



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, April 2015



We are Green

Palo Alto is at work on the next generation of a new Sustainability and Climate Action Plan that will explore all aspects of its sustainability program, set new goals and serve to shape the City's environmental future. As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, it seems an appropriate time to look at some of the accomplishments and works-in-progress that make Palo Alto a global leader in sustainability.

Calendar of Events

May Fete Parade

May 2, 10 a.m.

**University Avenue,
downtown Palo Alto**

The 93rd Annual City of Palo Alto May Fête Children's Parade is turning the tables on bullying. We encourage children to be respectful of themselves and others by using the acronym: U.F.O. to be Unique, be Free, be yOu. More information on the Parade is [here](#).

Our Palo Alto 2030 The Summit

May 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mitchell Park Community Center

3700 Middlefield Road

Join your neighbors for conversations about Palo Alto's future and help craft solutions on the critical issues facing our City now and into 2030. The Summit is free and open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).



Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

- One of first U.S. cities to develop Climate Action Plan
- Carbon neutral electricity supply
- Recipient of Acterra Business Environmental Award for Sustainability
- Greenhouse gas reduction of 37% from 1990 levels
- Highest number of electric vehicles per capita in California
- Zero waste goal by 2021
- Award-winning watershed protection programs for local creeks and SF Bay
- Adoption of local solar plan to increase incentives for schools, businesses to install panels
- Bike and pedestrian plan to increase alternative transit modes, decrease emissions
- Green building requirements beyond state minimums
- PaloAltoGreen Gas to allow residents to buy credits to offset use of natural gas
- Contender in \$5 million Georgetown University energy efficiency community competition

On April 20, the Council will conduct a study session on Palo Alto's 2015 [Earth Day report](#) that shows both progress and also significant challenges ahead. Palo Alto has already surpassed the initial climate action protection goal set by the City Council in 2007 (20 percent reduction from 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2012) and Council will be setting new goals as part of the updated climate action plan. For more details, click [here](#).

There are also a number of community events and workshops planned throughout the month. Here are a few:

- **Greenlight Film Festival – April 23**
Celebrate 10-year anniversary of Greenlight Film Festival with films produced by local artists with an emphasis on student-produced films. For more information, go to www.midpenmedia.org/greenlight.
- **Residential Solar PV Workshop – April 25**
Palo Alto is partnering with neighboring community and local nonprofit, Vote Solar, to launch discounted purchasing program for homeowners wanting to install solar. Details at

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www.mygroupenergy.com/peninsula.



And We are Dry

By now, most of you have heard that Governor Brown has called for the first ever **mandatory** statewide water reductions, as the state faces its fourth year of historic drought and minimal snowpack. The Governor's executive action mandates that the state's 400 local water supply agencies reduce urban water consumption by 25 percent. The target is in relation to California's overall 2013 water consumption. Our community used 16 percent less water in 2014 than in 2013, which was the best performance of any city in Santa Clara County. So, while we may be within range of reaching our new reduction target, the drought may be the "new normal" for the future and last for more years to come. At its meeting on May 11, Council will consider new restrictions in compliance with the State Water Control Board's **March 17** emergency drought regulations, and we will also know more about further restrictions needed to meet the Governor's new water reduction goals. All things water can be found [here](#).



Our Palo Alto Summit 2030

More than 300 people have already registered for the Our Palo Alto 2030 Comprehensive Plan Summit that will be held on Saturday, May 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mitchell Park Community Center. This is an opportunity for the community to come together to share their ideas for Palo Alto that will guide what Palo Alto will be in 2030. The day will feature group discussions on key issues including mobility and transportation, effective growth management and housing for the next generation. There will also be an expo fair with information stations in the courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where you can dive deeper into related issues including water, parks, Public Art, Stanford's general use permit, environmental sustainability, the Urban Forest, Baylands, safety, El Camino Real & the "Grand Boulevard", bike and pedestrian planning and Fiber to the Premise. To register for the summit, click [here](#). To watch the Summit video, click [here](#). For more information on the

Comprehensive plan update, go to www.paloaltocompplan.org



Cal Ave Streetscape Crossing Finish Line

With the street repaved, new streetlights installed and curbs and gutters improved, the major construction work on the California Avenue streetscape project is coming to an end. Crews will be “stamping” the crosswalks during some night work, and small amenities such as bike racks, granite seat boulders and benches, as well as the plaza fountain will be installed as part of the final details. A ceremony to celebrate the new California Avenue streetscape is scheduled for May 7 at 2:30 p.m. Watch for more details about how to join in. For the latest updates on the project, go to www.cityofpaloalto.org/calave.

Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? **Connect with us** and tell us what’s on your mind.



@MrsMcvicker My g-g-grandfather William Rohner on Toonerville Trolley where he was a motorman
[@cityofpaloalto](#) [@Stanford](#) [#tbt](#) 1920

@KUFudge Congrats [@cityofpaloalto](#)
-Palo Alto Awarded Top Honors in Acterra Business Environmental Awards for Sustainability

@moyalynne Fully packed haus! Pat Burt from [@cityofpaloalto](#) now speaking [@hanahaus](#)

@alligatorzone [#Founder](#) of [#startup](#)
[@ThePricerie](#) holds [@cityofpaloalto](#)
[#families](#) spellbound at [@alligatorzone](#)
in [@PaloAltoLibrary](#)

@wrighting [@cityofpaloalto](#)'s Cal Ave Farmers Market might be one the best in California for diversity and abundance of produce!

During February, we also asked the

community to use #LovePaloAlto to share what they love about our city and to participate in the For the Love of Palo Alto event. Here are the numbers:

- 219 total tweets
- 80 separate contributors
- 123 re-tweets
- 148,040 total reach (eyeballs)



Open City Hall

Are you a subscriber to Open City Hall? Click [here](#) to sign up to be notified anytime the city posts a new question for community feedback.

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: www.ourpaloalto.org



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