



SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION

LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Quarterly Newsletter



COUNTY of VENTURA

EARTH DAY



INVEST IN OUR PLANET

This year, we rally behind the theme "*Invest In Our Planet*", which highlights the importance of dedicating our time, resources, and energy to solving climate change and other environmental issues. Investing in our planet is necessary to protect it and the best way to pave a path towards a prosperous future. When we *Invest In Our Planet* together, we are supporting healthy, happy, and wealthy communities worldwide.¹

Click [here](https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/) to learn more about Earth Day 2023



The latest in this month's issue:

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¹ [HTTPS://WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG/EARTH-DAY-2023/](https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/)



EVERYDAY
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR LOCAL
CLIMATE ACTION



CHECK OUT [CLIMATE RESILIENT VC](https://climateresilientvc.org) AND JOIN THE EFFORT TO
CREATE A CLEANER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE. ACTIONS ARE SIMPLE, EVERYDAY THINGS THAT YOU CAN
DO TO REDUCE YOUR IMPACT AND MAY ALSO SAVE YOU MONEY.



HELP SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT WITH

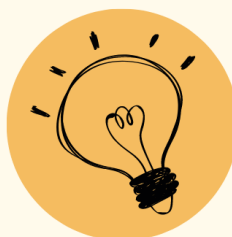
• *Climate Resilient VC* •

Simple ways to increase
sustainability in your everyday life.

Join the
Challenge!



Save Money



Conserve Energy



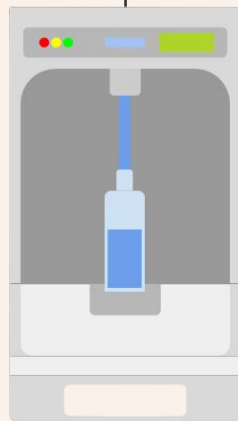
Work Together

VISIT [CLIMATERESILIENTVC.ORG](https://climateresilientvc.org) FOR
MORE INFORMATION

Sustainable Practices in the Workplace

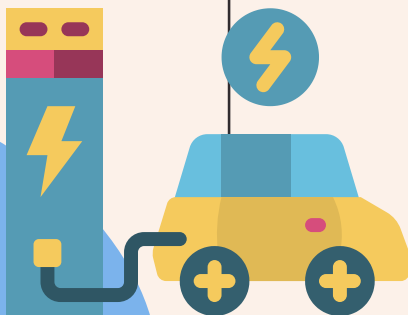
Hydration Stations

Bring a reusable water bottle and utilize the hydration stations available at County facilities.



Electric Vehicles

Use an EV in GSA's motor pool for work related travel. The County also has public chargers available that you can use for your personal EV.



Bike to Work

The County has bike lockers available at different parking lots that you can reserve to keep your bike safe and secure.



Personal Recycling Boxes

Make recycling easier by getting a personal recycling box for your desk. Email gsa.maintenance@ventura.org to request one today.





HOME ENERGY SAVINGS & INDUCTION COOKTOP KITS

See what your fellow County employees are saying about their experience when checking out the kits.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO
LEARN MORE



"Being able to test the kit out was very informative. [It] was fun. I hope others are taking up sustainability on this opportunity!"
- Mike Pettit

"The instructions were great... And I am sold on inductions in general now and will be encouraging others to consider them."
- Kate English

"Everything was pretty straight forward, and the booklet helped out with a few tricks that I did not think of previously."
- Edmund Castro

Please email sustainability@ventura.org to arrange a check out appointment at the Government Center/ Hall of Administration!



COUNTY OF VENTURA ENVIROMENTAL GRANT WINNERS

WITH 43 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, THE WINNERS ARE.....

Environmental Grant Winners

1

California Institute of Environmental Science – Anacapa Island Habitat Restoration: expanding the numbers of volunteers and school groups that go out to Anacapa Island in 2023.

2

Friends of Santa Clara River – renovating and reopening the nursery at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area near Santa Paula.

3

Friends of Campus Park – Wilding Campus Park Project Oxnard: Planting 10+ acres of wildlife-supportive landscaping with plants grown in volunteer nurseries.

4

Santa Clara River Conservancy – Cienega Springs Ecological Reserve Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project in Fillmore. Hosting students for an educational and hands-on restoration experience.



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County Executive Office
Sustainability Division



These organizations will receive funding for their projects in Fillmore, Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Anacapa Island that focus on environmental education and conservation efforts. The Environmental Grant program was created in November 2022 to fund environmental activities or projects in Ventura County. Visit <https://sustain.ventura.org/cov-environmental-grant/> to learn more.



