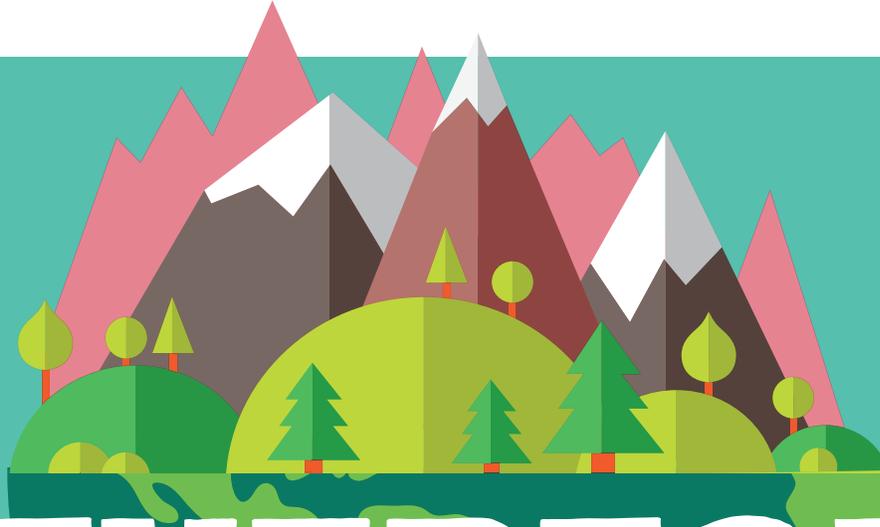




The Athertonian

SPECIAL EARTH DAY EDITION



ATHERTON EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 23 | 11am - 3pm
Holbrook-Palmer Park

- * SPEAKERS * GREEN VENDOR FAIR *
- * ART EXHIBIT * KID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES *
- * ELECTRIC VEHICLES * E-BIKES *
- * FOOD & MUSIC *

www.ci.atherton.ca.us/625/Earth-Day

The Environmental Programs Committee has curated a lineup of speakers, activities and green vendors to celebrate Earth Day. The event will highlight local and national action on climate change, sustainable sourcing, the shift to electrification (both for the home and transportation), reducing water consumption, sustainable travel, waste reduction and more.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Schedule subject to change, check the website for latest info & locations

- 11:00 AM Guided Tree Walk
- 11:30 AM Story Time by the Atherton Library
Botanical Art Demonstration
- 12:00 PM Electric Leaf Blower Bowling Battle
- 12:30 PM Bug Time by The Beetlelady
- 1:00 PM Speaker Series (until 2:30pm)
- 2:00 PM Story Time by the Atherton Library
- 2:30 PM Climate Art Talk by Sukey Bryan

SPEAKERS

*** CONGRESSWOMAN ANNA ESHOO ***
An Earth Day update from our representative in DC!

*** ROB JACKSON, PHD, STANFORD WOODS INSTITUTE ***
Jackson recently made national headlines from his study about the impact of gas stoves on indoor air quality and climate-warming emissions.

*** ERIN COOKE, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR AT SFO ***
Cooke is leading the charge for SFO's carbon neutral and zero waste ambitions, most notably piloting SFO's sustainable air fuel program to reduce the carbon impact of air travel. SFO is leading the aviation industry's fight to reduce emissions - come learn how!

*** ERIC SCHULZE, PHD, FOOD SCIENTIST & HOST, "ASK SMITHSONIAN" ***
Schulze holds a doctorate in genetic, cellular, and molecular biology with a specialty in stem cell engineering. He will speak about the future of food and his work at the startup Upside Foods.



Saturday, April 23 | 11am - 3pm
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GREEN VENDOR FAIR

- * ADAPT * American Wild Horse Campaign * Atherton Arts Foundation *
- * Atherton Library * Atherton Police Department * Cal Water * Eclipse Foods *
- * GreenWaste Recovery * Harvest Thermal * Humane Society * Impossible Foods *
- * Irrigreen * Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District * Menlo Park Fire *
- * OliveSeed * OneShoreline * Peninsula Clean Energy * Peninsula Feed Store *
- * San Mateo County Bee Guild * San Mateo County Office of Sustainability *
- * San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control * UC Master Gardeners *

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOWCASE

- * Audi * BMW * Ford * LUCID * Mercedes * Polestar * Rivian * Tesla *

KID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

- * Pop Up Bug Museum by The Beetlelady * Story Time *
- * Crafts * Games * Butterfly Garden Potting Station *
- * Face Painting * Virtual Reality * 3D Printers * Animals *

E-BIKE TRIALS

Test drive the latest e-bikes from Pedego Menlo Park and Woodside Bike Shop

ART EXHIBIT

- * Outdoor installations from climate artist, Sukey Bryan *
- * Large Bonzai Tree Exhibit * Live Botanical Art Demo *
- * Student Art from Sacred Hearts School *
- * Environmental Art from Atherton Arts Foundation *

FOOD & MUSIC

- * Induction Cooking Demos * Sustainable Food Samples * Food Trucks * DJ *

** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED **

Will sign for service hours, and provide free lunch & hat!

volunteer@ci.atherton.ca.us

Hi from Atherton's Environmental Programs Committee!

Hi Neighbors,

Thank you for reading the special Earth Day issue of The Athertonian! Inside this issue you'll find hyper-local information about our environment, brought to you by the Atherton Environmental Programs Committee, the City Council, and the Town's partner organizations. If you have ever wondered: what is Atherton doing to address climate change? How does our town measure its reduction in greenhouse gas emissions? What can YOU do to protect the planet and improve our quality of life locally? Then keep reading!

There is a lot of great progress being made in Atherton, and as a community, we should be proud! Come celebrate Earth Day *IN PERSON* at our Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 23rd from 11am to 3pm at Holbrook-Palmer Park. We will have fun and educational activities for people of all ages! More details are on [pages 1-2](#), but highlights include 30+ exhibitors at our Green Vendor Fair, tons of kid-friendly activities, electric vehicle and e-bike showcases, an art exhibit, exciting speakers, food and music.

