<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd 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? Join us for a guided tour. 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.-Sun. May 4—6</td>
<td>Various Times and Locations</td>
<td>Fifth 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 beauty of one of El Cerrito’s best-kept secrets. Visit <a href="http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org">www.ectrailtrekkers.org</a> for a full schedule of events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. May 6</td>
<td>10 AM to 5 PM</td>
<td>Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Enjoy a free, self-guided tour of over 40 native gardens in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, co-sponsored by the City of El Cerrito’s Clean Water Program. Visit bringingbackthenatives.net for more information or contact El Cerrito City Staff at (510) 525-7622.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. May 19</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 10. 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. May 23</td>
<td>6:30 PM to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan: Attend a public meeting to review the initial draft of the Master Plan and discuss the future of parks and recreation in El Cerrito. Public Meeting #4 is being held at the El Cerrito City Hall on the evening of May 23. Stay tuned for more information at: <a href="http://elcerrito.org/parksMP">http://elcerrito.org/parksMP</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. May 26</td>
<td>10 AM to 12:30 PM</td>
<td>Green Team Clean-Up: Join El Cerrito’s Green Teams and the Rotary Club for a cleanup of the city’s northern entryways. Help keep trash from polluting our creeks and the bay and present visitors with a positive first impression of our city. Meet on Knott Avenue at the parking lot East of San Pablo Avenue. All ages welcome (under 18 with guardian). Sign up to volunteer today! Or simply show up. For more information call City staff at (510) 215-4350.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28 &amp; July 4</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Recycling Center Hours: The El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Resource Center will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 28 and Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3 &amp; July 4</td>
<td>5 PM—7 PM 10 AM—6 PM</td>
<td>2018 City of El Cerrito &amp; worldOne 4th of July Festival: Music on July 3 from 5pm to 7pm. Music, rides, games, food and more on July 4 from 10am to 6pm. For more information visit <a href="http://www.elcerrito.org/July4Festival">www.elcerrito.org/July4Festival</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. July 8</td>
<td>10 AM to 12:30 PM</td>
<td>Green Team Clean-Up: Join the El Cerrito Green Teams for a cleanup of the city’s Northern Gateways from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Keep trash from polluting our creeks and the bay and present visitors with a positive first impression of our city. All ages welcome (under 18 with guardian). Meet at Baxter Creek Park, at Conlon Avenue and Kearney Street, by the Ohlone Greenway. Sign up to volunteer today! Or simply show up. For more information call City staff at (510) 215-4350.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Activities Calendar**

---

**Chinese Policies Affect U.S. Recycling**

For many years China has been a leading importer of recycled plastics and paper from across the globe. However, the Chinese government recently imposed stricter standards for the quality of imported recycled materials. If recycling programs are unable to meet these new thresholds, exporters will be forced to send materials to other markets, which will increase costs, or reroute the materials to landfills.

Manufacturers rely on using high-quality recycled materials to produce new products, such as cereal boxes and shipping cartons.

When food waste, debris, oils, or other materials contaminate these recycling streams it makes it more costly and difficult for the facilities to make new products. In addition, if it is too contaminated, it generates a new waste stream.

**How you can help!**

When recycling, make sure to not add trash and to keep recyclable items uncontaminated. (See page 3 for more helpful tips.)
El Cerrito Creative ReUse Artist in Residence

The City of El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission recently selected artist Sandy Drobny as El Cerrito’s first Creative ReUse (ECCRU) Artist in Residence. During her residency, Drobny will create artwork using materials found at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center, conduct workshops or other educational programs, provide an exhibition of artwork created during the residency, and donate one piece of artwork to the City.

About her work, Drobny said, “I enjoy showcasing the use of recycled or found materials in my work, and I am incredibly adept at seeing artistic potential in a multitude of objects. I want people to see that weaving is not just an ancient pursuit, but it is alive and well in this century. I want to engage the public, and educate them about creative reuse as well as weaving as an art form.”

Help El Cerrito Preserve Value of Recycled Materials

The City of El Cerrito operates both the curbside recycling program and the El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Resource Center. Due to the changes in the international recycling markets, prices for commingled materials (such as what is collected in your gray bin at the curb) have fallen. Commingled materials command lower prices because they often contain high levels of contaminants like food-soiled paper or plastics and items that should have gone in the trash. However, some materials continue to do well in the market and are valuable to manufacturers if they are Empty, Clean, and Dry. These materials include:

- Beverage containers—(aluminum, glass, and plastic)
- Narrow-neck #2 plastic bottles
- Cardboard
- White bond paper
- Scrap metal

As discussed on Page 1, ensuring items are Empty, Clean, and Dry, will help ensure this material retains top value and ends up being recycled into new products.

Bike to Work Day 2018

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Join the fun on May 10 for the biggest bike day of the year! Thousands of people all around the Bay Area will be riding together for Bike to Work Day. Visit El Cerrito’s Energizer Station from 7:00am–9:00am on the Ohlone Greenway across from the Plaza BART station for your free goodie bag full of bike-friendly swap. Whether you’re bicycling to work, school, or even just around your neighborhood, we look forward to seeing you! For more information contact El Cerrito’s Community Development Department at (510) 215-4362.

“No Plastic Straw, Please!”

Did you know that the United States uses enough straws each day to wrap around the earth’s circumference 2.5 times.

One powerful decision to help our recycling programs, as well as our environment, is to reduce your use of plastic straws and other types of single-use plastic products.

How You Can Help

1. When eating on the go or at restaurants, ask for your drinks to be “strawless.”
2. If you buy plastic straws, consider purchasing a more sustainable alternative, such as reusable glass or metal straws or compostable paper or bamboo straws. For a list of vendors that provide sustainable products in bulk, call the City’s Operations and Environmental Services Division at (510) 215-4350.
3. Reach out to at least one restaurant manager or business owner in your community and ask them to stock a more sustainable alternative.

Please reduce contamination in the recycling process.

Before placing anything in your recycling container, make sure your recyclables are Empty, Clean, and Dry.

1. EMPTY: Make sure the recyclable item is empty of any food, liquid, or other material.
2. CLEAN: Scraper/wipe out food from containers (and you can compost the used paper towel) or lightly rinse out the recyclable item with a small amount of water to remove any remaining residue.
3. DRY: Gently shake out any excess water, or let the recyclable item air-dry.
4. RECYCLE: Now the item is ready to go into the recycling bin.

As discussed on Page 1, ensuring Items are Empty, Clean, and Dry, will help ensure that materials end up being recycled and not landfilled.