

A Greener El Cerrito

COMMERCIAL EDITION

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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www.ecenvironment.org | 510-215-4350

EARTH DAY

Get involved!



www.el-cerrito.org

**El Cerrito
Earth Day
Sat., April 13**

**Work Parties
9AM—12PM**

**Volunteer
Appreciation Lunch
12PM—1:30PM**

Earth Day is a fun way to get involved in your community. Have a work project or want to volunteer?

Register at el-cerrito.org/earthday or call 510-559-7686.

Stormwater Tips for Businesses

The storm drain system carries rainwater to local creeks and the San Francisco Bay. As a result, it is illegal to allow anything that is not rainwater to enter a storm drain and it's important that businesses do their part to ensure that water entering the system is not polluted. Use the following tips to ensure that your business is helping keep El Cerrito's watershed clean:

1. **Keep your dumpster area tidy** by sweeping regularly, always keeping dumpster lids closed and locked, and not disposing of liquid waste in the dumpster. Store hazardous waste in a covered area.
2. Be sure to **sweep outdoor areas** and/or dry vacuum. If hosing down outdoor surfaces, **block off storm drains and collect wash water with a wet vacuum**, and never use chemicals such as bleaches, degreasers, deodorizers, or detergents for outdoor cleaning.



3. **If a spill does occur, stop it at the source** and from spreading by using absorbent material around it.
4. **Properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease** in grease recycling containers. Check and clean your grease removal devices on a consistent basis. If you have wastewater that contains fats, oils, and grease, then dispose of it through sanitary sewer drains that have a grease removal device.

To report pollution threatening the storm drain call 1-800-NO-DUMPING. Contact the City's Clean Water Program Coordinator for more information by email at wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or by phone at (510) 525-7622.

Volunteer for a Green Teams Work Party!

A great way to get involved with the El Cerrito environment is to organize or volunteer for an El Cerrito Green Teams Work Party. People can sign up as individuals, or with a group such as a family or business. Work parties are held throughout El Cerrito and clean up the local environment or do restoration work.

For more information about the Green Teams or to organize an event, contact City staff by email at green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call the Operations + Environmental Services Division at (510) 215-4350.



Keep Shopping Carts Contained and Collected



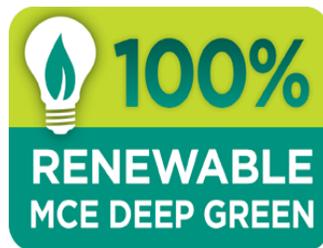
It is common for shopping carts to be removed from the store site they are associated with and to cause a blight or nuisance on City streets.

Businesses are reminded that they are responsible for having a process in place and service for collecting their shopping carts from off the streets and public paths, such as the Ohlone Greenway, throughout the community.

Keep El Cerrito's streets and paths clean by being proactive to remove any of your business's shopping carts from the City's streets. Call the City's Maintenance Division to learn more or to report an abandoned shopping cart not associated with your business at (510) 215-4369.

Get 100% Renewable Energy with MCE Clean Energy!

The City of El Cerrito receives energy from the Clean Choice Aggregate, Marin Clean Energy (MCE). El Cerrito has teamed up with MCE to encourage residents and businesses to opt-up to MCE's Deep Green 100% renewable energy option. Deep Green energy is generated entirely from wind and solar sources, much of which is generated locally in California.



MCE Deep Green costs about 1 cent more per kilowatt hour than their standard rates. Moreover, MCE contributes half of the Deep Green premium to the Deep Green Renewable Development Fund, which supports local renewable energy projects. Signing up is easy and just requires filling out an online form.

For more information or to sign up, visit MCE's Living Lightly page at mcecleanenergy.org/livinglightly, or contact City staff at (510) 525-7622.

Dealing with Pests using Integrated Pest Management



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to solving pest problems while reducing the use of pesticides and further reducing the amount of toxins

entering the stormwater system, improving public health and the environment. Long-term prevention of pests is approached through a combination of techniques such as cultural, biological, and structural methods to identify and alter environmental factors that the pests thrive on. Cultural controls decrease pest establishment, reproduction, dispersal, and survival by using tactics such as altering irrigation practices. Biological controls use natural enemies to manage pests, for example, predators, parasites, and competitors. Structural methods involve directly blocking out a pest or making the environment uninhabitable for the pest. These include traps or screens for insects and animals, or mulches for weed management.

Visit cchealth.org/ipm to learn more about IPM and contact RecycleMore at 1-888-412-9277 to learn more about how to properly dispose of commercial household hazardous waste.

Waste Reduction Legislation

Keep track of waste reduction legislation that may apply to your business or multi-family property.

- **AB 341** requires recycling for businesses that produce four cubic yards of solid waste weekly.
- **AB 1826** requires organics recycling for businesses that produce four cubic yards of solid waste weekly.
- **AB 1884** requires sit-down restaurants to only provide straws upon request.

- **El Cerrito's Food Ware Ordinance** prohibits the use of expanded polystyrene foam food ware by food providers in El Cerrito. It also requires food providers to use compostable or recyclable disposable food ware.
- **El Cerrito's Single-use Bag Ordinance** prohibits retailers from distributing single-use plastic bags at the point of sale.

Learn more by calling the City at (510) 215-4350.