And, if you're interested in getting more involved, please consider joining the Environmental Programs Committee and/or volunteering at Earth Day. We have openings on the Committee and would welcome you on board!

Cheers,

Emily Conn, Gregory Leow & Stacy Miles Holland
Environmental Programs Committee



We have several open positions on the Town of Atherton's Environmental Programs Committee (EPC). Super volunteer and EPC member Stacy Miles Holland answers a few questions about her work making our town more sustainable.

Stacy, what drew you to volunteer for the EPC?

My son was born in September of 2020 while ash rained from the sky like snow, and I knew it was time to get off the sidelines in the fight to save the planet. Joining the EPC felt like a great way to make a difference. If nothing else, the pandemic has shown how influential local governments can be for protecting our quality of life.

Plus, I like helping people, and I was looking to connect more with the Atherton community.

What does the EPC do?

The EPC is full of enthusiastic people hoping to make a difference. We make recommendations to the City Council on all matters related to the Town's natural and built environment, so our interests are broad. We get to work directly with our key partners to learn about programs available to Atherton and issues impacting the Town. And, we get to organize events like Earth Day to share that knowledge with our neighbors. It's fun!

Do you care about climate change? Saving water? Recycling? Gardening? The issues facing our planet can seem daunting; joining the EPC can put you in direct contact with experts and help you find ways to make a difference.

What kind of impact do you hope to make as part of the EPC?

As a new mom raising her son in Atherton, I'm ready to do everything I can to make this town and the planet better!

What work have you found to be the most interesting and rewarding?

Organizing Earth Day has been a ton of fun! There are so many incredible groups coming, spanning a variety of environmental topics; it's been exciting to learn about sustainable gardening, raising bees or chickens, recycling, energy conservation, protecting our public spaces and more. The art exhibit is going to be fantastic.

The hardest part has been narrowing things down: we had so many great ideas for our speaker program and it was a challenge to curate our list. Personally, I can't wait to hear Erin Cooke speak about the industry-leading work SFO is doing to reduce the carbon footprint of air travel.

It has been inspiring to learn about the many local organizations doing the hard work to save our planet. Connecting our neighbors to these organizations and their free resources through this special issue and our Earth Day Festival has been rewarding.

Why do you think fellow residents should join the EPC?

The spectrum of issues we look into is broad, so there are a lot of chances to make a difference! The EPC is a great mix of opportunities for individual action, community education and making recommendations to the City Council to drive larger change.

How Will Climate Change Impact Atherton?

Global scientists agree: the window is rapidly closing to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change. We have just seven years (until 2030) to cut global warming pollution in half in order to be on the pathway to avoiding climate disaster. Atherton is already feeling the effects of climate change: wildfires, record heat waves, droughts, and flood-inducing storms are directly caused by global warming. But what will sea level rise do to our town?

San Mateo County has been declared the California county most at risk from sea level rise. Atherton will be spared the impact of direct flooding; however, critical San Mateo County infrastructure is at risk, including our wastewater treatment facilities, all three airports (including SFO), Highway 101, several hospitals, BART, Caltrain and electrical distribution facilities. Unfortunately, many lower-cost housing areas (such as Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, Redwood City, and Pacifica) are most at risk from sea level rise, which will further increase inequities in the Bay Area. OneShoreline, the countywide agency tasked with addressing level rise mitigation, will be at Atherton's Earth Day Festival on April 23rd.

Addressing climate change to prevent catastrophic sea level rise is essential. What can YOU do to help protect our planet?

ELECTRIFY YOUR HOME

Eliminating gas from your home will improve your indoor air quality, reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and save money. [Page 7](#)

SWITCH TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

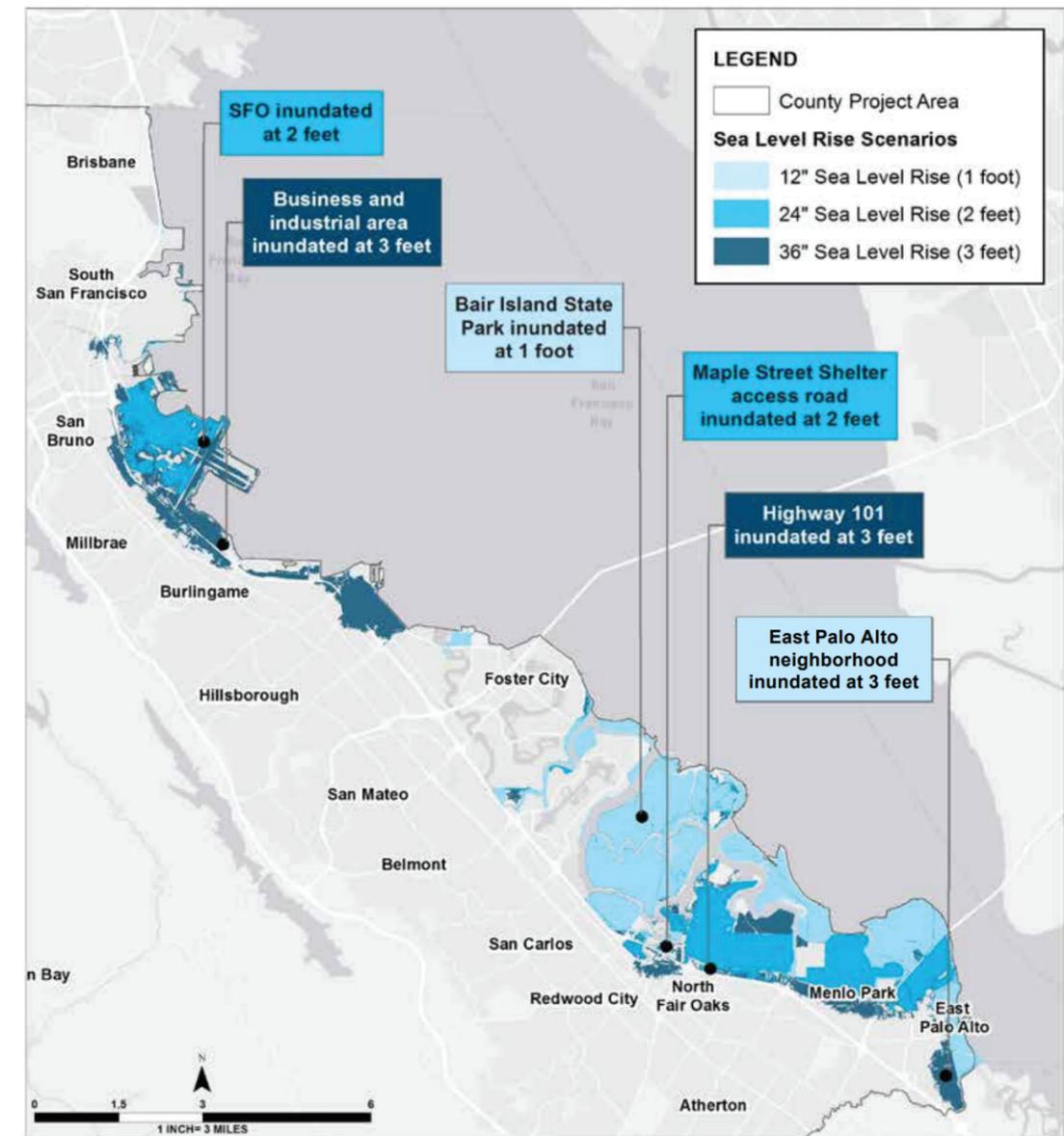
Save money and the planet by switching to electric vehicles. Come check out the latest EVs at our Earth Day Festival on April 23rd! [Page 2](#)

REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE

Wasted food accounts for eight percent of greenhouse gas emissions globally. Locally sourced food will last longer. [Page 16](#)

REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

Climate change makes droughts more common, and our water supply is critically low. [Page 13](#)



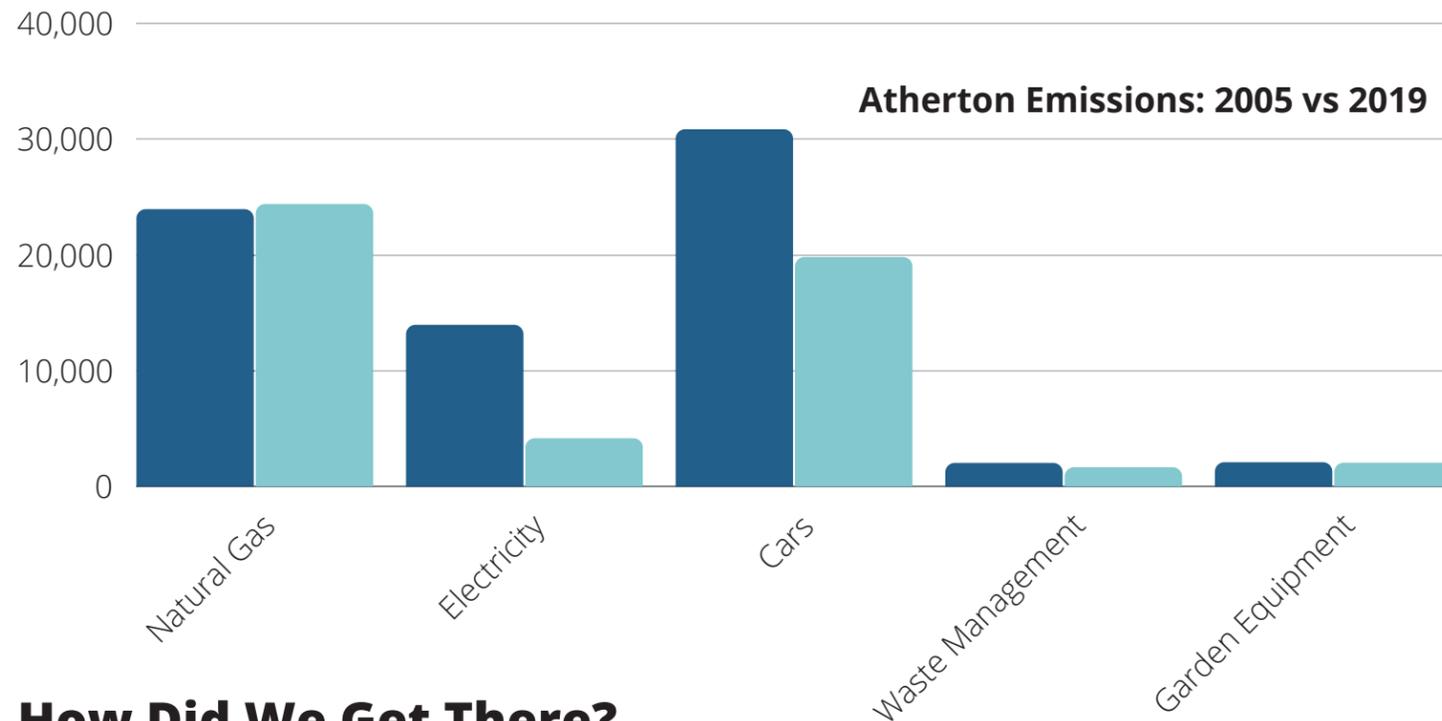
Five Years of Progress

In 2016, Atherton adopted its first ever Climate Action Plan (CAP), a blueprint for how we could act locally on climate change. While many emissions are generated by sources governed by the State, the CAP's measures focused on voluntary and mandatory activities designed to reduce carbon emissions. Mirroring state law (AB 32), the CAP established two goals:

- 1 Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 15% below 2005 levels by 2020, which is roughly the equivalent of 1990 levels.
- 2 Reduce GHG emissions to 49% below 2005 levels by 2030 (roughly the equivalent of 40% below 1990 levels).

GOOD NEWS: ATHERTON EXCEEDED ITS 2020 GOAL

Atherton reduced its GHG emissions by 27% below 2005 levels by 2019!



How Did We Get There?

