



Click [here](#) to read this newsletter in Spanish, Chinese, or Russian.

[Mountain View Sustainability has a new home on Facebook!](#) "Like" our page for the most up-to-date events, stories of your neighbors living sustainably and more!

The Sustainability Division looks forward to participating in neighborhood ice cream socials and other events this summer. Come say "Hi" when you see us!

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Electrify Your Life



Next Tuesday! "Benefits of Switching to Electric at Home: Comfortable, efficient and more!"

Reminder! [Register here](#) for our webinar next Tuesday, July 25 at 5:30 p.m.

This session is for people new to electrification, and will discuss; what electrification is, how you can take action, the incentives and savings that are available, and how easy it is for you to start saving money! There will also be time for questions and answers. Sign up at [Electrify Mountain View](#) to start learning today and get a head start.

Knock Knock

City of Mountain View Sustainability Community



Volunteers will be walking door-t- door this summer to promote the City's programs and home electrification, specifically. Volunteers will not ask for any private information or payment. If you would like to volunteer to join us, [sign up for our Sustainability Community Volunteer Group here](#).



New Resources:

- Two-page PDF for your home: "[Quick Start: Home Electrification Rebates and More Rebates and Resources](#)" on the [Mountain View Sustainability website](#).
- **\$50 off electric appliances** such as portable power stations, smart thermostats, evaporative coolers, and air purifiers on the SVCE [Appliances Assistant](#).
- ***Stackable* Increased Low Income** resources from SVCE FutureFit Homes: Up to \$13,000 total available per household! [Learn more here](#).
- [New resources section](#): Residential resources for residents who speak Spanish now can be found in one place on the Sustainability website.
- **Save money every day** by switching to the **E-ELEC** rate if you own a heat pump, heat pump water heater, or an EV. An average SVCE user will save 10% without changing behavior and even more by shifting to off-peak (12a.m.-3p.m.)
- **EV owners**: \$250 off eligible EV chargers with [GridShift: EV Smart Charging program](#)

Ongoing Resources and Rebates

- ***Stackable* [SVCE FutureFit Homes](#)**: Up to \$8000 in rebates to residential customers electrifying their homes, including heat pump installations, rewiring, and panel upgrades. FutureFit Homes rebates are stackable with BayREN and federal government incentives!
- [BAYRen Home Rebates Program](#): Additional rebates may be available.

Plant-Based Eating

Our plant-based eating program focuses on promoting healthy and sustainable food choices, supporting equitable access to healthy food, and spreading awareness about the positive health and environmental impacts of a plant-based diet.

Recipe! Summer Cabbage Salad



A big thank you to Hemali M. for sending in her delicious Summer Cabbage Salad recipe! Hemali has been vegetarian for many years and enjoys a variety of seasonable plant-based foods as part how she and her family eat. Tag us [@mvsustainability](#) on social media when you make it!



Ingredients

- 1/2 of a large green cabbage (shredded)
- 1 cup – thinly sliced cucumber
- 1 cup shredded or thinly sliced carrots
- 1 cup – thinly sliced colored bell peppers
- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
- 2-3 chopped scallions
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup chopped dill
- 1/4 cup chopped mint
- 2 garlic cloves – finely minced
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon Sumac (Mediterranean Spice)
- 1/4 teaspoon Zaatar (Mediterranean Spice)
- Salt to taste
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 to 2 teaspoons of apple cider vinegar



Method

1. In a large mixing bowl, add the shredded green cabbage, cucumber, carrots, bell peppers, pomegranate seeds, scallions, parsley, dill, mint, minced garlic, sugar, sumac, zaatar, and salt. Toss everything.
2. Pour in extra virgin olive oil, lemon juice, and apple cider vinegar - toss to combine. Taste and adjust lemon/salt to your liking.
3. Cover and refrigerate for an hour before serving.



Strawberry Coconut Sorbet

For a refreshing summer dessert, care of the Beaming Baker, try a 3-ingredient, 3-step recipe for [strawberry nondairy coconut sorbet](#) that anyone can make (it's blended and frozen- no ice cream machine needed).

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Tips for Household Hazardous Waste Home this Summer!

Hazardous wastes are unwanted household products labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. These products require proper use and disposal to prevent harm to humans and the environment. Check out tips below for handling propane cylinders, paint, and pesticides.

Gas Cylinders: Going camping or tailgating? Single-use gas cylinders can cause explosions and fires in the trash. Go to RefuelYourFun.org to purchase a refillable tank and extend your fun all summer long. Refillable tanks reduce impact on landfills and the environment while helping you save time and money.



Paint: Did you know, paints are one of the leading toxic materials in landfills? If you're gearing up for a paint project this season, plan ahead to buy just the right amount with [this handy paint calculator](#). If you do end up with unwanted paint, find creative ways to use it - start a new project, breathe life into old furniture or share leftovers with friends. Paint Care also makes it easy to drop off leftover paint at one of their partner locations. Visit PaintCare.org to find a location near you.

Pesticides: Getting your garden ready this summer? If you're trying to keep pests out of your garden and have a safe place for your family and pets to play, here's a less toxic option. Create your own effective [pest deterrent spray](#). If you have unused pesticides, don't pour them down the drain, take to the household hazardous waste facility!



If you need to dispose of single use gas cylinders or get rid of traditional household cleaning products or leftover paint, please make a free drop off appointment at HHW.org or call 408-299-7300. For Mountain View residents, free collection event will be on August 26. Exact location in Mountain View will be provided once appointment is made.



