWaste's blog:

stopfoodwaste.org



Freeze Your Leftovers *Serve it up later!*

Freeze extra portions within 3 days
and label them. They'll stay safe
and tasty for months.

More tips at StopFoodWaste.org



Freeze any leftovers you won't eat in the next few days, and label everything, so it doesn't disappear into the freezer. Most cooked holiday dishes stay high-quality for months when stored well — turning one feast into many future meals. For more tips, visit StopWaste's blog: stopfoodwaste.org

World Soil Day, December 5th

World Soil Day

Soil plays a critical role in our lives and environment!

95% of our food originates from the soil. Plus, soil is essential in aiding plants to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which significantly contributes to combating climate change.



Happy World Soil Day! Did you know 95% of our food grows from the soil, and soil helps plants draw down carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, helping to reverse climate change? Soil plays a critical role in our lives and environment. Join us in celebrating World Soil Day every day by building healthy, resilient soil in your garden. Try these strategies:

- Add compost as a top dressing – the soil will absorb the nutrients as needed
- Plant cover crops – feed your soil nitrogen and carbon; fava beans, clover, and vetch (or a mix) do well in the late fall
- Apply mulch – a thick layer of wood chips helps retain water, abates weeds, and feeds your soil with carbon
- Plant perennials – now is the best time to add some California natives to your garden and large woody plants, which store loads of carbon in their roots
- Let fallen leaves stay under the tree canopy – skip the raking and use it as a natural mulch

For more resources, visit StopWaste's website: <https://bit.ly/3Vr3uON>

Solar Panel Reuse and Recycling

ATTENTION ALAMEDA COUNTY!

Solar Panel Reuse and Recycling

Have unwanted solar panels?

**FREE ONE DAY
solar panel drop-off event!**



**Fremont Recycling
& Transfer Station**



December 9th 2025



7 AM - 1 PM



41149 Boyce Rd, Fremont, CA 94538

**Fill out the drop-off
request form. Open to
residential panels only.**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/
StopWasteSolar](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StopWasteSolar)

For more information and a solar
reuse resource map, visit the CPSC
Solar Webpage:



www.calpsc.org/cpsc-solarstewardship



Alameda County residents! Do you have unwanted (working or not) solar panels? StopWaste and California Product Stewardship Council are hosting a FREE ONE-DAY solar panel drop-off collection event on December 9, 2025, from 7 AM - 1 PM at the Fremont Recycling & Transfer Station. Register today:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StopWasteSolar>

Compost Your Food Scraps



The holiday season is upon us and that might mean more cooking and more food scraps! Aim to use up all your produce and eat all your leftovers, anything remaining should be tossed in your kitchen compost pail. Get more composting tips from StopWaste: www.stopwaste.org/foodscraps

Holiday Tip: Remove Decorations Before Recycling Your Tree

Holiday Tip:

Remove all decorations before recycling your tree!



Did you know your holiday tree (non-flocked) can be turned into valuable compost and mulch? When the time comes, recycle your tree responsibly by removing all tinsel, decorations, lights, stands, nails, and plastic bags before putting the tree out for curbside pickup.

Transportation

Apply for a Paid Internship Through OakDOT!



Applications for the 2026 OakDOT internship program are now open! Applications are due Jan. 9th, and the program starts Summer 2026. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to gain experience working in a fast-paced, progressive transportation department and develop the skills needed for a career in multimodal, mobility-focused transportation planning or public administration. Information about the program and a link to apply is available at: www.oaklandca.gov/oakdot-internships.

Participate in Oakland's Low-Cost Electric Bike Lending Program 🚲



Visit the Fruitvale BART Bike Station to take advantage of the City of Oakland's low-cost electric bike lending program! Oakland residents age 18 and over can rent an electric bicycle (e-bike) for a four-week period for \$120. Low-income residents pay only \$20.

Potential users can visit the city's website to determine their eligibility and begin the rental process: <https://oaklandca.gov/ebike>

Environmental Stewardship

🙌 **Register a Site for Oakland's 23rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service!**



Be a leader in your community and honor Dr. King's legacy through action! Project registration for Oakland's 23rd Annual MLK Day of Service is open until December 22nd. This is your opportunity to **lead an environmental stewardship project**—from community cleanups and native planting to fire fuel reduction or removing invasive species.

 **Event Date:** Monday, January 19, 2026

 **Register Your Project Today** and help keep Oakland clean, green, and beautiful!

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/Community/Events-Culture/Events/MLK-Day-of-Service>

Adopt a Drain Before the Rain!



As the rainy season continues, the City of Oakland needs new volunteers to participate in our Adopt-A-Drain program! ☁️💧

In Oakland, our storm drains lead directly to our creeks, Lake Merritt, and the San Francisco Bay. By keeping our storm drains clear, our Adopt-A-Drain volunteers help to support the health of local wildlife while preventing neighborhoods from flooding during storms.

Be #OaktownPROUD and Adopt-A-Drain today! 🌱

Help Build a Cleaner, Greener Oakland; Adopt a Spot today!

[Adopt-A-Drain | City of Oakland, CA](#)

 **Volunteer Oakland!** 📌



Our city grows stronger when we work together. 🌱

Join the **Adopt-A-Spot Program** and help keep Oakland's parks, streets, and neighborhoods clean, green, and thriving.

Whether you volunteer on your own, with friends, or through a community group — every action makes a difference! 💪 ✨

🌍 **Protect our planet.**

🌿 **Build a cleaner, greener Oakland — one spot at a time.**

👉 **Sign up today: www.oaklandca.gov/CleanGreenOakland**

#OaklandAdoptaSpot #KeeptheTownClean #EnvironmentalStewardship

Announcements

Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation Launches STEAM in the Parks Annual Campaign



This month, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation is launching the STEAM in the Parks Annual Campaign to fund scholarships for youth who need them most. STEAM is science, technology, engineering, art, and math brought to life. These programs rely on skilled Recreation Specialists, which is why scholarships play an important role in helping more young people participate.

Your support expands STEAM opportunities across recreation spaces like Studio One, The Discovery Center, Rotary Nature Center and Refuge, Town Camps, after-school programs, Oakland Tech, and more. Each year, more than 1,300 young people explore STEAM through OPRYD. If you're inspired to support STEAM in the Parks early, your gift, of any size, helps open doors for Oakland youth who need it most.

Take the 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey



The City of Oakland is at risk of natural hazards such as wildfires, earthquakes, extreme heat, and storms. The City uses policies, programs, and projects as

strategies to reduce the risks from these hazards (mitigation). Your input is important as we complete our 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Your responses will help us to better understand community concerns as they relate to Oakland's natural hazards. The survey does not collect personal identifying information. All questions are optional.

To take the survey, and for more information on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan visit:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/OAKLANDHAZARDPLAN>

Alameda County Resilience Hub Listening Session



On May 22, 2025, the [Local Clean Energy Alliance](#) and [Emerald Cities Collaborative](#) hosted a special resilience hub listening session for Alameda County community organizations, faith based groups, and other community based institutions. The purpose of this meeting was to gather feedback on an initial “resilience hub” definition for our local Community Choice Energy Agency known as [Ava Community Energy](#).

Through events like these, participating community members can share their voice and wisdom to inform the development of community-driven resiliency hub programs. Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Friends of Lincoln Square Park and the City of Oakland partnered with the event organizers to help co-host this event.