

A Greener El Cerrito

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

Winter 2021/2022 | Volume 33

www.ecenvironment.org | 510-215-4350

How to Report & Reduce Illegal Dumping in El Cerrito

City maintenance workers and landscape contractors continuously pick up illegal dumping from the public right of way (streets, sidewalks), city parks and the Ohlone Greenway. To report illegal dumping in El Cerrito, please call (510) 215-4369 or email Maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

One reason why illegal dumping occurs is a lack of awareness of how and where to properly dispose of items. Some common items found illegally dumped throughout the city include mattresses, household hazardous waste, and electronics. Did you know these items can be disposed at no charge when taken to the proper facility?



- **Mattresses** can be taken to the Richmond Household Hazardous Waste Facility for free located at 101 Pittsburg Ave., Wednesday through Saturday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Proof of residency is required and limits apply. For more information visit recyclemore.com/guide/mattresses-box-springs/.
- **Household Hazardous Waste** (aerosols, paints, stains, cleaners, etc.) is accepted on Tuesdays at the El Cerrito Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, or the Richmond Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 101 Pittsburg Ave., Wednesday through Saturday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Proof of residency is required and limits apply. For more information visit recyclemore.com/hazardous-waste/hhw-facility-info/.
- **Electronics** can be taken to the Recycling Center at 7501 Schmidt Lane. For more information visit el-cerrito.org/952/Drop-Off-Materials-Accepted

Other items such as furniture, appliances, and construction debris can be disposed of for a fee at a local transfer station or a pick-up service can be arranged from East Bay Sanitary for a fee. As part of your garbage service, bill paying customers may receive a one-time per calendar year (January – December) annual cleanup of garbage and green waste. For more information, please contact East Bay Sanitary at (510) 237-4321. For questions about hard to recycle items and proper waste disposal, please contact (510) 215-4350 or email greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

2022 Solid Waste and Recycling Rates

Residential Solid Waste Services include weekly collection of recycling (grey), organics (green), garbage (blue); limited free on-call collection of larger quantities from your home; free access to the regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, and free access 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, one 64 gallon organic waste container collected once weekly, and garbage. Commercial Solid Waste Services also include access to the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (in quantities equivalent to those of residential properties). Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost.

GARBAGE CONTAINER SIZE	RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	COMMERCIAL / MULTI-FAMILY SERVICE
20 Gallon	\$45.97 per month	\$47.86 per month
35 Gallon	\$60.13 per month	\$62.75 per month
64 Gallon	\$119.40 per month	\$124.65 per month
1 Cubic Yard (Loose, weekly pickup)	NA	\$419.99 per month
2 Cubic Yards (Loose, weekly pickup)	NA	\$823.71 per month
Green Waste Collection (weekly pickup) Note: One 64-gal cart included in rate	Extra 35 gal cart is \$30.07 per month Extra 64 gal cart is \$59.71 per month	Extra 35 gal is \$30.07 per month Extra 64 gal is \$59.71 per month Extra 1 Cubic Yard is \$294.10 per month

Keep Recyclables Loose Without A Bag

Did you know, plastic bags and other soft stretchy plastics can tangle and damage sorting lines, and bagged materials can be mistaken for garbage?



Here are some tips to improve your recycling:

- **Don't use a plastic bag for recyclables**
- **KEEP RECYCLABLES LOOSE** in your recycling container and put dirty plastic bags and other dirty soft stretchy plastics in the trash container for the landfill
- If you use paper bags, empty the recyclables loose into the recycling bin and put the empty paper bag loose in the recycling bin, so that **ALL RECYCLABLES ARE LOOSE IN THE RECYCLING BIN**

For more information, contact City staff via phone at (510) 215-4350 or via email at green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

SB 1383 Effective January 1, 2022

Effective January 1, 2022, California state law **SB 1383**, requires all businesses, residents, and multifamily properties, to separate organic materials (such as plant debris, food waste, food soiled papers, untreated wood waste) and recyclable materials from trash, and subscribe to the required collection services, with limited exceptions.



Residents are expected to use the organics cart for all plant debris, food wastes and food soiled papers. Countertop food scrap pails for easy separation of food wastes and food soiled papers are available at the Recycling Center. For more information call (510) 215-4350 or email greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Note, do not use plastic bags in the organics cart. Compostable bags are allowed in the organics carts, but they must meet ASTM D6400 standards. All other compostable plastics (e.g. cups) are not allowed in the organics program and should be placed in your trash cart.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

RERC Hours	Recycling Center Hours: The Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (RERC) is now open six days per week, Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. For the upcoming holidays, the Center will be closed as follows: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/17/22) and President's Day (2/21) . Curbside collection of recycling, green waste, and garbage will occur as normally scheduled.
Through Jan. 14	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.
Jan. 15 —Jan. 23	Compost Giveaway: Free compost for El Cerrito residents and businesses only at a new pilot location. Compost will be available at the Upper Cerrito Vista Parking Lot adjacent to the tennis courts, (entrance off of Avis Drive). Available while supplies last. Limit of 5 cubic feet per household or business (approx. seven 5-gallon buckets).
Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3	Baxter Creek Volunteer Work Days: Help remove litter and invasive plants from this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. Work days will take place from 10 am—12 pm on the first Sunday of each month, except during major holiday weekends. RSVP to (510) 215-4350 or cbennett@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us .
Apr. 23 —Apr. 30	Celebrate Earth Day between April 23 and April 30, 2022: During Earth Day week, the City is encouraging residents and businesses to conduct clean-ups and work parties around the community. If you're interested in hosting an activity and need access to tools and materials, please coordinate pick-up and drop-off by contacting City Staff at green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 215-4350. Find the latest info. at El-Cerrito.org/EarthDay .
May 7	Spring Citywide Garage Sale: Shop the Citywide Sale on Saturday, May 7 from 9am-3pm. If interested in being a host, registration forms must be turned in by April 15 to be included on the map. Maps will be available online one week prior to the event. To download the map or for more info, visit www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale .
May 14 and 15	Hillside Festival 2022: Mark your calendars for the Ninth Annual Hillside Festival. The festival is always free and features bird, animal, plant hikes, history events, and more.
1st Wed. Monthly	Free Tour of the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center: Join the City for a behind-the-scenes look at the LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center. Tours at an alternative time can also be scheduled for a fee. For more information call City staff at (510) 559-7686.
TBD	El Cerrito Green Teams: Join the Green Teams for a bi-monthly clean-up at locations throughout the City. Sign up to receive the latest info on the cleanups in the City's monthly e-news at el-cerrito.org/greenhappenings .