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Featured Story

Public Works Department Awarded Grant Funding for Fleet Electrification



The City of Oakland's Public Works Department was recently awarded five grants directed toward fleet electrification. This funding will enable the City to purchase three electric street sweepers, a refuse truck, an electric solar-powered charger, and three pedestal-mounted electric vehicle chargers. Though the City of Oakland has been transitioning toward an electric fleet for over two decades,

the focus thus far has been on light-duty vehicles, such as passenger cars, vans, and pick-ups trucks. These planned purchases represent the beginning of Oakland's transition toward a fleet of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles, positioning the City as a leader in municipal electrification.

Through the purchase of new electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure, the City of Oakland will make strides toward its broad goals of reducing municipal carbon emissions and improving local air quality. This action aligns with decarbonization guidance offered in Oakland's Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP) and Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Action plan, as well as environmental mandates from the State of California. Oakland was awarded these grants by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Alameda County Transportation Commission, Pacific Gas & Electric, the California Energy Commission (CEC), and CEC's REDWDS program. To review relevant legislation, visit [this link](#).

Buildings and Energy

Changes to Your Energy Bill in 2026

Changes to your energy bill in 2026

AvaEnergy.org/direct-current




Ava
Community Energy

Oakland is a proud member of Ava Community Energy. That means our electricity is generated by a local, not-for-profit energy provider.

To start off the year, Ava is decreasing electricity generation rates by 15-20% (depending on your rate schedule and service plan). For the average residential customer, these new generation rates are about \$10 less per month than they were last year. PG&E increased its electricity delivery rates at the same time, but Ava's generation rate decrease helps offset these increases.

Electricity bills can be confusing, expensive, and frustrating. As our local and public energy partner, Ava provides reliable and clear resources to help decode this information.

- [How PG&E Rate Changes Impact Ava Customers](#)
- [How Ava Rates Are Set](#)
- [Understanding Your Bill](#)

Apply to Join Ava's Community Advisory Committee



Our local, not-for-profit electricity provider, Ava Community Energy, is looking for local residents and business owners who want to help shape the future of clean energy in our service area to join their Community Advisory Committee (CAC)!

The CAC serves as a bridge between Ava's Board of Directors and the community, advising the Board on initiatives that support Ava's mission.

Applications are open through 12 pm (noon) on February 20. Learn more and apply: AvaEnergy.org/cac-app

Upgrade Your Home for Less with BayREN's EASE Home Program

It's EASE-y to Upgrade Your Home and Save Money with EASE Home!

BayREN's Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EASE) Home program helps income-eligible residents make energy upgrades that improve health and their home's comfort.



EASE Home helps eligible single-family homeowners improve comfort and lower energy bills with upgrades like insulation and duct sealing. BayREN covers 80% of project costs, with households paying no more than \$1,000 total, and manages the process from start to finish. Eligible homes must be built before 2010, be PG&E (or local CCA) customers, and have household income at or below 120% AMI.

Ready to start saving? Apply now at <https://www.bayren.org/ease-home>

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is a coalition of the Bay Area's nine counties partnering to promote resource efficiency at the regional level, focusing on energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction.

Zero Waste

Keep Oakland Beautiful's Sustainability Series



Keep Oakland Beautiful is passionate about sharing knowledge with our community, and we have launched a Sustainability Series on [Instagram](#). Catch up on all the segments to help keep our homes and Town more clean, green, and litter-free. Learn tips for [sorting your bins](#), [home composting](#), [bulky pickup](#), and reducing single-use plastics through [reusable cutlery](#) and [recyclable cups](#).

Stop Food Waste



Did you know? Cold zones in your fridge matter! The back shelf keeps food consistently chilly compared to the door. This helps your dairy and eggs stay fresh longer—even past the date label! Smart storage = less waste and more savings. For more tips, visit StopWaste’s blog: www.stopfoodwaste.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

SEND TOXICS PACKING

Free residential drop-off service in Alameda County



Oakland Facility 2100 East 7 th Street, Oakland Wednesday - Friday: 9AM - 2:30PM Saturday: 9AM - 4PM	Livermore Facility 5584 La Ribera Street, Livermore Thursday - Friday: 9AM - 2:30PM Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Hayward Facility 2091 West Winton Avenue, Hayward Thursday - Friday: 9AM - 2:30PM Saturday: 9AM - 4PM	Fremont Facility 41149 Boyce Road, Fremont Wednesday - Friday: 8:30AM - 2:30PM Saturday: 8:30AM - 4:30PM

No appointment needed.

