

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Quarterly Newsletter



SUSTAINABILITY  
DIVISION



COUNTY of VENTURA

## PLASTIC FREE JULY



### SMALL STEPS BIG DIFFERENCE



Plastic Free July is here, and it's the perfect time to rethink our plastic habits! We all know plastic is a huge problem—it's everywhere, filling our landfills and polluting our oceans.

Think about it: every piece of plastic we avoid using means one less item that might end as waste. So why not start with something simple? Bring your own reusable bag to the store, carry a water bottle instead of buying one, or say no to plastic straws. These small steps can really add up to make a big difference!

Click [here](#) for more information about Plastic Free July

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Join our "Plastic Free Bingo" activity this Plastic Free July and discover quick, easy ways to cut down on single-use plastics while making a big impact!



# BINGO

**REFUSE A PLASTIC  
STRAW AT A  
RESTAURANT**

**BRING A  
REUSABLE  
SHOPPING BAG**

**PACK A LUNCH IN  
A REUSABLE  
CONTAINER**

**REPLACE PLASTIC  
UTENSILS WITH A  
REUSABLE SET**

**PLASTIC  
FREE SPACE**

**USE A STAINLESS  
STEEL OR GLASS  
WATER BOTTLE**

**BRING YOUR OWN  
COFFEE CUP TO A  
CAFÉ**

**BUY PRODUCE  
WITHOUT PLASTIC  
PACKAGING**

**SHARE A PLASTIC-  
FREE TIP WITH A  
FRIEND**

# Take the Challenge!

## Plastic Free July



EVERYDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION



Join the challenge to eliminate or reduce your use of plastics.

How to sign up:

Step 1: Make an account on the [Climate Resilient VC](https://climateresilientvc.org) platform.

Step 2: Navigate to the **Actions** page and select 3 of the 6 plastic eliminating actions under the **Eat Green & Waste Less** category.

Step 3: Email [sustainability@ventura.org](mailto:sustainability@ventura.org) a screenshot of your "in progress" actions to confirm your participation.

Step 4: On August 1st, we will email you to see how things went and hopefully receive confirmation of your 3 completed actions.

The first 5 employees to send us proof of completing their actions on August 1st will receive sustainable swag to aid them on their plastic free journey.



“Don't let it stop in July. Explore [Climate Resilient VC](https://climateresilientvc.org) to learn more on how you can reduce your household emissions and save money in the process!”

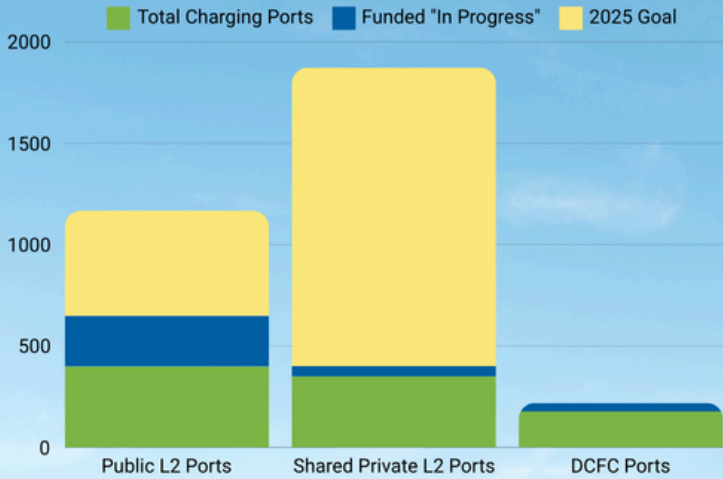


**UPDATE**

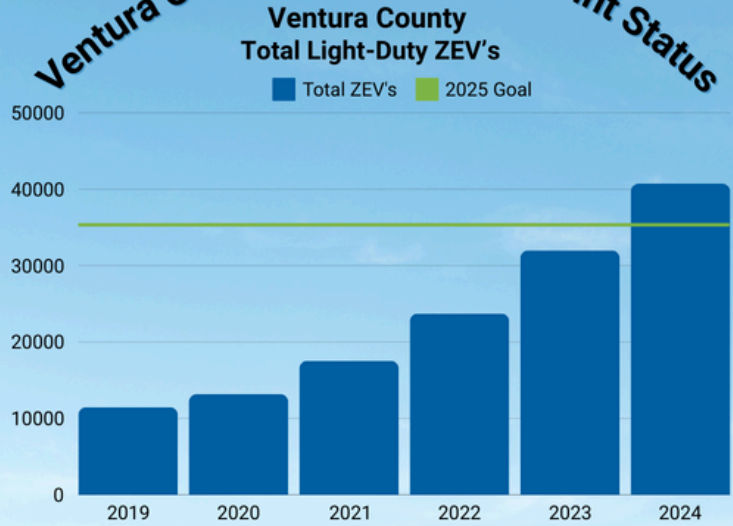
# Ventura County EV's and Infrastructure Goals



**Ventura County Total EV Infrastructure**



**Ventura County EV Ready Blueprint Status**



Ventura County currently has **40,730 registered Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)**, exceeding the projected **2025 goal of 35,307 ZEVs** and we are getting closer to the State of California's goal to deploy 5 million ZEVs by 2030.

