**Environmental Activities Calendar**

**Events throughout 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed. July 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>10 AM to 7 PM</td>
<td>“Where Recycling is a Pleasure” Historical Talk: Join an El Cerrito Historical Society talk about the unique history of El Cerrito’s Recycling Center. Join us at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center at 7501 Schmidt Lane.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. June 17</td>
<td>10 AM to 1 PM</td>
<td>Green Team Clean-Up: Join El Cerrito’s Green Team in cleanup effort through the El Cerrito Hill. Learn about measures you can take to be prepared for an earthquake. Visit <a href="http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org">www.ectrailtrekkers.org</a> for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. June 25</td>
<td>10 AM to 12 PM</td>
<td>Centennial 4th of July Festival at Cerrito Vista Park: Music on July 3 from 5pm to 7pm. Music, rides, games, food and more on July 4 from 10am to 6pm. Visit <a href="http://www.elcerrito.org/July4Festival">www.elcerrito.org/July4Festival</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Wed. Monthly</td>
<td>3 PM to 4 PM</td>
<td>Free Monthly Tour of the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center: Interested in a behind-the-scenes look at the LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center? Please wear long pants and closed-toed shoes. Tours at an alternative time can also be scheduled for a fee. For more information, call City staff at 510-559-7686.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Tues. Monthly</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Monthly Meetings: Join El Cerrito residents in working to improve environmental quality in El Cerrito! The EQC meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.elcerrito.org/eqc">www.elcerrito.org/eqc</a>.</td>
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<td>Sat. May 20</td>
<td>9 AM to 3 PM</td>
<td>Spring Citywide Garage Sale: Find great deals while keeping waste out of the landfill and getting to know your neighbors. The finalized map of locations and listings will be available online and in hardcopy on Thursday, May 11th. Visit <a href="http://www.elcerrito.org/garagesale">www.elcerrito.org/garagesale</a> or call City staff at 510-559-7686 for more information.</td>
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<td>Sun. May 21</td>
<td>10 AM to 5 PM</td>
<td>Fourth Annual Hillside Festival: Join the Environmental Quality Committee, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, the Historical Society, Friends of Five Creeks, and many others in discovering the Hillside Natural Area through talks, hikes, and displays on the unique history and nature of one of El Cerrito’s best-kept secrets. To start out, join the celebration on the meadow above the Schmidt Lane trail head (7451 Schmidt Lane). Visit <a href="http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org">www.ectrailtrekkers.org</a> for a full schedule of events.</td>
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<td>Sat. June 17</td>
<td>10 AM to 1 PM</td>
<td>“It’s Our Fault” Natural History Hike: Come straddle the Pacific and North American Plates, discovering evidence of the Hayward Fault in this hike led by the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers through the El Cerrito Hills. Learn also about measures you can take to be prepared for an earthquake. Visit <a href="http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org">www.ectrailtrekkers.org</a> for more information.</td>
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<td>Sun. June 25</td>
<td>10 AM to 12 PM</td>
<td>Green Team Clean-Up: Join El Cerrito’s Green Team in cleaning up the northern entryways to town. Let’s keep trash from polluting our creeks and the Bay while presenting visitors with a positive first impression of our city. Wear a hat and closed-toed shoes. Tours at an alternative time can also be scheduled for a fee. For more information, call City staff at 510-559-7686.</td>
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**Best Practices for Your Green Waste Service**

**Organic or “green” waste** makes up more than two-thirds of trash that is sent to the landfill. By effectively using your green bin service, these materials could become useful nutrient-rich soil amendments in just a few short months.

Here are some best practices to help the City’s green waste program deliver good clean compost back to residents, farmers, and gardeners.

Acceptable items to put in your green bin include plant debris, all food scraps (including meat and bones), and food-soiled paper (like paper plates and pizza boxes). Invasive plants are acceptable as long as they are not included in the “Things Not to Compost” list below.

It is best not to compost milk cartons and biodegradable plastics. Milk cartons and other food-grade containers most often are coated with a non-biodegradable plastic film that should be kept out of compost. While there are some truly biodegradable plastics, many are not. These plastics are hard to distinguish from other plastics and are often pulled from the compost in the normal screening process, unnecessarily adding time and expense to the process.