Learn more: www.stopwaste.org/hhw

Start the New Year fresh! Clear out harmful items like old batteries, cleaning products, pesticides, broken electronics, and more from your home. Alameda County's four Household Hazardous Waste facilities are open for your drop-offs. Appointments are not necessary. Check online for hours and days of operation: www.stopwaste.org/hhw.

Reusable Bag Ordinance



Bring your bag.

**Save money and paper with
reusable shopping bags**

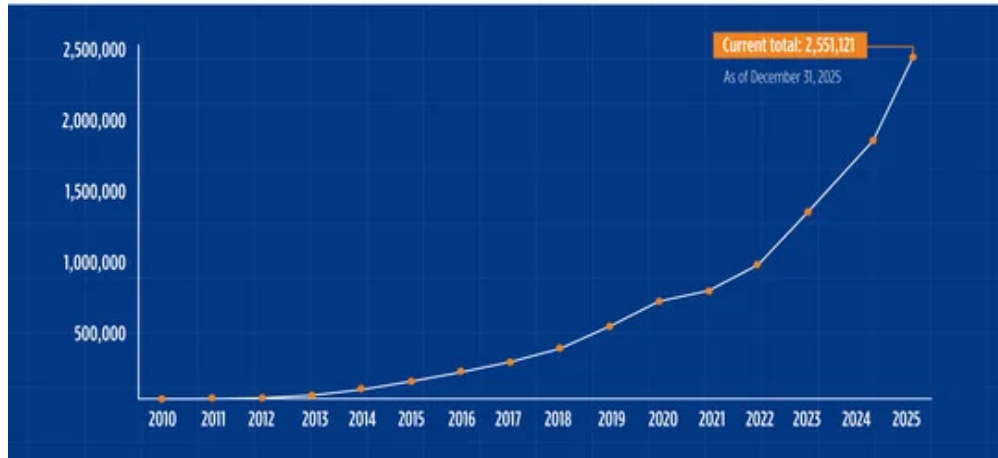
You may notice a change at most stores that sell food or liquor—no more plastic bags at checkout and paper bags cost 10 cents. Instead, bring your own reusable bag — save money and the planet! Learn more about the new law now in effect: <https://ReusableBagsAC.org/>.

Transportation

California Surpasses 2.5 Million Zero-Emission Vehicle Sales



Zero-Emission Vehicle Sales in California



In late January, the California Energy Commission announced that Californians bought over 79,066 new zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in the final quarter of 2025. These purchases accounted for 18.9% of new car sales, bringing the state to a new milestone of 2.5 million zero-emission vehicles sold in total. For comparison, only 5.8% of new cars purchased nationally over the same timeframe were zero-emission vehicles.

This stark difference can be attributed in large part to California's commitment to incentivizing and creating an infrastructure network for zero-emission vehicles. California leads the nation in zero-emission vehicle sales growth, reporting a 300% increase in cumulative new ZEV sales since late 2019. While federal incentive programs supporting ZEV purchases came to an end on September 30th, 2025, California continues to support consumers in purchasing these cleaner cars. On January 9th, 2026, Governor Newsom released a preliminary state budget, in which he proposed a \$200 million incentive program for ZEVs.

Ride and Drive Clean Offers Electric Vehicle Discounts



Ride and Drive Clean is currently promoting a Winter EV Discounts program that connects drivers with exclusive, limited-time savings to make going electric more affordable and accessible. These discounts are only available through February 28th, so [sign up today](#) to save money on a new electric vehicle!

Winter Exclusive EV Discounts:

- 2026 Hyundai Ioniq 5 — up to \$11,500 off
- 2026 Hyundai Ioniq 9 — up to \$15,500 off
- 2026 Subaru Solterra — up to \$6,000 off
- 2025 Volkswagen ID. Buzz — up to \$12,500 off

Ride and Drive Clean Hosting Webinar on Transportation and Health



Join Ride and Drive Clean for a webinar on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00 to learn how zero-emission transportation can improve air quality, lower your driving costs, and create healthier communities. This webinar is available in English and Spanish. [Sign up now!](#)

Environmental Stewardship

✨ **MLK Day of Service Results** ✨



This year, the City of Oakland honored Dr. King’s legacy by turning words into action —through service that uplifts communities and protects the environment we share.

Over **2,000 volunteers** came together at **52 project sites**, removing more than **36,236 pounds of trash** and **13,880 pounds of green waste** to restore and beautify our neighborhoods.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Oakland cleaner, greener, and healthier for all. Your efforts advance environmental justice and create spaces where every community can thrive.

Special thanks to all of our site coordinators. A slideshow with images of each site can be viewed [here](#).

