



April 2017

Beyond Earth Day: Setting “Greener” Goals



Palo Alto is known as a sustainability leader, and the annual Earth Day celebration coming up on Saturday, April 22 is the perfect time to reaffirm our commitment to our green goals. As outlined in the City's [Sustainability and Climate Action Plan](#), the Council has adopted the goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) by 80 percent (from 1990 baseline levels) by 2030 and we are currently at about a 37 percent reduction. Much of the progress on this goal is thanks to our electricity supply, which has been carbon neutral since 2013. The City has also moved forward with the adoption of a green building ordinance and energy reach code; made dramatic reductions in water use; launched the initial “Cool Block” pilot program where participants set guidelines to

Earth Day Facts



- 2/3 of Palo Alto's GHG comes from road transportation
- Avoid 10 miles of driving a week & eliminate 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions
- Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees
- 84 percent of all household waste can be recycled
- 90 percent less energy is used to recycle aluminum cans than to make new ones

Source: Planetpals.com & globalwarming-facts.info

Calendar of Events

make their neighborhood blocks more planet-friendly; and led a regional consortium that was awarded a \$1 million federal grant to support mobility alternatives.



We now have our eye on an ambitious short-term goal of 50 percent GHG reduction by 2020, so that’s where the [Sustainability Implementation Plan](#) (SIP) comes in. The SIP is organized into eight different “buckets” and covers what can be accomplished or started over the next three years – to 2020. The SIP “buckets” are: mobility, energy, water, zero waste, municipal operations, climate adaptation and sea level rise, the natural environment, as well as ways to pay for it all.



Some of the many items the City is targeting to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions include:

- expanding the bicycle boulevard network from 5.6 miles to 18.7



May Fete Parade

Downtown Palo Alto
Sat., May 6, 10 a.m.



Youth Art Opening

Palo Alto Art Center
Wed., May 3, 4:30-7 p.m.



Bike to Work Day

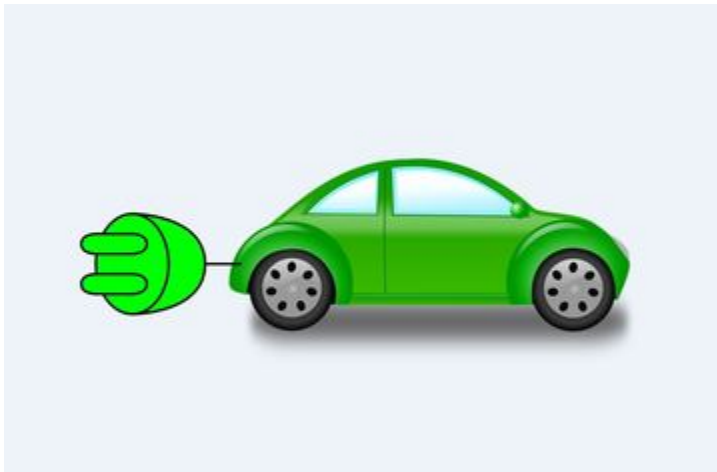
Thurs., May 11



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miles in the next three years

- providing 350 bicycles in a bike share program by next year
- keeping 95 percent of waste out of landfills (currently at 79 percent)
- replacing natural gas appliances with electric alternatives
- testing an electric garbage truck next year
- increasing electric vehicle ownership to 95 percent (currently 4 percent)



The Council will be discussing the SIPs in the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan at an upcoming meeting. You can read the Earth Day Report and more about the SIPs [here](#).

Reuse, Recycle, Repair

Palo Alto offers many programs aimed at recycling, reducing waste and keeping items out of the landfill. In 2015, residents disposed an average of 3.9 pounds of solid waste per person per day while Californians on average disposed 4.7 pounds per day. Here are some of the programs to help drive down our waste:



[Food Scrap Collection](#)- food waste and soiled paper are turned into renewable energy and compost



[Repair Café Palo Alto](#)- workshops to fix and reuse goods instead of tossing items out



[Citywide Yard Sale](#)- biennial event to reuse second-hand items, by reselling them and keeping them out of the landfill



Knowing what materials can go into your recycle and compost containers can be confusing.

This page gives you tools you need to know what materials can be recycled and composted.

Want to learn more ways to reduce what goes in your garbage can? Use the [What Goes Where Tool](#) to get a better idea of what items can be recycled and composted.

Let's **P L A Y**

These interactive games were created for you to learn about Zero Waste and have fun while you're doing it. Enjoy!

zeroWASTE SYSTEM



Zero Waste System

Learn about the components of a Zero Waste system and how it relates to you.

[Play Now](#)

What Goes Where sorting Game



Cantastic SmartSorter for Schools

Test your knowledge about our school recycling and composting program.

[Play Now](#)

There is even a page of fun, interactive games that schools, businesses, and residents can play online to learn more about the best ways to sort and reduce waste. Click [here](#) to play.

Earth Day Celebrations



While you do your part to “go green”, don’t forget to join the Earth Day Festival and Great Race for Saving Water 5k fun run/walk at Baylands Athletic Center coming up on Saturday, April 22. Here’s a [link](#) for more information and to register.



As part of the Earth Day celebration at Baylands, animals from the [Junior Museum and Zoo](#) will be at the starting line of the race to greet participants, including Sequoia the Bald Eagle.



There also will be a 10 a.m. ribbon cutting at the [Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center](#) that is re-opening on Saturday after undergoing renovations to the decking, railings, and a new nesting site for cliff swallows—all done in the winter to prevent the disturbance of flora and fauna in the sensitive, salt marsh habitat.



The reopening means the center's Wet Lab will also be open, giving visitors a chance to look at marsh life under microscopes and magnifying glasses.



Enjoy Palo Alto



Finally, while you are out enjoying Earth Day, take time to snap some photos of the great places and events you find in Palo Alto and enter our [Enjoy Palo Alto photo contest](#).

And thank you for doing your part to help us strive for our “green” goals.

Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? [Connect with us](#) and tell us what’s on your mind.



[Jpaul @jpaulo801snow](#) April 5

Work sent me to [#PaloAlto](#). Pretty cool checking out the biggest tech companies in the game....

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BShCQoWgFF4/>



Historical Images @HistoricalImages April 11

Steve Jobs and Bill Gates discuss the PC's future. Jobs' Palo Alto home, 1991.



Yvonne Chan MD PhD @yvonneychan March 31

This is why I love visiting Silicon Valley. While strolling in @cityofpaloalto saw this #delivery #bot doing its thing :) #robot



emily m @mailtlis March 23

Ordering by iPad. Only in #PaloAlto