

# A Greener El Cerrito

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

Winter 2020/2021 | Volume 30

[www.ecenvironment.org](http://www.ecenvironment.org) | 510-215-4350

## Electric Vehicle Charging Station Now at Recycling Center

Installation has recently been completed to add a dual-port electric vehicle (EV) charging station at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (RERC), for use by both City employees and community members. The ChargePoint station, which is similar to the one in operation at the El Cerrito City Hall, provides residents and visitors to the Center with another option for charging their vehicles, while also enhancing the capacity for employees to charge vehicles, and/or for the City to add more EVs to its fleet in the future. The project was funded in part by a grant from MCE Clean Energy.

Transitioning to electric vehicles remains a key component of addressing climate change and reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts associated with transportation. With the increasing share of electricity that comes from renewable sources through MCE Clean Energy, switching from a gas or diesel vehicle to an electric vehicle has increasing potential to reduce the climate impacts from driving. The City of El Cerrito has remained engaged on this issue to identify locations to add EV charging infrastructure in El Cerrito and has participated in regional planning conversations to support the development of EV infrastructure. To support the community to make this transition, the City has also hosted an “EV 101” workshop, partnered with the SunShares program to offer discounted pricing on EVs to El Cerrito residents, participated in National Drive Electric Week, promoted the Drive Clean Bay Area program, and leased two electric vehicles for City Staff.

For more information on the newly installed EV Charging station or how the City is working to support EV infrastructure, please contact Will Provost, OESD Manager, at [wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).



## 2021 Solid Waste and Recycling Rates

**Residential Solid Waste Services** include weekly collection of recycling (gray cart), green waste (green cart), and garbage (blue cart); limited free on-call collection of larger quantities from your home; free access to the regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility and to most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost. **Commercial Solid Waste Services** include collection of recycling (gray cart), green waste (green), garbage (blue) and most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost.

GARBAGE CONTAINER SIZE	RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	COMMERCIAL / MULTI-FAMILY SERVICE
20 Gallon	\$45.60 per month	\$45.60 per month
35 Gallon	\$59.77 per month	\$59.77 per month
64 Gallon	\$118.70 per month	\$118.70 per month
1 Cubic Yard (weekly pickup)	NA	\$402.70 per month
2 Cubic Yards (weekly pickup)	NA	\$789.12 per month
Green Waste Collection (weekly pickup)	64 gal cart included in residential service Extra 64 gal cart is \$70.96 per month	35 gal is \$36.69 per month 64 gal is \$70.96 per month One Cubic Yard is \$271.18 per month

## New Green Waste Requirements

Over the past decade, the State of California has passed multiple pieces of legislation that will soon require nearly all residents, businesses, institutions, and multi-family complexes to obtain recycling and organics (green waste and food scraps) collection services.

Legislation includes:

- **AB 341 (2012):** Mandatory recycling services for businesses and multi-family dwelling units generating 4 or more cubic yards (cy) of solid waste per week.
- **AB 1826 (2018):** Mandatory green waste for specified multi-family complexes and commercial accounts.
- **AB 827 (effective July 2020):** The law requires businesses that are subject to AB 1826 (Mandatory Organics Recycling) and AB 341 (Mandatory Recycling) to provide indoor containers for recycling and green waste alongside their normal refuse containers for customers to use.
- **SB 1383 (effective 2022):** Mandatory recycling, green waste and food scraps collection services for all commercial and residential properties and required edible food recovery for businesses meeting specific thresholds (e.g. grocery stores).

Over the next two years, in addition to tracking compliance with AB 827, AB 341, and AB 1826, the City will be drafting new ordinances and implementing new programs to ensure compliance with SB 1383.



## Where Do Your Recyclables Go?

Since July 2019, the curbside recyclables collected from El Cerrito's residents and businesses have been going to Napa Recycling and Waste Services for sorting and processing. Five days each week, mixed recyclables collected at curbside are brought to the facility in Napa to be sorted at their materials recovery facility (MRF), before the materials can be turned into new products. At this time, the following materials are currently accepted in El Cerrito's grey curbside recycling carts:

- **PAPER:** Cardboard (should be flattened); Boxboard (such as shoe boxes, cereal boxes); Newspaper; Magazines, Catalogs & Glossy paper; Paper bags; Paper packaging; Junk mail; Phone books & soft-cover books; Envelopes (labels or windows okay); Office paper (all colors); Milk and juice cartons; shelf-stable cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak).
- **METAL:** Aluminum cans; Tin & steel cans; Clean aluminum pans & foil; Scrap metal (up to 36"); Pots, pans & utensils; Loose metal lids from glass jars and bottles
- **PLASTIC:** Bottles & jugs (all CRV containers, all numbers & colors, leave caps on); Rigid plastics, including tubs & containers (e.g. yogurt, margarine); Buckets, pails & crates; Clamshell trays & deli containers; Laundry baskets
- **GLASS:** Bottles & jars (all colors, lids removed and recycled loose, labels on okay).

As noted in previous updates, materials should be Empty, Clean, and Dry to avoid contaminating the recycling stream. For answers to any questions or for more info, please contact Recycling Center Staff at [green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

## Environmental Activities Calendar

**Last Day for Free Christmas Tree Pick-Up:** Christmas trees will be picked up free of charge as part of your green waste pick up on your scheduled collection day through the second week of January by East Bay Sanitary. Flocked trees will be taken for a fee. Please call 510-237-4321 for more information or to schedule a pick-up.

**Recycling Center Open with Limited Services:** The Recycling Center is open from 8:30am - 4pm Tuesday - Friday, and 9am - 4:45pm Saturdays. Face masks are required for all members of the public and staff. Customers are encouraged to spend 15 minutes or less dropping off materials. The Exchange Zone, Office, and Public Restrooms are currently closed to the public. The Styrofoam collection program has been suspended at this time. For more info visit [elcerrito.org/RecyclingCenter](http://elcerrito.org/RecyclingCenter).

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center occurs every Tuesday from 9am to 4pm, closed for lunch from 12pm to 12:30pm. The collection area is located directly behind the electronics collection area and visitors are asked to drive through and remain in their vehicles. Proof of residency is required. For more info about how to dispose of HHW and other items, please contact the City's Waste Prevention Specialist, Laureteen Brazil, at [lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or (510) 559-7686.

**Green Teams:** The El Cerrito "Green Teams" continue to host socially distanced cleanups and volunteer events. For the latest information on "Green Happenings", subscribe to the City's monthly e-newsletter at [el-cerrito.org/greenhappenings](http://el-cerrito.org/greenhappenings).

**Urban Forest Committee Monthly Meetings:** The committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held virtually during the pandemic. For more information visit [el-cerrito.org/treecommittee](http://el-cerrito.org/treecommittee).

**Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Monthly Meetings:** The EQC meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held virtually during the pandemic. For more information visit [el-cerrito.org/eqc](http://el-cerrito.org/eqc).