LOVEOAK x Keep Oakland Beautiful Valentines Day Celebration



Get ready for Oakland's most beautiful Valentines Day event of 2026! Cake will be served for the official launch of Keep Oakland Beautiful's LOVEOAK projects. Plus, take home a free t-shirt or reusable tote when you pledge to recycle, compost, and pick up litter every day. Oakland residents who schedule their free 2026 WM Bulky Pickup service onsite (with our help) will be entered to win a cash prize. See you Saturday! Learn more at [LOVEOAK.ORG](https://loveoak.org)

When: Saturday, February 14 from 10AM - 12PM

Where: LOVEOAK Building at 1734 East 12th Street

About LOVEOAK: LOVEOAK is a citywide movement to take action with proper waste disposal — picking up litter, recycling, composting, and using Bulky Pickup services. From our LOVEOAK recycling survey, we learned that over 10% of Oaklanders are not aware of the Bulky Pickup service, and of those who do, almost 40% have yet to utilize it. Together, we will build a clean, green, and sustainable city for all Oaklanders. Join us and [Take The Pledge](#) to show love for your Town.

Prevent Flooding: Adopt-A-Drain!



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

Our storm drains lead directly to our creeks, Lake Merritt, and the San Francisco Bay. By keeping Oakland's storm drains clear, our Adopt-A-Drain volunteers prevent neighborhood flooding, support the health of local wildlife, and keep our streets clean and beautiful.

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

Visit <https://www.oaklandca.gov/Community/Volunteer-Opportunities/Adopt-A-Drain> to learn more and apply.

Announcements

Northeastern University Hosting Spring Farm Festival



Northeastern Sustainability is happy to announce that we will be hosting our Spring Farm Festival this year on Friday, March 20th from 4-6pm on Northeastern Oakland's campus farm. There will be live music, booths with crafting activities, small bites, and refreshments! RSVP is required to attend - [linked here](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

Submit Student Artwork to OUSD's 5th Annual Waste Prevention Art Contest



Oakland Unified School District

Deadline:
Monday,
March 2nd
2026

Student Art Contest **Update!** **JIGSAW PUZZLE**

**BREAKING
NEWS**

New category & prize for all participants

Our Love for Compost Critters!

**A very special and unique prize
for all student submissions!**



Thanks to Oakland Recycles and California Waste Solutions, one entry will be selected to transform into a jigsaw puzzle by Oakland Puzzle Company. Every participating student will receive a jigsaw puzzle!

Judges will be looking for colorful, detailed designs that can be photographed and adapted into a rectangular puzzle format.

Additional REWARDS

Prizes in other categories include passes to the Oakland Zoo, Chabot Space & Science Center, and more! Submissions may be used to inspire environmental awareness throughout OUSD.

How to Submit your Art and Media:



Submission form link: <https://tinyurl.com/mthwzz3r>

For questions, support or help submitting,
please email Meg Connor, meaghan.connor@ousd.org

Your art and media may be used by the District to inspire
environmental awareness in our schools and district!



Take your story beyond OUSD and submit your artwork to StopWaste's We Are the (Re)Generation Art and Storytelling Contest!

Join students and families in sharing how you care for the Earth and win an award up to \$300. Hold onto your artwork to submit to StopWaste in the Spring. Stay tuned to updates from us and check in on StopWaste's website:
www.stopwaste.org/WeAreTheRegenerationContest



Oakland Unified School District students from Pre-K to 12th grade have until March 2, 2026 to create artwork for the OUSD Waste Prevention Art Contest. This year's theme is ***Our Love for Compost Critters!***

We have a very special update: thanks to Oakland Recycles and California Waste Solutions, one entry will be selected to transform into a jigsaw puzzle by Oakland Puzzle Company. **Every participating student will receive a jigsaw puzzle!**

- Read more about the art contest [here](#).

- Submit artwork [here](#).
- Check out [this link](#) for tips and best practices.

Oakland Offers Free Tax Assistance; Earned Income Tax Credits Available



The Federal Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable tax credit available to working families to enhance their financial stability. Along with the Child Tax Credit, Additional Child Tax Credit, CalEITC, Foster Care Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit, which provides qualifying families with a child under the age of 6 with up to \$1,000, families are able to potentially receive tax refunds up to \$8,000 to clean up debt, put into a savings, purchase items for their home, and more.

Residents can schedule an appointment to see if they qualify for the tax credits. The City of Oakland No-Cost Tax Preparation site at the West Oakland Public Library will open by appointment only on February 3, 2026. This service will be available until April 15th. To schedule an appointment, leave a message on the VITA hotline at 510-238-4911 or visit <https://go.oncehub.com/CityofOaklandVITA>.