



SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION

LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Quarterly Newsletter



COUNTY of VENTURA



EARTH DAY 2022

INVEST IN OUR PLANET

This year's Earth Day theme is **INVEST IN OUR PLANET**. The focus is on accelerating solutions to combat our greatest threat, climate change, and to call on everyone - governments, citizens, and businesses - to do their part.¹ We are encouraged to recognize our shared responsibility and help expedite the transition to an equitable, prosperous green economy for all.

When we invest in something, we commit to it in order to earn a return or to achieve a result, allocating resources in order to improve it or gain an advantage.² We invest in monetary things such as investment funds, the Stock Market, and retirement plans as well as non-monetary things like relationships, our health, and our time into things we enjoy. We invest in things that are of great importance to us individually, things we value. The Earth Day's call to action is to **INVEST IN OUR PLANET**, to do our part collectively and commit to preserving and protecting our health, our families, and our livelihoods. What greater payback is there than restoring Planet Earth?

"THE SECRET OF CHANGE IS TO FOCUS ALL OF YOUR ENERGY NOT ON FIGHTING THE OLD, BUT ON BUILDING THE NEW." – SOCRATES

Earth Day
April 22, 2022

*The latest in
this month's issue:*

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All sectors of society including governments, citizens, and business must play major roles and get it right in the fight against climate change. This Earth Day, please consider the Return on Investment (ROI) of investing in the earth for the future of the planet and all its inhabitants.

GOVERNMENTS

According to a recent [study](#) conducted by Pew Research Center, a majority of U.S. adults want government to play a larger role in addressing climate change. This can be accomplished by prioritizing the country's energy supply to come from alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar; policy changes to support efforts such as providing tax credits to businesses for developing carbon capture/storage, tougher restrictions on power plant emissions, taxing corporations on their carbon emissions, stricter standards for cars, and supporting large scale tree-planting proposals; and incentivizing citizens, businesses, and institutions to create, innovate, and build a resilient future.

65%

of Americans think that government should do more with regards to fighting climate change.³

FEW THINGS THE COUNTY IS DOING ...

Energy audits were conducted in County facilities to analyze potential opportunities for reduced energy use and generate cost savings.

61 AUDITS

3 MEGAWATTS

GSA in partnership with Ventura Solar, LLC brought a new solar panel array installation online in the Fillmore area resulting in an estimated 5% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from County operations.

In partnership with Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance, expanded the County's remote motorpool fleet to include 18 Chevrolet Bolts and 9 standalone, solar charging stations.

18 BOLTS



Completing applications for incentives and if approved, install public and fleet charging stations at 15 County facilities throughout the region.

CITIZENS

As individuals, our voices and actions can help accelerate the speed when it comes to the race in addressing climate change. As voters and consumers, we can hold businesses and governments accountable and support them when they get it right. Personal decisions about the consumption of goods and services, diet, travel, and energy and water consumption can have an impact as well. Gen Z is providing inspiration when it comes to making their voices heard with 45% having stopped purchasing certain brands because of ethical or sustainability concerns. Whatever shade of green you consider yourself, we all can do something to Invest in our Planet.



The Switch is On is a collaborative campaign to support home electrification by providing tools, support, and resources to help meet our state's emission reduction goals. The Switch is On website connects residents to free one-on-one advisors, helps them find vetted contractors, provides access to incentives and rebates, and will showcase nearby homeowners who've already made the switch.

Learn more and watch a video [here!](#)



Resilient Central Coast Challenge

Ventura County's Resilient Central Coast Challenge will be launching in May. The Challenge comprises six counties from Ventura to Santa Cruz working together to achieve measurable progress towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from four areas (home energy use, transportation, food choices, and waste). The Challenge utilizes an online organizing platform to engage micro-community leaders (e.g., neighborhood groups, church groups, Girl Scout troop leaders, civic clubs, university groups, etc.) by providing bilingual training, marketing materials, and other resources to encourage them to use their social networks to help achieve community building, GHG emissions reductions, and increased resiliency. More information to come!



“Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world.”

DOLORES HUERTA

BUSINESSES



92%

of consumers say they are more likely to trust brands that are environmentally or socially conscious.

Businesses are discovering that green business practices are not only the ethical option but can also be a profitable one. Reflecting sustainability into one's business plan and goals, training employees, assessing supply chains to ensure partnership with sustainable companies, recycling and water conservation programs, and establishing sustainability policies and procedures can all be steps taken to embrace the benefits of a green economy for both humanitarian and business reasons.



CHECK OUT WHO JUST GOT CERTIFIED!



The Eco Store

<https://theecostoreonline.com>

Being a good steward of our environment and our scarce, precious resources is an important and influential choice each person can make. We want to provide opportunities for people to make wise choices and offer education, direction, and guidance in many different areas.