CONSIDERING UPGRADES TO YOUR HOME

Are you working on a home upgrade project like replacing a heater or AC, adding insulation, or getting a new water heater? Between federal tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act to incentives available from 3C-REN contractors and forthcoming state programs, there is currently a lot of funding on the table for energy efficiency improvements on your home. To participate in 3C-REN's program homeowners must work with an enrolled contractor, or encourage their contractor to enroll in the program.

Learn more: www.3c-ren.org/for-residents and www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator. Prefer to speak with an energy consultant? Contact 805.881.3877.



FOR 3C-REN
EVENTS AND TRAININGS,
CLICK [HERE](#)

UPCOMING
EVENTS



HOME ENERGY SAVINGS

Lower your energy bills and make your home healthier and more comfortable



BUILDING PERFORMANCE TRAINING

Develop your skills in building performance



ENERGY CODE CONNECT

Personalized coaching and educational events to simplify the energy code

DRIVE CLEAN



VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

The Sustainability Division has a quarterly newsletter titled Drive Clean. To receive information about active EV incentives and rebates, EV News, and EV events, please sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

meet VICTOR



Q: What do you do in the Sustainability Division?

I work on Climate Action Plan Initiatives and assist with Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance projects. I am currently working on setting up a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Working Group.

Q: What is one thing that surprised you about working at the County?

I was surprised to hear about all the different kinds of benefits available to employees. I personally enjoyed hearing about the health club discounts.

Q: What advise would you give yourself at the age of 16?

I would tell myself to focus less on what others think of me and more on what makes me happy.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to work out. I try to make it to the gym at least 4 times a week. I also really enjoy going to the movies. Movie dates are very common for me and my fiancé.

Q: What superpower would you choose for yourself and why?

I would choose teleportation as my superpower. I am from Northern California and go back and forth a lot, so it would be nice to eliminate the travel time. Plus, Zero-Emissions! ☺



CHECK OUT WHO JUST GOT CERTIFIED!



INTEGRITY WEALTH ADVISORS
205 S SIGNAL STREET
OJAI, CA 93023
(805) 646-3729
IWAPLAN.COM.COM

CERTIFIED





*Stop by VCREA's booth and EV display
at these local Earth Day events*



💰 EV Rebates ⓘ Purchase Guidance 🆓 Giveaways

April

15

9am - 1:30pm

Thousand Oaks Arbor Earth Day

Thousand Oaks Community Center

Thousand Oaks Arbor Earth Day is back! Enjoy an EV display area, educational workshops, a bike safety course, kids activities & bounce house, raffles, live music, and more!

April

20

9am - 1:30pm

Earth Day Farmers Market

Plaza Park, Oxnard

The Downtown Oxnard Farmers' Market is a free community market where guests can shop, relax in the park, eat, and listen to live music by local entertainers. Stop by for earth-themed giveaways.

April

22

10am - 1:00pm

Fillmore Earth Day

Fillmore City Hall

Fillmore's Earth Day promotes eco-friendly habits & supports Earth-conscious organizations & businesses. Attendees will enjoy a day of learning, shopping, chalk art, and local food trucks.

LEARN MORE HERE
[HTTPS://SUSTAIN.VENTURA.ORG/EMPLOYEES/](https://sustain.ventura.org/employees/)

Learn Sustainable Living Practices

Attend a presentation to learn how to:



Reduce your waste
and recycle



Buy an electric
vehicle



Reduce your energy
usage



Make your home
climate resilient

Presentations

Purchasing an EV 101	3/27, 5-7 pm	Saticoy Library
Purchasing an EV 101	3/29, 10-12 pm	Albert H. Soliz
Home Weatherization 101	3/30, 5-7 pm	Albert H. Soliz
Purchasing an EV 101	4/3, 5-7 pm	Piru Library
Home Weatherization 101	4/6, 5-7 pm	Piru Library
Green Business Certified	4/13, 5-7 pm	Albert H. Soliz
Home Weatherization 101	5/4, 5-7 pm	Saticoy Library
Green Business Certified	5/11, 5-7 pm	Piru Library
Green Business Certified	5/17, 5-7 pm	Saticoy Library



family-
friendly
content



toolkits to
rent



Spanish
interpretation

Questions? Email Mireille Vargas at mireille.vargas@ventura.org
OR visit vencolibrary.org/library-events

LEARN MORE HERE

[HTTPS://SUSTAIN.VENTURA.ORG/EMPLOYEES/](https://sustain.ventura.org/employees/)

CycleMAYnia Events

May is Bike Month

Check Out List of Events for May 2023

May
02

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

HSA Welcome Station

HSA Building 4651 Telephone Road,
Ventura

Bike to work and stop at one of our welcome stations on the first three Tuesday mornings of May. You'll get free coffee, snacks, and other freebies!

