



Earth Day April 22, 2021 Restore Our Earth

Earth Day reminds us all to take care of our planet whether that includes participating in beach cleanups, planting trees, reducing and repurposing, or pledging to use less plastic.

This year's Earth Day theme is "**Restore Our Earth,**" which is based on the concept of looking at natural system processes and emerging green technologies to restore the Earth's ecosystems and forests, improve farming practices, conserve and rebuild soil, restore wildlife populations, and rid the world's ocean of plastics.

Restoration is imperative to fighting climate change and it is up to all of us to make the Earth a safer, healthier, and more equitable place to live.

-Earth Day Participation-

Traditionally, Earth Day is a time of gathering to take action. Of course, this year will be a little different. There are lots of virtual events taking place in addition to some simple activities you can do. Nonetheless, whatever action you do, the focus on the well-being of our planet has never been more important.



Drive Electric

Earth Day

Drive Electric Earth Day (**DEED**) is a national campaign to promote electric vehicles (EVs) as better driving options for the environment, more fun to drive, more convenient to fuel, and less expensive to operate than gasoline vehicles. For DEED, the Sustainability Division and EV Advocates of Ventura County are hosting several EV-related activities throughout the week of April 19th. Activities include:

- Have a child that loves to color? Have them participate in the **Evie McWheelie Coloring Contest**. They can color Evie McWheelie or draw their own EV. Email their creation to Vcrea.Admin@ventura.org.
- Looking for fun things to do at home, check out our **list** of movies, TV shows, and YouTube videos that highlight EVs.
- We've joined forces with similar organizations in Santa Barbara County to host a **Virtual Green Car Show** on April 23rd. The Green Car Show will include a fun video showcasing EVs along the Ventura and Santa Barbara coastline as well as a virtual booth to ask any EV questions you have.

[Click here to learn more about the Car Show](#)

[Supervisor Ramirez Welcomes Earth Day 2021*](#)

Celebrate Earth Day 3C-REN All-Electric Home Workshop



Join 3C-REN at the CEC's 2021 Virtual Earth Day Festival on April 23rd for our **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint: The All - Electric Home Workshop!** Reduce your carbon footprint by reducing the use of fossil fuels in your home. Plan to come away with a better understanding of the benefits and opportunities of including all-electric systems in your new home or remodel.

**Friday, April 23, 2021
1:30pm-2:30pm**



To Learn More & Register

Sustainability Division staff are the lead implementers of 3C-REN. To learn more about this program and what we do, check out the 3-minute **video** or visit our **website**.



Ready, Set, Go Electric Ventura County

We were awarded an Energy Commission Clean Transportation Program Grant to implement projects included in the **Ventura County EV Ready Blueprint**. So be on the lookout for the County's new EV Coach! The EV Coach will help with the following:

- Increase EV access and adoption
- Coordinate activities like EV Ride and Drive events and EV 101s
- Provide technical support for purchasing and installing EV and charging infrastructure, including assistance with applying for incentives and rebates
- Support development of local EV-focused workforce education and training



Additionally, as part of the grant, County Fleet Services will add 18 new Chevrolet Bolts and 9 autonomous, transportable, solar powered charging stations to the Ventura, Camarillo, and Simi Valley remote motor pool locations.



[Check out a short video*](#)



Look Who's Rolled into Town

In 2019, two Ventura County school districts were awarded Energy Commission grants to purchase five new electric buses (eBuses) – two for Ocean View School District and three for Oxnard Union High School District. On January 26th, Ocean View School District's two eBuses were the first to arrive in the County.

Additionally, over the last two years, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, through their Lower Emission School Bus and EV Charger programs, has awarded grant funding to the four school districts to purchase additional eBuses and install charging infrastructure to go with each school bus.

Let's do the math for total eBuses in the County as of today:

- 4** Ocean View School District
- 4** Oxnard Union High School
- 1** Moorpark Unified School District
- 2** Ventura Unified School District

11 Total aging diesel busses will be replaced by electric school buses



These eBuses will benefit the school districts as they cost less to maintain and to operate per mile.

Watch a short clip*

City of Ventura Bans Styrofoam Food and Drink Containers

Beginning July 1, restaurants, grocery stores, and other food providers in the City of Ventura will be prohibited from using food and drink containers made of expanded polystyrene, commonly known by the trademarked name Styrofoam.



The Ventura City Council unanimously approved the ban in November 2020 on grounds that expanded polystyrene products, frequently used for take-out orders and diners' leftovers, are a prevalent form of litter found in storm drains, creeks, rivers, beaches, parks, and open spaces.

Ventura joined more than 130 other cities and counties in California, including Ojai and Thousand Oaks, to prohibit expanded polystyrene products to some degree.

To learn more, click [here](#).

Did You Say Virtual Power Plants?



+



+



Protect Your Power is an innovative new program between homeowner, their utility, and Swell Energy. It pairs energy storage, solar panels, and battery management software to benefit the electrical grid and power your home, even during power shutoffs.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Clean Power Alliance Power Share Program

Clean Power Alliance (CPA) has launched a new Power Share program, which provides 100% clean energy and a 20% discount to eligible customers located in disadvantaged communities throughout their service areas. CPA will enroll nearly 6,500 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit this [link](#) to learn more.



History of Earth Day

On January 28, 1969, fifteen months prior to the first Earth Day, a massive oil spill put the spotlight on the dangers of pollution. Just six miles from the picturesque shores of Santa Barbara, Union Oil's Platform A experienced a blowout, spilling more than 3 million gallons of oil across 35 miles. The disaster gained national headlines and the attention of President Nixon and other politicians.



In 1969 Senator Gaylord Nelson was determined to convince the federal government that the planet was at risk and began developing the idea of Earth Day. Nelson was inspired by the anti-Vietnam war “teach-ins” that were taking place on college campuses, envisioning a large-scale, grassroots demonstration to shake things up.

Nelson announced the Earth Day concept at a conference in the fall of 1969 and the first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970. Rallies were held in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and most other large American cities. Earth Day continues to be effective at raising awareness about environmental issues over the last 50 years. Today more than 174 countries participate in Earth Day activities, making it the largest secular civic event in the world.



Activities and Ideas

[Activities for Kids](#)

[15 Things You Can Do](#)

[Billion Acts of Green](#)

[Virtual Events](#)

Virtual Earth Day 2021

**Earth Day Santa
Barbara**

**Earth Week Mini
Film Festival**

*Film clips provided by Will Hahn Productions and paid for by Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5).



COUNTY of VENTURA

County of Ventura
CEO Sustainability Division
800 S Victoria Ave #1940
Ventura, CA 93009
sustainability@ventura.org



**SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION**

CEO Sustainability Division | 800 South Victoria Ave #1940, Ventura, CA 93009