WE SWITCHED TO GREENER POWER

98% of Atherton households are customers of Peninsula Clean Energy, which provides electricity from renewable and carbon-free sources at a lower rate than PG&E. Electricity production accounted for 19% of Atherton's emissions in 2005 (13,930 metric tons of GHGs); this partnership decreased those emissions by 70% (4,159 metric tons in 2019). Learn more about Peninsula Clean Energy on [page 9](#).

WE ARE SWITCHING TO ZERO EMISSION ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Atherton residents love their Electric Vehicles (EVs)! 13% of Atherton vehicles are electric or hybrid-electric. This is an important start to reducing GHG from our transportation system, but Atherton's cars still emitted 19,801 metric tons of GHGs in 2019, accounting for 37% of our emissions.

WE ARE DIVERTING MORE WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

Organic waste makes up half of California's landfills, where it often can't break down due to a lack of oxygen, producing GHGs in the process. Waste processing accounted for 3% of Atherton's emissions in 2017. The Town's new waste hauler, GreenWaste Recovery, uses cutting-edge technology to process and sort all waste to maximize diversion from landfills. This partnership will decrease Atherton's greenhouse gas emissions by 26%. Learn more about GWR on [page 11](#).

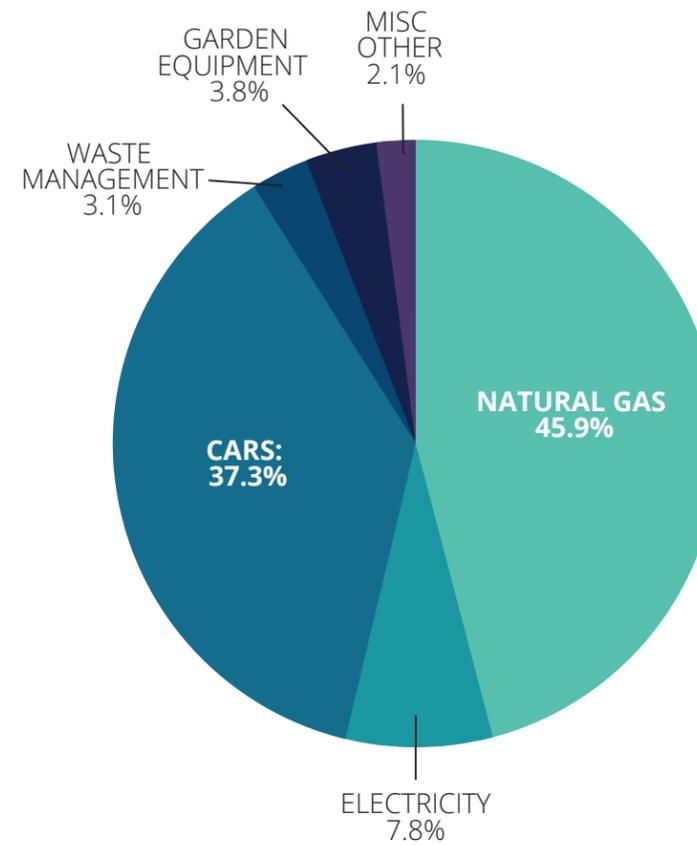
WE ARE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Atherton's new Town Center and Library are fully-electric buildings with a number of green features. The City Council approved a partnership with Peninsula Clean Energy to add solar panels that will provide much of the power needed to cover the Town's operations. This will virtually eliminate Town Center energy GHG emissions, putting the Town Center in line to be one of the first net zero municipal buildings in the state. Adding solar will also save the Town an estimated \$800,000 over twenty years.

Challenges Lie Ahead: Eyes on 49% Reduction by 2030

Continued progress on clean air vehicles, low-carbon fuels, and cleaner energy sources can get us close to our target; however, the Town will need to take additional action to meet our goals. The City Council is considering a number of measures, including:

2019 Atherton Emissions



REQUIRING GREENER BUILDINGS THROUGH REACH CODES

Natural gas appliances in our buildings produce 45.9% of Atherton's emissions. There is no path to hitting our climate goal without reducing the amount of gas infrastructure being added to the Town. Reach Codes are local building energy codes that "reach" beyond the state minimum requirements for new construction, rebuilds and remodels. The City Council has directed staff to prepare an All-Electric Reach Code, with exceptions, for consideration in the Fall 2022. Learn more about zero emission buildings and reach codes on [page 8](#).

DECARBONIZING OUR TRANSPORTATION

The Town Center, Library and Holbrook-Palmer Park will include Level 2 EV chargers in 2022. Atherton PD is investing in hybrid-electric vehicles and will consider electric patrol cars once they are pursuit-rated (e.g., stronger brakes, electrical systems that support lights, radios, computers). Reach Codes could increase the amount of EV charging capacity for new construction. And, the Town continues to pursue funding for bike/pedestrian lanes on El Camino Real, Selby Lane, and Atherton Ave.

LIMITING GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Beyond the noise pollution (which is significant), gas powered garden equipment has a bigger impact on the climate than you'd expect. The number of air pollutants emitted by gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers exceed pollutant emissions of large automobiles, whose emissions are regulated. Most consumer-grade blowers use a two-stroke engine, which lacks an independent lubrication system, so fuel has to be mixed with oil. Burning oil and fuel emits a number of harmful toxic pollutants into the air, including carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides (which cause smog formation and acid rain), and hydrocarbons (a carcinogenic gas that also causes smog). Gas-powered garden equipment usage generates 3.8% of the Town's emissions, more than processing all of our wastewater and solid waste combined!

Last year, the State banned the sale of gas-powered tools starting in 2024 and provided funds to California's Air Resources Board to create an incentive program to help offset the cost of replacing commercial-grade zero emission machines. The City Council has directed that staff return an ordinance for consideration in early 2023 once those programs are finalized.

Net Zero 2045?

The State is considering setting a net zero emissions goal for California by 2045, or reducing emissions to 90% below 1990 levels. A recent study by the California Air Resources Board has shown that it is possible, and many jurisdictions and legislators are now looking to raise the bar. This would require significant changes by Atherton, and the Town is keeping an eye on legislation.



Source: Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Zero Emission Homes

45.9% of Atherton's emissions come from gas appliances in buildings, making it our largest emission category. Methane, the key component of natural gas, delivers 80x more climate-warming impact than carbon dioxide.