-Erica Morris, Owner-



Learn More About
Becoming Certified

Power Your Business by the Sun

Are you considering a solar system for your business? Now is the time to take advantage of the federal Solar Investment Tax Credit. Learn more [here](#)

The HUB101

<https://www.hub101.org>

Being green has always been one of our focuses. With our conscious mindset regarding paper management, lighting, motion sensors, and recycling efforts, we provide a green work space. We also offer a bike sharing program, so that people don't have to use their cars when they go to lunch and we offer monthly carpooling incentives as well.

-Kristin Bell, Community Program Manger-





Nancy Clarin

MEET SOME OF THE TEAM



Mireille Vargas

I work on transportation electrification within the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance, serving as the Electric Vehicle Coach. In my position, I get to plan fun educational events for the community and brainstorm ideas on how to get more electric vehicles in Ventura County.

What do you do in the Sustainability Division?

I buy second hand whenever I can. This reduces the demand for extraction of new raw materials from our lands. Thrift stores are the way to go! Another thing I'm working on is limiting my consumption of red meat and learning more plant-based recipes. I hope one day to stop eating red meat all together.

What do you personally do to combat climate change?

So much dessert in the break room!

What was one thing that surprised you about working here at the County?

One of my favorite places in the world is the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Costa Rica. The hiking trails are bursting with beautiful ferns, mosses, bromeliads, and so much more! If you close your eyes, you'll hear a million different animal sounds. As busy as it is, it's also peaceful. The dense clouds hide the horizon and it's easy to forget the noise of the outside world.

What has been your favorite vacation destination and why?

I am a program specialist for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation, helping to oversee the execution of the 81 CAP measures that aim to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

I try to live a sustainable lifestyle by not using my car for short trips, eating and shopping local, using my reusable water bottle, and being energy efficient in my house. When possible, I donate to environmental justice organizations and educate my friends and family on what they can do to be more eco-friendly.

I did not know how large the County was! I was surprised to hear that we are the second biggest employer in Ventura County. Though now I feel like I see County vehicles everywhere.

I really enjoyed visiting Hawai'i and Kau'i'i. I visited both islands through an academic program where I got to learn about the islands' ecology and about Hawaiian culture. Practicing the culture of aloha aina (love of the land) and ohana (family) made my trip much more meaningful.

Teleportation so that I do not have to sit in traffic or deal with airports.

What would your superpower be and why?

Hmm... I would invite my favorite podcast creator, Allie Ward from Ologies.

If you were to host a talk show, who would you invite as your first guest?

Superspeed! I used to watch The Flash and I was fascinated and besides, it would be nice to never be in traffic and save money on gas.

I would bring in Beyonce. She is an icon in the music industry who has broken barriers, has expanded into other industries, and has been a mentor to other artists.



Upcoming 3C-REN Events and Training

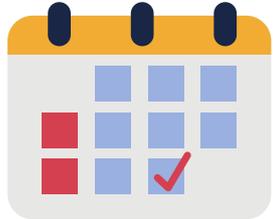
All About Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) For Households

April 21, 4:00-6:00 pm
For more info and to register, click [here](#)

Healthy Housing Principles for Households

June 3, 4:00-6:00 pm
For more info and to register, click [here](#)

Complete calendar for all 3C-REN event [here](#)



Catch up on the latest edition of the Energy News Flash [here](#)

Sustainability Brown Bag Lunch Series

Grab your lunch and join us every third Thursday from April to November to learn how to incorporate sustainability into your lifestyle. Our first one will be on Thursday, April 21st from 12:15-12:45 pm, and we will have limited door prizes for attendees. View the tentative schedule below and register [here](#).

SUSTAINABILITY BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
APRIL 21- NOVEMBER 17
12:15-12:45 PM



Scan QR code to register

Have questions? Email the event organizer at mireille.vargas@ventura.org

SCHEDULE

- April 21st: Kickoff and Introduction to Sustainability Division
- May 19th: Green Your Commute
- June 16th: Switching to All Electric with "Switch is On" Campaign
- July 21st: Energy Savings for Multi and Single-family Homes
- August 18th: Reduce Your Waste at the Workplace
- September 15th: Drive Electric with the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
- October 20th: Tips and Tricks for Energy Efficiency
- November 17th: Learn to Reduce Your Water Consumption

Green Your Commute



Want to make a difference in the environment and will save you money? Did you know the County of Ventura has a commuter benefits program aimed at reducing road congestion and lowering the greenhouse emissions of its employees?

Check out [HR Benefits' Commuter Benefits page](#) to learn more about signing up for a bike locker, getting preferred parking for your carpool, using the "Guaranteed Ride Home" program, or taking advantage of the County's green fleet options for County business.

The County offers commuter benefits that encourage employees to consider options outside of individuals driving to work by themselves. These benefits include the (1) [Transportation Benefit Reimbursement Program](#) where County employees can use their pretax dollars for public transit and vanpooling costs, (2) General Services Agency's motorpool offers electric vehicles for County business (learn more about them [here](#)), (3) on-campus bike lockers available for cyclists to safely store their bikes during work hours, and (4) premium parking for employees who carpool.

