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Featured Story

**Sustainability in Action: Reclaimed Lumber for
Community Gardens**



In preparation for Earth Day, our Deconstruction team in collaboration with The Reuse People diverted 2,500 pounds of salvage lumber from landfill by reclaiming it, cutting it, hauling it, and stacking it at FM Smith Recreation Center and Carmen Flores Park where it will revamp planter boxes and urban agriculture systems.

By choosing reclaimed wood instead of buying new materials, our team avoided the environmental impacts tied to manufacturing fresh lumber, preventing about 0.51 metric tons of embodied carbon emissions. These avoided impacts represent the emissions that never had to be spent on logging, milling, processing, and transporting new lumber.

This reclaimed lumber now has a second life supporting vibrant community garden spaces. Local residents near these parks steward these planter boxes with care, growing fresh produce and sharing food with their neighbors.

This project highlights how material reuse can benefit both the environment and the community by reducing waste, lowering carbon impacts, and strengthening local food efforts across Oakland. When sustainability, creativity, and community pride come together, it's a meaningful environmental win for Oakland.

Buildings and Energy

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

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% AML.

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

Zero Waste

Stop Food Waste



Join the Berkeley Ecology Center Farmers Market's spring series of cooking demonstrations this week and next. Chef Linda Kallenberger will be featuring StopWaste's resources and tips for smart meal planning and shopping, along with clever cooking techniques and food storage to maximize your food and minimize waste. Learn more and sign up: <https://ecologycenter.org/events/farm-fresh-cooking-to-prevent-food-waste-spring-series/>.

Gardening and Compost Events

Ready to grow this spring? Join StopWaste's hands-on composting and gardening events to spruce up your garden and level up your skills. Discover more at <https://www.stopwaste.org/at-home/home-and-community-gardening/gardening-events-calendar>.

Reusable Bag Ordinance

Say goodbye to plastic bags! Food and liquor stores have switched to recycled paper bags at checkout for a minimum of 10 cents. Remember to bring your own bag—save money and help conserve our planet's resources! Learn more about the law: <https://ReusableBagsAC.org/>.

Transportation

Save Money with PG&E's Pre-Owned Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

Pacific Gas and Electric Company customers may be eligible to receive up to \$4,000 in rebates when purchasing or leasing a pre-owned electric vehicle! The PG&E Pre-Owned Electric Vehicle Rebate program offers two rebate levels, based on applicants' household income at the time of purchasing or leasing. All PG&E customers qualify for a \$1,000 rebate, and income-qualified customers can apply for \$4,000 back.

Submit your application within 180 days of purchasing or leasing a pre-owned EV to be considered for this program. For more information and to apply, visit <https://evrebates.pge.com/>.

Environmental Stewardship

Get Ready for Earth Day 2026!



The Oakland Public Works Environmental Stewardship Team is excited to announce that Oakland Earth Day will take place on April 18th, 2026! Join us for a hands-on day of service and give back to our community through impactful environmental stewardship! 🌍 🌱

You can participate by registering as a **site coordinator** (deadline: March 20th) or as a **volunteer**. Visit oaklandca.gov/earthday to sign up!

Site coordinators can expect to...

- Select a project location
- Lead service activities (e.g., litter clean-up, habitat restoration, beautification, graffiti removal)
- Request and pick up necessary tools and supplies, including free mulch or compost if needed
- Promote the project and coordinate volunteers on event day
- Report on post-event activities
- Receive assistance with project promotion, volunteer recruitment, waste removal, and more!

Volunteers can expect to...

- Assist with service activities
- Connect with neighbors and community members
- Create a positive impact in Oakland

Join us for Oakland Earth Day 2026!

Pledge Clean Water Actions and Win Free Prizes!



The Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program is encouraging county residents to take simple actions to protect our waterways from pollution. Through a partnership with Bay Area artist Joanne Sokua, the Clean Water Program is offering free tote bags and stickers as thank you gifts for residents who complete a quick online form! Visit <https://cleanwaterprogram.org/pledge-for-a-clean-bay/> to make your pledge.

Apply Now for a Clean Water Program Grant

The Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program is now accepting applications for its 2026 Community Stewardship Grants, offering up to \$6,000 per project to support community-based initiatives that prevent stormwater pollution and promote the health of local watersheds. Stormwater pollution happens when rainwater washes litter, motor oil, pet waste and other contaminants from streets into storm drains that flow directly to creeks, wetlands and the San Francisco Bay.

Projects must be implemented within Alameda County, and the application deadline is May 4.

Eligible applicants include teachers and student groups, youth organizations, community and environmental groups, homeowner associations and non-profit organizations. Proposed activities can range from litter cleanups, creek restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement projects to art and multimedia projects, community outreach events and more. Creative and innovative ideas wanted!

To learn more, including projects funded in the past, and to download the application materials visit www.cleanwaterprogram.org/grants.

Announcements

Apply for the Clean Energy Leadership Institute's 2026 Fellowship Program

The Clean Energy Leadership Institute (CELI) is accepting applications for its 2026 Fellowship program. The CELI Fellowship prepares early- to mid-career professionals to serve as clean energy leaders in their fields, with curriculum focusing on energy policy and market structures, energy equity, green innovation, and relationship building. Bay Area fellows have the opportunity to participate in an in-person cohort. Virtual cohorts are also available for applicants based anywhere in the United States.

Apply for the CELI fellowship by the deadline of Monday, March 16th, or by the late deadline of Wednesday, March 18th for an additional fee. Applicants who complete a financial assistance application will be considered for financial awards. To learn more or to apply, visit <https://www.cleanenergyleaders.org/2026-fellowship-for-clean-energy-leaders>.

Keep Oakland Beautiful's 5th Annual Earth Day After Party



Save the date and join KOB on Saturday, May 9th for our 5th Earth Day After Party! The event will be hosted at Humanist Hall, located at 390 27th Street in Oakland. This year we celebrate the Year of the Fire Horse by embracing change, honoring the Earth, and uplifting the community that makes this work possible. Expect drinks, food trucks, a silent auction, and lots of love for our volunteers. Tickets will go on sale soon.

LOVEOAK Mural Unveiled on East 12th Street



On February 14, Keep Oakland Beautiful unveiled a new mural at 1734 East 12th Street. We invited the community to gather in celebration and take the [LOVEOAK Pledge](#). We envision improved safety and a strengthened community identity through this project, and seek to bring inspiration for the future of Oakland through a collaboration of artists, property owners, and civic partners working together to revitalize our city -- one block at a time. We are deeply grateful to the artists who made this possible; visit our [Instagram](#) to learn more about the artists and this incredible work.

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. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 opened 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>.