Here's the good news: you can replace all your fossil fuel burning appliances with high performance electric alternatives, and you will save money and improve indoor air quality in the process. And, because Atherton sources its power through Peninsula Clean Energy, these devices will operate emissions-free. Learn more on [page 9](#).

REPLACE YOUR GAS RANGE WITH INDUCTION STOVES

Gas stoves are a large source of emissions: a recent Stanford study revealed that more than three quarters of the methane released from stoves is emitted while they're off, regardless of the age or manufacturer. The author of that study, Rob Jackson, will be speaking at our Earth Day Festival.

Gas also generates unsafe levels of indoor air pollution: burning gas emits pollutants that can cause or worsen respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular disease. Children living in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to suffer asthma.

What's the alternative? Induction cooking! Induction uses electromagnetic waves to heat cookware, turning your pots and pans into their own heat source. Induction ranges heat faster than gas, have more precise temperature control and are much easier to clean. Induction cooking is more efficient than alternative cooking methods because very little heat energy is lost during the process. In side by side comparisons, induction appliances outperform gas by all metrics. Professional chefs, like Alice Waters (Chez Panisse) and Thomas Keller (French Laundry) use induction stoves in their kitchens.

HEAT YOUR HOMES & WATER WITH HEAT PUMPS

Gas furnaces and water heaters are by far the largest carbon emitters in most homes: they consume more than 60% of our home energy. The solution: heat pumps.

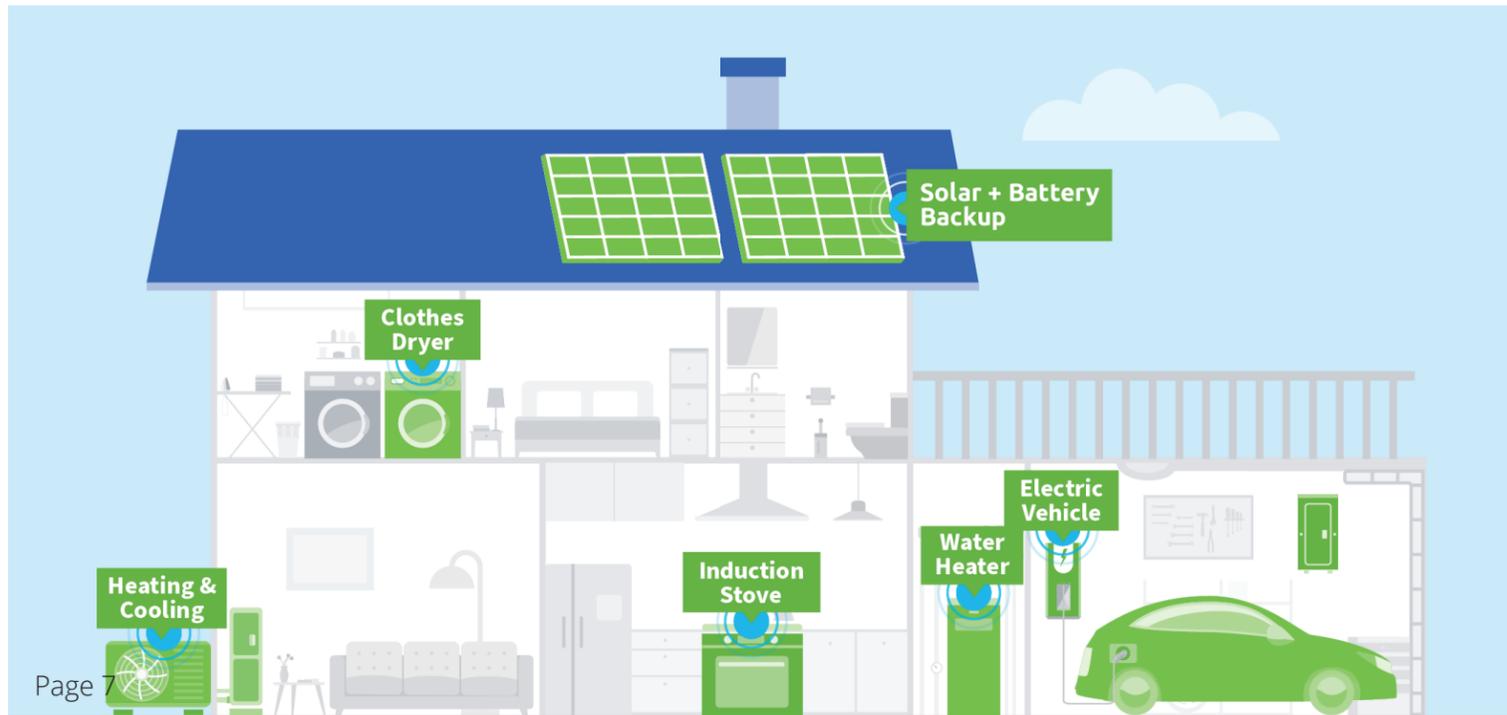
Electric heat pumps use very little energy because they do not create heat, they redistribute it. In cooler months, a heat pump pulls heat from the cold outdoor air and transfers it indoors, and in warmer months, it pulls heat out of indoor air to cool your home. For decades, refrigerators and AC systems have used heat pump technology, and now that same tech is used to heat and cool your house or water.

Bonus benefit of heat pump HVAC systems: they circulate more air than gas furnaces, which means they filter the air more effectively - a plus for wildfire season.

High-efficiency heat pumps are the default technology all over the world (including in countries with much colder winters, like Norway and Sweden), and all major US appliance manufacturers offer dependable, high performance electric heat pumps.

QUALITY ELECTRIC ALTERNATIVES EXIST FOR ALL FOSSIL FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES

Water vapor fireplaces create extremely realistic mist "flames" and provide plenty of heat. Heat pump technology is also available for laundry and pool equipment. Electric BBQ grills heat faster and release no fumes. Electric landscaping equipment uses lightweight batteries and efficient motors that are half as loud as gas equivalents. For every case, there is no need to compromise on performance.



