



Overview

**Featured Story · Buildings and Energy · Zero Waste ·
Transportation · Environmental Stewardship ·
Announcements**

Featured Story

**You “Herd” it Here First: Oakland’s Wildfire
Prevention Goats Have Returned**



May was **Wildfire Awareness Month**, and in Oakland the beginning of wildfire season also marks the return of the goats.

In accordance with Oakland's [Vegetation Management Plan](#), the city contracts herds of goats annually to help manage vegetation through grazing in the [Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area](#). This year, more than **5,200 goats** will digest fire-prone vegetation, reducing hazardous fuel on **1,200 acres** of land in steep hillsides and canyons that are difficult to reach if you lack cloven hooves.

While they are not sworn-in and uniformed, goats play a critical role in Oakland Fire Department's strategy to reduce fire risk in the hills. By the time summer arrives, the once-green plants covering the Oakland Hills dry out, leaving dense and flammable vegetation in their place. Reducing the hazardous fuel load in the areas at highest risk of wildfire both lowers risk of ignition and slows the speed of a wildfire, providing first responders with critical time to respond to protect lives and homes.

At less than \$600 per acre, goat grazing is one of the most cost-effective wildfire mitigation strategies Oakland employs while adapting our communities to a changing climate and aligning with the [2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan](#).

Through August, you can keep an eye out for the goats in open spaces across the city: Joaquin Miller Park, Dunsmuir Park, Shepard Canyon, Grizzly Peak, and Sheffield Village, among others.

Buildings and Energy

Ava Community Energy Summer Rates

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

Summer rates are in effect from June 1st to October 31st. For residents and businesses on time of use (TOU) rate plans, summer rates during peak hours between 4pm-9pm are the highest they'll be all year. Whether you're on a TOU plan or not, here are four helpful tips from Ava to help save money and stay cool this summer:

- Switch major appliance use to "off-peak" hours: before 4pm or after 9pm.
- Pre-cool your home by setting the thermostat lower in the morning, then to 78° during peak hours.
- Close blinds and curtains during the hottest part of the day to reduce air conditioning usage.
- Double check your rate plan on PG&E and examine if you need to adjust your rate plan to better fit your schedule.

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.

What Are the Benefits?



Boosted comfort



Lower energy bills



Improved air quality

How Does the Program Work?

1. **An Energy Advisor visits your home and recommends customized, low-cost upgrades**, like insulation and duct sealing.
2. **We handle all the details**, from permit and rebate applications to installation through our vetted contractors.
3. **All pricing is transparent and fixed**, with BayREN covering 80% of the cost of core weatherization and energy efficiency measures.*
4. **Our team will maximize your savings** by stacking and applying for all available rebates for you, in addition to what BayREN covers.



How Do I Get Started?

Apply and schedule your free site visit TODAY!

Who Qualifies?

You can participate if you:

- Live in a single-family home (up to 4 units) built before 2010.
- Are a PG&E customer.
- Have a household income under or at 120% AMI. See guidelines below.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$131,325.00
2	\$150,075.00
3	\$169,825.00
4	\$187,575.00
5	\$202,650.00

Visit [BayREN.org/income-guidelines](https://www.bayren.org/income-guidelines) for more.

Contact us with any questions at:
EASEhome@BayREN.org | 866-998-8655



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.

*The customer pays just 20% but no more than \$1,000 for core measures under the BayREN EASE Home program. Core measures include qualifying weatherization, energy efficiency, and associated minor home repair measures, i.e., insulation, duct sealing/replacement, and air sealing. The cost for additional measures like new electrical appliances will be determined by the measure cost minus available third-party rebates. For more information, please reach out to your Energy Advisor.

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 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. Receive a free site visit to determine eligible upgrades and scope of work before moving forward!

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

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Zero Waste

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Make your summer cleanout easy! Dispose of old batteries, medicines, and cleaners safely at Oakland's free event on Sunday, June 14. Secure your spot now —appointments will fill up quickly: www.stopwaste.org/hhw-oakland

Used Oil Recycling

Did you know one quart of motor oil can pollute up to 250,000 gallons of clean water? Prevent a disaster and recycle your used motor oil and filters. It's easy and free. Free pick-up and drop-off options at www.recycleusedoil.org

Reusable Foodware Mini Grants for Businesses

Make the Switch to Reusables

Save Money • Improve Customer Experience • Reduce Waste



Replacing disposable foodware with real plates, cups, and utensils can save \$2,000 - \$18,000 per year.