[New Green Compost Cart Citywide Exchange](#)

Coming Soon! In August or September, you will receive a new green compost cart. Recology will deliver the new cart first. On the next regular service day following delivery of your new cart, set-out your old brown yard trimmings cart (full or empty) and leave out for removal. The old carts will be recycled. Visit MountainView.gov/Carts to find out why

this citywide cart exchange is occurring.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event

This FREE collection event will be back in Mountain View on August 26! Properly dispose of paint, electronic waste, pesticides, cleaning and pool chemicals, batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent lights, and more. Appointments are required and will be available starting July 15 by calling 408-299-7300 or online at HHW.org. Exact location in Mountain View will be provided once appointment is made.



If you can't make it to the drop-off event in Mountain View, household hazardous waste can be safely disposed of year-round at the County's permanent facilities with an appointment using the same contact information provided above.



Compost Basics Workshop

Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Community Center, 201 S Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Discover backyard composting basics and how compost provides nutrients for your plants at this FREE event for Santa Clara County

residents. Learn more at MountainView.gov/ZeroWasteEvents.

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Water Resources

Irrigation Audit by the Parks Department

Community Services Department conducted a parks irrigation audit at 29 sites as part of the **Sustainability Action Plan**.

The purpose of the audit was to identify any sprinkler heads that are wasting water or in need of replacement as a result of deficiencies including clogged nozzle, sunken head, wrong nozzle, leaking, or poor performance. Approximately 3,000 individual heads were analyzed with results showing 59% of the heads were in good working condition, 39% needed renovation, and 2% required replacement. The audit results were presented to staff last fall, and repairs and adjustments will continue throughout the summer. During the adjustments, sprinklers on grass areas may be activated during the day to perform 1-2 complete rotations to ensure proper adjustments have been made. As the Biodiversity

Strategy is developed and implemented, efforts will be made to update landscaped areas with drought-tolerant plants and more efficient drip-irrigation systems to support Strategy goals and long-term sustainability.



Drought Update

Drought restrictions have been lifted. Thank you for saving water!

Water supply conditions have improved significantly this winter. The statewide snowpack exceeded 250% and many reservoirs have reached historic high levels. The Governor and the City's regional partners, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Valley Water, updated their drought response actions. In response to the Governor's actions and current water supply conditions, Mountain View City Council lifted the Stage 2 Water Shortage Emergency Condition on May 23rd. For more information, visit MountainView.gov/Drought.

Rebates and Programs

Valley Water provides many landscape efficiency rebates for your home. Receive a rebate for replacing grass with water-wise landscaping, upgrading to efficient irrigation components, installing a rain barrel for supplemental watering, and more. View available rebates at WaterSavings.org.

Order free water-wise gear and informational guides from Valley Water's [Online Shopping Cart](https://OnlineShoppingCart). Select gear includes spray nozzles for your outdoor hose, replaceable toilet flappers, faucet aerators and more. Order a copy of



Gardening for Wildlife with Native Plants and explore how to promote wildlife habitat in your landscape, or check out the *Practical Plumbing Handbook* for details on how to fix common household leaks.

View your water use history, sign up for leak alerts and track your water usage at WaterInsight.MountainView.gov.

Transportation

Bike to Wherever in 2023

May is Bike Month every year! Good weather is the ideal time to pump up your bike tires or get your bike tuned so you can get out and enjoy some fun, healthy, sustainable transportation.

From Thursday May 18, 2023 through Saturday May 20, 2023, the City participated in the Bike To Wherever Days events held in conjunction with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). We had a total of six Energizer Stations across the City with many wonderful volunteers handing out bags, providing snacks, and encouraging people to ride. City staff served at the Energizer Stations, where they met people, provided information, and obtained input on current City transportation initiatives.

Several schools also participated in Bike Month activities with parent-led events that included a Walk and Roll event at Landels Elementary and an Anything But a Car (ABC) day at Graham Middle School. Thank you to everyone for doing your part to reduce transportation emissions and improve livability by walking and biking whenever you can!



Biodiversity and Trees

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & URBAN FOREST PLAN

The City of Mountain View continues progress with the development of a Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Plan. The strategy will help enhance, support and safeguard our local wildlife, habitats and trees from changing climates and environments. The strategy will include an Urban Forest Plan that will re-envision the existing Community Tree Master Plan to increase tree canopy and restore and protect the city's urban forest. The strategy will inform and influence City plans, policies, ordinances, and requirements related to development, landscaping/trees, transportation, and parks. It will also serve as a blueprint to help ensure the long-term sustainability of Mountain View's natural environment.

The City is working with two consultants on this project: San Francisco Estuary Institute (known as SFEI) is administering the research and scientific elements, and Dudek is facilitating the community outreach and engagement process. SFEI has reviewed existing city plans, studies, and reports, and is currently analyzing land cover and vegetation types, locating existing habitat patches and wildlife corridors, and identifying focal species and their known habitat requirements to help identify potential opportunities and constraints. SFEI has also started working with Davey Resource Group who was the consultant for the Community Tree Master Plan.

Dudek kicked-off the community outreach and engagement process on Saturday, April 22 at the Earth Day event by hosting an interactive booth to introduce the project and receive feedback from the public. There will many more opportunities for public input and involvement.

For more information and opportunities to get involved with the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Plan, please visit mountainview.gov/biodiversity

TREES

The Community Services Department is exploring creative ways to repurpose fallen or removed trees. Staff recently recycled collapsed storm trees into tree stumps to be used as seating for the Cuesta Park Volunteer Pollinator Habitat.

220 trees were delivered to residents as part of the 2023 Arbor Day Free Tree Giveaway program!

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