HomeIntel is a FREE home energy savings and electrification program offered by Home Energy Analytics (HEA) for PG&E and Peninsula Clean Energy customers that has saved Atherton clients \$2,000/year on average. HEA is paid by PG&E based on how much energy is saved by its customers, so they are motivated to help you identify high impact savings opportunities. HomeIntel also has analyses and expertise to help you plan to electrify your home. Learn more and sign up at Atherton.HEA.com. HomeIntel can help you with some simple ways to save, like these:

1

Stop overheating your hot water. Heating water to the point where you need to add cold water to it is inefficient! Set your water heater temp to the lowest setting that still satisfies your hottest water needs. Start by turning your water heater all the way down, then see how the person who likes the hottest shower feels. Gradually turn the water heater up from there!

2

Put your hot water recirculation pump on a timer to maximize value & cut wasted re-heating of water. Do you need immediate hot water at 2am? If not, don't waste energy to circulate (and reheat) your water. Smart plugs or timers can be programmed to match your lifestyle.

3

Replace old pool pumps! Efficiency has improved dramatically. Their usage should change with the seasons: run pool pumps for 1-2 hrs in the cooler seasons then increase it to 3-5 hours in the summer. If your in-home heater is running, it's likely too cold for algae to grow in your pool.

4

Upgrade a fridge or freezer more than 15 years old; Peninsula Clean Energy has a pickup and recycling rebate.

5

Reset or replace controls to make sure electric radiant floors are only running when you need them.



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities

Another free program for Bay Area residents: the BayREN Home + Program, where a Home Energy Advisor can analyze the home then provide recommendations (including information about cash rebates) for installing energy efficient measures, including adding insulation, fixing air or duct leaks, updating appliances and more. www.bayren.org

Reach Codes

For Atherton to achieve its goal of reducing emissions to 49% below 2005 levels by 2030, we need to reduce the number of gas appliances in Town. The easiest first step: avoid adding new gas infrastructure through Reach Codes.

Reach Codes are local building energy codes that "reach" beyond the state minimum requirements to achieve climate goals. Reach Codes apply to new construction, new Accessory Dwelling Units, remodels and rebuilds, so residents already undergoing construction and buying new appliances would be required to decarbonize their buildings through home electrification.

Reach Codes supplement the State's CALGreen Building Standards Code, which will be updated this year and take effect January 1, 2023. Once the CalGreen Code has been finalized, the City Council will concurrently adopt the Town's supplemental Reach Code, with the goal of it also taking effect January 1.

The City Council has directed staff to prepare an All-Electric Reach Code, with exceptions, for consideration in the Fall 2022.



New Atherton Sustainability Website

Thinking about getting an EV? Electrifying your home? Re-landscaping? Curious about zero waste?

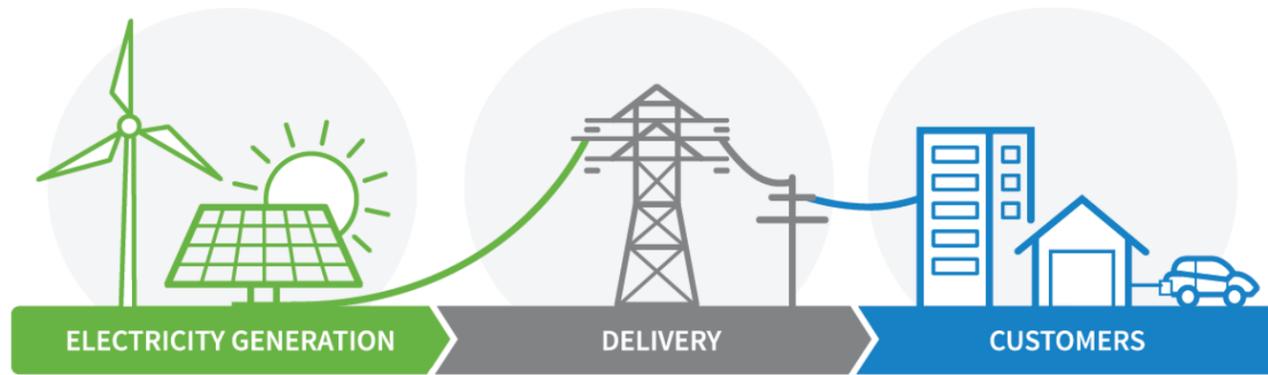
There are a number of free programs and rebates available to Atherton residents, and they all can be found on the Town's new sustainability website:

www.ci.atherton.ca.us/438/Sustainability-Homepage

Peninsula Clean Energy Powers Atherton

Peninsula Clean Energy is the public agency that provides clean electricity to PG&E for San Mateo County. In 2016, Atherton joined the rest of the county to form Peninsula Clean Energy, choosing to have all Atherton residents automatically enroll in its program with the ability to opt out. 98% of Atherton residents are Peninsula Clean Energy customers. A member of the Atherton City Council is designated to sit on the Board of Directors.

Atherton residents receive our utility bills from PG&E because PG&E owns the transmission lines. Peninsula Clean Energy sources our power from clean electricity at a 5% discount compared to PG&E. Cheaper, cleaner power!



Peninsula Clean Energy provides electricity from clean energy sources at lower rates than PG&E.

PG&E owns the power lines and delivers the power we generate. They send a consolidated bill.

As a **customer** of Peninsula Clean Energy, you are helping the environment and saving money.

Fast facts about Peninsula Clean Energy in Atherton

Peninsula Clean Energy supplies electricity principally from wind, solar and hydro resources.	Peninsula Clean Energy has deployed 330 megawatts of new renewable energy projects since 2016.	Atherton reduced its GHG emissions from electricity generation by 96% compared to 2016.	Atherton customers have seen an estimated \$358K in annual savings.
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As a not-for-profit agency, Peninsula Clean Energy invests earnings into programs that further reduce carbon emissions, support local jobs, deliver savings and other benefits to the community. Through Peninsula Clean Energy's support, Atherton will be:

- Considering the installation of solar arrays at the new Town Center at zero cost. Peninsula Clean Energy will manage the installation and maintenance of the solar PV system, and the Town will pay a discounted rate for the power provided by the system. This partnership will save the Town an estimated \$800,000 over twenty years, and it will virtually eliminate Town Center GHG emissions.
- Receiving financial assistance to install Level 2 EV chargers at the new Town Center, Library and Holbrook-Palmer Park this year.