May
09

6:45 am - 9 am

HCA Welcome Station

Ventura County Medical Center Cafeteria

Bike to work and stop at one of our welcome stations on the first three Tuesday mornings of May. You'll get free coffee, snacks, and other freebies!

May
16

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

HOA Welcome Station

Hall of Administration

Bike to work and stop at one of our welcome stations on the first three Tuesday mornings of May. You'll get free coffee, snacks, and other freebies!

CycleMAYnia Mini-Expo

May
31

10am - 2pm

Hall of Administration, Lot G

Fun for the family! Connect with local cycling clubs and bike vendors. Stick around for Bike Safety and Bike Tune-Up workshops starting at noon.



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LEARN MORE HERE

[HTTPS://SUSTAIN.VENTURA.ORG/EMPLOYEES/](https://sustain.ventura.org/employees/)

Sustainable Conversations

Come learn what County agencies are doing in terms of sustainability and the environment!

Preparing for Extreme Heat

Thursday, June 8th 11 am -12 pm

Ventura County is the fastest warming county in the nation. Come hear what County agencies are doing to keep citizens safe from extreme heat days.

Climate Hazard Preparedness

Thursday, August 10th 11 am- 12 pm

Sea level rise, wildfires, and floodings. Oh my! Come hear how County agencies are responding to these climate hazards and what you can do to be prepared.

The Past, Present, and Future of Land Use

Thursday, October 12th 11 am - 12 pm

Zoning = Environmental Justice? Come hear how zoning practices have historically caused environmental injustices and what work County agencies are doing to avoid that in Ventura's present and future.

Click here to sign up or visit <https://tinyurl.com/mr24ybnn>

Email Mireille Vargas at mireille.vargas@ventura.org with any questions



COUNTY of VENTURA
County Executive Office
Sustainability Division



The County of Ventura's Sustainability Division's mission is to establish Ventura County, its communities, and neighboring regions as leaders in developing and implementing sustainable initiatives that support sensible growth, healthy environment and economy, enhanced quality of life, inclusion and equity, and greater self-reliance for the region.

Sustainability Division Snapshot 2022



COUNTY of VENTURA



**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL
ENERGY NETWORK**

~\$4.1M

Nearly \$4.1 million invested in the tri-county region for delivery of **energy saving programs and industry professional trainings** that reduce energy use, strengthen local job market, and support climate goals.



Over **100 events** held under 3C-REN's three programs: Building Performance Trainings, Home Energy Savings and Energy Code Connect.



3C-REN held **23 events** in Spanish, certified **22 people** via the Passive House Network and enrolled **9 people** in a HERS Rater certification program.



Collaborated with **52 organizations** to deliver 51 workforce development events from instructors to promotional partners.



Delivering statewide technical expertise using tri-county staff from **Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.**



~\$3.9M

Work continued to implement the **Ready, Set, Go Electric Ventura County EV Blueprint** grant to expand electrified transportation in the region. The project includes **\$2.5M** in funding from the CA Energy Commission and **\$1.4M match** from the five grant partners.



Green Business Program was responsible for **73** certifications, **5** recertifications, and **64** more organizations working towards certification.



Reached more than **1,800 community members, students, and teachers** for educational events about electric vehicles.



Partnering with 3C-REN and local libraries to offer **DIY Home Energy Saving Toolkits and Induction Cooktops** that residents can check out at local libraries and use at home.



Working with unincorporated businesses and schools on state and local mandates related to recycling and organic waste recycling.



**SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION**

\$5.25M

\$5.25 million in funding directed to Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation.



42 of **81** CAP-related programs are underway or completed since the County's Climate Action Plan was adopted 2020.

**35 Events
~600
Attendees**

Hosted and promoted **35 events** and reached more than **600** community members, children, nonprofits, and County employees.



Created the **VC Tree Coalition**, a regional network dedicated to preserving and enhancing Ventura County's tree canopy.



The Sustainability Division assigned **2 employees** to support CAP programs.

**CHECK OUT THE
EMPLOYEE WEBPAGE ON
OUR SUSTAINABILITY
WEBSITE**

SUSTAIN.VENTURA.ORG