Get up to \$500 in FREE reusable foodware and hands on support!



Switch from disposable cups, plates, utensils and other single-use items to reusable foodware for dine-in customers with a mini-grant from local public agency, StopWaste! Alameda County food businesses can get up to \$500 in free reusable foodware and hands-on help. Save money, improve customer experience and reduce waste! Learn more and schedule a free consultation at www.Stopwaste.org/reusables.

Bring Your Own Cup!

On the hunt to find the best coffee and pastry in Alameda County? As you try new blends and sweet treats, make sure to include bringing your reusable mug! Bringing your own mug is the best way to avoid single-use items, whether you are drinking your coffee at the establishment or taking it to go.

Transportation

Ride and Drive Clean Offering Summer Electric Vehicle Webinars

Whether you're new to electric vehicles, considering making the switch, or looking to electrify more of your life, Ride and Drive Clean has something for you this July!

[What to Expect as a New EV Driver](#)

Wednesday, July 8 | 12:00 PM

Thinking about getting an EV or recently made the switch? Join us for a practical overview of EV ownership, including charging, costs, maintenance, road trips, and more.

[Electrify My House](#)

Friday, July 17 | 12:00 PM

Interested in making your home cleaner, healthier, and more energy-efficient? Learn about home electrification options, available incentives, and simple steps to get started.

[EVs: Better Than Ever](#)

Thursday, July 23 | 12:00 PM

Electric vehicles continue to improve every year. Discover the latest advancements in range, charging, affordability, incentives, and vehicle options available today.

Interested, but can't make these times?

No problem! If you're interested in any of these webinars but can't attend live, register anyway. We'll send all registrants a recording of the webinar along with a PDF copy of the presentation slides.

Environmental Stewardship

Keep Oakland Beautiful Opens 2026 Community Grant Applications



Applications for Keep Oakland Beautiful's 2026 Community Grant program are open! This year, we're excited to introduce new streamlined grant categories to help identify your project in the application process.

- **Green Spaces:** community gardens, green space development, tree plantings, and native species or habitat restoration.
- **Community:** murals, park revitalization, public art, youth-focused projects, and other initiatives that create beautiful physical spaces for community.
- **Environment:** clean-ups, illegal dumping abatement, bird and wildlife protection, and projects that mitigate harmful impacts to air, water, or soil.
- **Maintenance (up to \$500):** funding for existing projects that align with the categories above and require ongoing care.

[Learn more about the program & submit your application.](http://www.keeпоaklandbeautiful.org/community-grant-program)

Applications close on June 30. We look forward to reviewing your project proposals — let's beautify Oakland together!

Announcements

OUSD Compost Critter Art Contest – 2026 Winners 🎨



OUSD students showcased creativity and environmental stewardship through this year's Compost Critter Art Contest. We're excited to highlight our winners across grade levels. **View the full Art Gallery here: [Our Love for Compost Critters](#)**

🧩 Puzzle Feature (Oakland Puzzle Co.)

L. Oda (5th, Hillcrest Elementary)

🏆 1st Place

T. Gingold (Pre-K, Cleveland) | A. Baumel (1st, Thornhill) | O. Torrey (2nd, Crocker Highlands) | H. Ostreicher (4th, Sequoia) | K. Han (5th, Hillcrest)

🥈 2nd Place

W. Yu (1st, Redwood Heights) | N. Reiter (2nd, Chabot) | N. Nguyen (4th, Encompass) | M. Han (5th, Hillcrest)

 3rd Place

Z. Reiter (1st, Chabot) | A. Nguyen (2nd, Encompass) | H. Barraza (4th, Sequoia) |
M. Ha (5th, Cleveland)

 Honorable Mentions

A. Lopez Zelaya (3rd, Franklin) | O. Martin Gomez (4th, Franklin) | D. Perez Galicia
(4th, Franklin) | J. Mann (4th, Franklin) | P. Tamang (5th, Franklin) | Z. Finc & N.
Mazow (5th, Sequoia)