Q&A with Peninsula Clean Energy CEO, Jan Pepper



How does Peninsula Clean Energy supply Atherton with green electricity?

Peninsula Clean Energy purchases electricity on your behalf that is 100% clean. And we provide this clean electricity to you at a 5% discount compared to PG&E. PG&E continues to deliver electricity to our customers, including homes, businesses, and schools over their poles and wires. And 98% of electricity customers in Atherton receive cleaner and greener power from Peninsula Clean Energy.

Can the grid handle the increased load if Atherton goes all electric with our buildings and vehicles?

Yes, through a variety of strategies, the capacity of the electric grid will expand to meet the increased demand due to increased electrification of buildings and transportation.

First, the transition to full electrification will take place over time, allowing for the necessary grid adaptation. Modern electric technology such as electric vehicles and heat pumps are extremely efficient and use less total energy than fossil fuel systems.

Peninsula Clean Energy is anticipating and planning for increases in electricity use as our customers continue to adopt electric vehicles, install electric appliances, and take other actions to use clean energy. We analyze our electricity procurement on a multi-year basis to ensure that we purchase enough clean electricity to meet the projected demand of our customers.

What about power outages?

Peninsula Clean Energy is working to enhance our community's resilience to power outages through several approaches. We are actively helping our customers to be energy self-sufficient in their homes. We have partnered with solar installers to provide incentives to add home battery storage for homeowners, which can help residents maintain power during grid outages. On the local level, we are collaborating with our member communities to install solar and battery backup systems at critical facilities and community centers.

Prediction time: what does 2025, 2030 and beyond look like for Peninsula Clean Energy and Atherton?

Peninsula Clean Energy's vision is a sustainable world with clean energy for everyone. We are working towards a future where all of our customers, including Atherton families, power their lives with cleaner, healthier, and safer energy sources. With Peninsula Clean Energy, our customers have contributed to a 96% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity compared to 2016. To further reduce emissions in our electricity supply, our goal is to deliver 100% renewable energy each hour of the day by 2025. We are investing in a diversity of renewable energy resources, such as geothermal, solar, and wind energy, as well as energy storage, to help meet this ambitious goal.

Peninsula Clean Energy is also committed to contributing to our community being 100% greenhouse gas-free by 2035 through transportation and building electrification. We are excited to continue partnering with our customers and member communities to lead on climate action. Learn about our local energy programs to further reduce carbon emissions and unlock additional savings at pencleanenergy.co/athertonian.

Meet Our New Garbage Hauler, GreenWaste Recovery

GreenWaste Recovery is a recycling and diversion company that collects and processes waste that is committed to sustainability. They process all kinds of waste including: food, yard trimmings, recyclables, and trash from both businesses and residents alike. Last year, GreenWaste Recovery became Atherton's solid waste service provider and has since been able to divert much of the trash that would have otherwise gone to landfills.

GreenWaste Recovery uses a complex system of optical sorting machines, magnetic sorters, density sorters, screens, and manual sorting to collect, organize, and ultimately prevent more waste from going to landfills. After this process is completed, recovered items can be sold back to create new products, recycled, or composted!

Since partnering with GreenWaste Recovery, Atherton has been able to:

Divert 10,367 tons of waste from going to landfills

Reduce CO2 emissions by 8 metric tons for each ton produced

BLUE CART

Metal, clean paper waste, plastics, e-waste and glass. Please note these must be clean and dry.



BLACK CART

Food waste, soiled paper, soiled plastics, styrofoam, waste made with multiple types of materials, textiles, speakers, and video/audio tapes and discs and yard waste.



GREEN CART

Yard trimmings only! No food or pet waste.



WHY DOES OUR FOOD WASTE NOT GO IN GREEN CART ANYMORE?

Food scraps and soiled paper go in the black cart, so you no longer need a kitchen top compost bin. This change allows GreenWaste to produce a higher quality end-product.

The clean yard trimmings from the green cart will be used to produce OMRI-listed compost, which is used in agricultural applications.

GreenWaste sorts through all the waste in the black cart, and the compost created is turned into landscape compost.

FOOD WASTE: WHAT IS BETTER FOR PLANET - DRAIN OR GARBAGE CAN?

Put your food waste in the black bin instead of your sink garbage disposal. According to the EPA's "Food Recovery Hierarchy," the most eco-friendly option is to convert the food waste into bio-gas (energy source) and compost, which is what GreenWaste does. Food sent down our pipes often ends up in landfills or incinerators, plus it uses more energy and water to process.

THINGS THAT DO NOT GO IN CURBSIDE CARTS:

Household Batteries & Cell Phones: Residents may set out household batteries and cell phones placed on top of their Recyclable Materials Cart in clear zip-close plastic bags. Tape the contacts/terminals of lithium and lead acid button cell batteries with clear tape prior to placing them in the plastic bag.

Used Motor Oil And Filters: Residents may set out used motor oil (in plastic containers with a screw on lid only) and filters (in sealed plastic bags only), next to their Blue Cart, for collection at no additional charge. Free containers and bags can be requested by calling Customer Service.

Household Hazardous Waste: Anything that is toxic, flammable or could blow up is not allowed in curbside carts, for example paint and paint thinner, medicines, pesticides, fertilizers and poison. For safe disposal: www.smchealth.org/hhw

Still confused about your trash? www.greenwaste.com/support/what-goes-where

Tricky to Sort Items & How to Replace Them

Sorting waste can be confusing. Since GreenWaste processes every piece of our waste, a lot of the pressure is removed. But it's still important to do our best to place items in the proper cart.

We asked GreenWaste Recovery for the hardest items to recycle:

SMALL PLASTICS

Small plastic items, like plastic utensils or bottle lids are not recoverable in our processing facility. Upgrade to reusable utensils. Keep the lids on your containers to allow for recovery (note: lids can only remain on for like-for-like materials types).