VCREA is receiving **~\$16.8M** in state and federal grant funding for EV infrastructure projects. These funds are expected to add **301 Level 2 and 42 DC Fast Charging ports**, bringing us closer to our 2025 EV Infrastructure goals.

## Home EV Charger Discount For Ventura County Employees

ChargePoint is offering Ventura County employees a 10% discount on their ChargePoint Home Flex personal EV charger!

### Step 1

Complete the [contact information form](#), making sure to enter your work email address correctly, and click "Submit".

### Step 2

Within two to three business days, you will receive an email to your work email address from a ChargePoint representative that contains a one-time-use promo code, which you will use to order your ChargePoint Home Flex from ChargePoint's online store.



### Step 3

Visit the [ChargePoint Home Flex online store](#) page and add your desired product to your cart.

### Step 4

On the Shopping Cart page, enter promo code your received via email and click "Apply". The discount will appear as applied to the item in your cart.

### Step 5

Complete the secure checkout process by entering your billing, shipping and payment method information.



## Renters' Guide to Creating an Energy Efficient Home

Are you a renter trying to reduce the energy used in your home? Renters have more control over their energy use than you might think. Join 3C-REN to discuss actions you can take to reduce energy use while saving money and creating a clean and comfortable home!

Attendees will learn about:

- ✓ Renter-friendly actions to reduce home energy use
- ✓ Ways to reduce natural gas in the home
- ✓ Using the DIY Energy Saving Toolkits from 3C-REN
- ✓ Borrowing a portable induction cooktop from your local library
- ✓ More climate-friendly tips from Resilient Central Coast

[Register Here](#)

For 3C-REN events and trainings, click [HERE](#)



### 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

**WANT TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?**



## **Become a Climate Steward and Join the Movement**

The Climate Stewards Certification Program is an eight-week course focused on the work being done in California's Central Coast region to address and alleviate climate impacts. Participants will gain access to climate action resources and opportunities to join the movement – and will graduate with a better understanding of the psychology and science behind climate change, the tools necessary to forge greater community connections, and the knowledge to effectively communicate the climate crisis.

This program is offered by the Community Environmental Council, the first and only nonprofit on the Central Coast to deliver Climate Stewards certification.



**Community  
Environmental  
Council**  
**Bold Climate Action**  
**Acción Climática Audaz**

**Learn more**



[cec.pub/stewardsflier](https://cec.pub/stewardsflier)

**Next Cohort Starts Soon. Don't Miss Out!**

# DISCOVERY ACTION STEWARDSHIP

## YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE AWAITS!

University of California Climate  
Stewards prepares future climate  
change communication leaders to  
protect what we love

### Earn a Climate Stewards Certificate

- 40-hr virtual program with in-person field experiences
- Join nearly 8,000 certified stewards across the state
- Learn the most current and undeniable climate science
- Develop communicating skills and inspire others to act
- Earn UC credits
- You can even choose to become a certified **Instructor**

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (UC ANR) and the UC Cooperative Extension sponsor the Climate Stewards and California Naturalist courses at the bioregional level. We build the capacity of local partners who help build networks of diverse, engaged stewards ready to champion climate action in their neighborhoods, businesses, and homes.



## NEW SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION EMPLOYEES

### Meet Talia

Talia's role in the Sustainability Division is to support program operations and integration of processes and initiatives that further assist in the growth and expansion of the department.



### Q&A

**1 Why were you interested in working in sustainability?**

**T:** I recognize the importance of raising awareness about eco-friendly practices and wanted to join a team that encourages environmental responsibility.

**M:** Growing up in Ventura County, I wanted to join programs and initiatives to ensure the sustainability of my community.

**2 What are some of your hobbies?**

**T:** During my free time, I enjoy gardening!

**M:** I enjoy camping, hiking, traveling, and participating in Spartan races.



### Meet Maricela

Maricela is a Program Administrator with the Sustainability Division. She manages data analysis and reporting for the 3C-REN program and develops quality control policies to ensure data is accurate, clean, and up to date.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

# 20 | Earth and Arbor 24 | Day Events



**In April, Sustainability Division staff joined various City and nonprofit events to celebrate Earth and Arbor Day.**

County of Ventura Sustainability Division, VCREA, and 3C-REN staff attended Earth Day events across Ventura County, including Plaza Park in Ventura, Thousand Oaks Arbor Earth Day, and Fillmore's City Hall.



Sustainability Division staff participating in the Ventura Tree Alliance's Arbor Earth Day event at Montalvo Park



3C-REN held a raffle for an induction cooktop to promote home electrification under the Climate Resilient VC campaign.



VCREA provided information on electric vehicle rebates and incentives along with engaging giveaways.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



# Sustainability Division Participates in Public Works Day

MAY IS: NATIONAL BIKE MONTH AND PUBLIC WORKS WEEK.

Sustainability Division staff participated in the County of Ventura Public Works Day on May 21st. At their booth, they engaged with over 1800 students, showcasing an e-bike and an electric vehicle.