Celebrate National Bike Month with *Cyclemania*



Start greening your commute in May by participating in National Bike Month, an annual celebration established in 1956 by the League of American Bicyclists (learn more [here](#)). The Sustainability Division will be celebrating National Bike Month with *Cyclemania*, a month full of events and presentations encouraging employees to incorporate cycling to their commute to their work. This year *Cyclemania* events will include Welcome Stations at selected County facilities to greet employees with coffee, snacks, and educational resources about cycling and active transportation.

County employees are invited to join the Sustainability Division at the following *Cyclemania* events:

Welcome Station at the Hall of Administration's Atrium (Main Plaza)

Monday, May 16th from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Station at the General Services Agency's Service Building

Tuesday, May 17th from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Sustainability Brown Bag Lunch (Virtual Event)

Thursday, May 19th from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Zoom Registration is required. [Register here](#)

Welcome Station at the Human Services Agency Building

855 Partridge Drive, Ventura

Monday, May 23rd from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Station at Public Health Administration

2240 East Gonzales Road, Oxnard

Tuesday, May 24th from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

"The Future of Active Transportation" Presentation with the Public Works Agency and Ventura County Transportation Commission (Virtual Event)

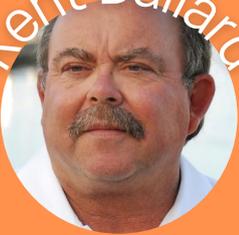
Thursday, May 26th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Registration is required. [Register here](#)

Nancy Clarin



Kent Bullard



Meet our EV Coaches!

Our brilliant Electric Vehicle (EV) Coaches are here to help facilitate Ventura County's transition to electric transportation. They are behind VCREA's EV education and outreach initiatives, as well as technical assistance in installing new chargers throughout Ventura County.

Nancy and Kent are a great resource for your EV-related questions. You can reach Nancy Clarin at nancy.clarin@ventura.org or Kent Bullard at kent.bullard@ventura.org

New EV on the road!



Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) received their brand new Plug-In Electric Hybrid Van this month. MICOP will share the van with community members for important transportation needs like doctor's appointments, community meetings, and more.

The new Chrysler Pacifica was funded in part by the Ventura County EV Ready Blueprint Implementation Grant Agreement between VCREA and MICOP.

We want your input!

Your input will help us accelerate the installation of EV charging stations throughout Ventura County.

Take the survey.

link: forms.office.com/g/Yc6XsfeaEJ

Coming up next month...

Leveraging EV Charger Incentives for your Multi-Family Property

SCE's Charge Ready Program is making it easy to install EV charging stations for your multi-family housing tenants. In this 40-minute webinar, you'll learn how to use SCE's Charge Ready program to unlock rebates and low-cost installation.

[Register Here](#)



Drive Electric Earth Month

APRIL EVENTS

Learn About Electric Vehicles!



April Earth Day Tour

22

You don't want to miss this 1-hour tour of the government center campus. You'll learn about the Government Center's strides in advancing sustainability in campus facilities.

12PM- 1PM *Ventura County Government Center*



April Pacific View Mall Earth Day

22

Pacific View Mall is hosting an Earth Day event with lots of fun, education, and giveaways! Stop by the VCREA booth for EV Resources.

11 AM - 2PM *Pacific View Mall Center Court, Ventura*



April Café BōKU EV Display

23

Get your EV-related questions answered and meet real EV owners, many of who have years of EV experience. Need a break from the fun? Recharge yourself with healthy beverages and foods at the Café BōKU.

2PM-6PM *Café BōKU in Ojai (Old Ford Dealership)*



Virtual Electric Movie Night

Every Friday, VCREA will send you our top EV-related movies for you to enjoy from the comfort of your own home.



POWER RESPONSE

Earn money, Save Energy.



CALLING ALL CLEAN POWER RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

Clean Power Alliance (CPA) recently expanded its successful Power Response program, which encourages participating residential and commercial customers to reduce their energy usage by offering financial incentives. The Power Response program is a demand response initiative utilized by CPA to shift energy usage to mornings, afternoons, or late at night when clean energy is more abundant. Such demand response initiatives help reduce the need for service interruptions, like rolling blackouts, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Learn more [here](#).



Soon Ventura County Library patrons will be able to check out an Induction Cooktop!

Q: What is an Induction Cooktop?

A: An energy efficient tool used for cooking that offers many benefits over gas and electric ranges.

Q: Why use an Induction Cooktop?

A: They cook faster, temperature is more precise and easier to control, and they eliminate the indoor air pollution of gas appliances.

Q: What comes with the cooktop when I check it out at the library?

A: You will receive an induction cooktop, compatible pan, magnet to test your home cookware and helpful information about cooking with induction. When you are finished taking it for a test run, you can keep the magnet and return the other items to the library.

To learn more click [here](#)

The cooktops are being provided through a partnership with 3C-REN (Tri-County Regional Energy Network), Ventura County Library, and Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA).