**Things Not to Compost**

Please do not add the following to your green waste bin:

- Ashes
- Bamboo, Ivy, Palm
- Concrete, Dirt, Rocks, or Sand
- Dead Animals
- Diapers, human or pet waste
- Glass
- Lawn Sod
- Liquids
- Manure
- Metal
- Milk Cartons (plastic-coated)
- Plastic of ANY kind
- Biodegradable plastics (utensils, plates, bowls, cups, etc.)
- Wood that has been treated, coated or painted

**Compact Garbage Event at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center**

**Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Monthly Meetings:** Join El Cerrito residents in working to improve environmental quality in El Cerrito! The EQC meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. For more information, visit [www.elcerrito.org/eqc](http://www.elcerrito.org/eqc).
It’s Easy To Go 100% Renewable Electricity with MCE Clean Energy

In conjunction with MCE Clean Energy and the City’s Operations + Environmental Services Division, El Cerrito’s Environmental Quality Committee has launched the Go 100% Renewable initiative to educate residents and businesses about energy choices available in El Cerrito.

This year, you can celebrate El Cerrito’s 100th Anniversary by choosing MCE’s 100% renewable Deep Green electricity. Whether you are already a MCE Light Green customer (50% renewable) or have opted to stay with PG&E’s electricity generation service (30% renewable), you can easily enroll in Deep Green online at www.mcecleanenergy.org/ElCerrito.

For just one more cent per kilowatt-hour than Light Green, Deep Green is clean and affordable. For the typical household, Deep Green costs less than $5 a month more than Light Green. It takes less than 30 seconds to enroll in Deep Green and completely eliminate the carbon impact of your electrical use. There is no installation needed and no interruption in your electrical service. Regardless of which option you choose, PG&E still continues to handle the transmission of electricity, billing and maintenance issues.

Deep Green not only helps our city reach its climate action goals, it also moves us toward a cleaner, greener planet for future generations. Each Deep Green home eliminates over a ton of greenhouse gas emissions in a year – the equivalent of not driving 2,600 miles per year. Additionally, Deep Green customers are helping to build local renewable energy sources in our community. Half of the penny per kilowatt-hour premium paid by Deep Green customers is used to finance the start-up costs of new renewable energy projects built within MCE’s service area, including the 10.5 megawatt (MW) Solar One project in Richmond.

Please join the City of Cerrito in celebrating our 100th Anniversary by signing up today at www.mcecleanenergy.org/ElCerrito.

City Seeks Proposals for New Artist Residency Program at Recycling Center

The City’s Arts and Culture Commission is accepting proposals through May 18, 2017 for the newly created El Cerrito Creative ReUse (“ECCRU”) Artist Residency to take place at the City’s popular Recycling + Environmental Resource Center.

The program is intended to support local artists who work with recycled materials, and to encourage environmental stewardship – specifically, resource conservation, recycling and up-cycling – in the community through art that inspires people to think about sustainability and consumption. The ECCRU artist will have access to certain materials at the City’s Recycling + Environmental Resource Center for use in artistic projects, an on-site storage bin for materials, a small stipend and support for an exhibition at the end of the residency.

Green Waste

How Your Green Waste Becomes Compost

After you put organic waste in your green bin, it is transferred to a processing facility where it goes through a series of steps to become compost. Following grinding and processing, the materials are hauled to the compost pile area and placed in piles on top of perforated pipes, which force air into the piles to keep them properly aerated and to control the temperature of the pile. After the piles are constructed, they are covered with a minimum of six inches of finished compost material to control emissions and odors. Composting piles are actively treated on the aeration pad for approximately three to five weeks in order to kill pathogens.

They are then moved to a curing area, where the compost can further mature. Curing allows for adequate time to create a consistent material that will be ready for market. Once desired maturation is reached, the curing piles will be screened into finished compost.

The finished product is often available for sale at the El Cerrito Recycling Center. The City’s organics processor provides limited supplies for distribution to El Cerrito residents for free every March and October. Be sure to check the City’s website (www.el-cerrito.org) or this newsletter’s winter and summer Environmental Activities Calendars to find dates for our Spring and Fall Compost Give-Away events.

Don’t Have Time to Harvest Fruit From Your Fruit Trees?

Do you have a fruit tree with fruit that is going to waste because you don’t have the time or the capability to harvest the crop?

Unharvested fruit is a waste of a valuable resource, and is also a magnet for pest animals such as rats. Neighborhood gleaning efforts are a way to make use of fruit that might otherwise go to waste. If you have a tree that needs harvesting or you know of a neighbor who needs help harvesting their fruit, organizing neighbors to have a harvest party is a great social opportunity to come together to help each other and come away with some great produce! In addition, harvested fruit can be taken to local food banks, which are usually very excited to get fresh, local fruit. Part of good fruit production begins with appropriate pruning to keep the tree healthy and improve the convenience of getting to the fruit. Contact the El Cerrito Community Garden Network for more information about local resources for fruit tree pruning workshops or ideas in how to organize local gleaning services. They can be contacted at ECCommunity.Garden@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Robin Mitchell of the El Cerrito Community Garden Network for contributing this article.