SOILED PAPER

Soiled paper must be composted, it cannot be recycled. Replace with BPI certified compostable products to be most conducive to composting, or even better, replace with reusable options, like cloth towels instead of paper towels.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

Clothing and textiles are not recyclable in your curbside collection system. These items may be reusable, so please visit greenwaste.com/reuse to find a reuse organization near you!

FILM PLASTIC

"Film plastic" is the thin stretchy plastic used for bags, air pillows and packaging, and it can be difficult to recycle. Loose plastic gets tangled in the sorting machinery, and wet/dirty plastic is destined for landfill.

Film plastic must be clean, dry and separately bagged to be recovered for recycling. Set up a place inside your home to collect clean, dry film plastic, then place the bundle in the blue bin.

Or, better yet: avoid plastic film by switching to reusable grocery bags, food storage bags, buying bulk using jars and shopping locally to avoid excess packaging.

ANNUAL ATHERTON WASTE-WISE EVENT

APRIL 16th 10AM - 1PM Holbrook Palmer Park
150 Watkins Ave, Atherton

FOR ALL ATHERTON RESIDENTS - PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED

SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS:

**DO NOT ATTEND EVENT IF SICK. REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE UNLESS/UNTIL SIGNALLED TO EXIT.
WEAR FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES. MAINTAIN SIX-FOOT DISTANCE.**

E-WASTE DROP OFF

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS - Camcorders, Cell & Desk Phones, Chips and Components, Computers, Connectors/Cables, DVD Players, Fax Machines, Keyboards, Laptops, Mice, Monitors, Optical Drives, PC Boards, PDAs, Printers, Radios, Scanners, Servers, Stereos, Storage Discs, Zip Drives, Televisions, UPS Power Supply Units, Video Game Consoles and VCRs.



NOT ACCEPTABLE: Fluorescent Tubes

COMMUNITY PAPER SHRED

Atherton residents can bring a **MAXIMUM** of three (3) standard banker boxes for secure on-site destruction.
Maximum box size: 10"x12"x15"
Staples and paper clips are acceptable

EVENT LASTS UNTIL THE TIME LISTED OR UNTIL THE TRUCK IS FULL, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

COMPOST GIVEAWAY

Atherton residents may take up to one (1) cubic yard of compost (equivalent to six full garbage bags) free of charge while supplies last.

Bring shovels, gloves, and containers.



Atherton Water Supply: Critically Low

With climate change causing record heat waves and low rain/snowfall, California is once again in a severe drought. Atherton's water supplies, the Bear Gulch and Hetch Hetchy reservoirs, are critically low. Governor Newsom ordered water suppliers to institute drought responses, and Cal Water has instituted new rules.

Conserving water is the best - and cheapest - way to respond to the worsening drought. It also helps reduce greenhouse gasses, as water must be moved, treated, heated, or pressurized, which requires pumps and equipment that emit pollution.

From inside to outside, there are so many simple ways to conserve that will help ensure we have a sufficient water supply. And, both Cal Water and the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) offer rebate programs.

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Take shorter showers! Avoid baths. Turn off your faucet while you're brushing your teeth. Wait for a full load of laundry or dishes to save water and energy. Avoid using your sink disposal, which requires a lot of water to operate properly. Stop rinsing dishes before placing them in the dishwasher; modern dishwashers have soil sensors and can clean dirty dishes very well).

PLUG YOUR LEAKS

The name of the game is to stop wasting water: check your faucets and toilets for leaks! A dripping faucet is not just annoying, it could be costing you more than 200 gallons of water per year.

UPGRADE TO WATER-SAVING PLUMBING FIXTURES

Retrofit your home with water-saving plumbing fixtures and high-efficiency appliances to cut your water consumption. Both Cal Water and the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency offer rebate programs to off-set the cost.

FREE CAL WATER CONSERVATION KIT

Sign up to receive a free conservation kit, which includes high-efficiency showerheads, water-saving faucet aerators, leak detection dye tablets and a hose nozzle.

CAPTURE & REUSE WATER

Why pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it? Harvesting rainwater or reusing water from your home is a great way to conserve water. Graywater systems capture the water from washing machines, sinks, showers/bathtubs and redirects that water to outdoor irrigation.

Atherton Resident Jennifer Carrico Tunes Up Her Sprinkler System

I want to let my neighbors know about a truly incredible program offered to us all by the California Water Service. Several months ago I decided to conduct an internal audit of my family's water consumption. I started by carefully reviewing our monthly statements from Cal Water and felt rather embarrassed that I'd not done so in the past. As it turned out, we were using far more water than our neighbors - indeed, an obnoxious amount in our estimation. It was time to act decisively. We started with the obvious and reduced our laundry loads, dish washing cycles and shower times, but those reductions didn't reduce the bill very much. So I headed outside. There I found our culprit - a very large and complex landscape watering system. Our sprinkler system was so old and defective it couldn't even be described as a leaky bucket. Every sprinkler head was from a different era and manufacturer. They were old, cheap, broken, and mostly watering the sidewalk. Some sprinkler heads were so defective they just blasted an endless stream of water into the sky. Even worse, the system was so dated it ran every single night, rain or shine. Now that's just ridiculous. Aside from explaining to us beginners why the garden looked so bad, the atrocious condition of this system and the amount of water wasted every night embarrassed us greatly. I visited Home Depot and checked out the newer sprinkler heads and spent a lot of time online drooling over the automatic sprinkler system called Rachio that is weather intelligent, customizable by station, and reports your daily water on your phone. However, I didn't have the knowledge, skills or budget to fix this enormous mess by myself. Worse, a bid for replacing the entire system with drip lines came in at a whopping \$30,000.

As luck would have it, at exactly the same time I was investigating my options, I learned through the Atherton Environmental Programs Committee of the Smart Landscape Tuneup Program offered by the California Water Service. I logged into Cal Water, signed up online and from that point forward a whole lot of fantastic unfolded! We had an immediate visit by Ted Hike of Valley Soil (Cal Water's contractor) who walked the property with us and investigated every single watering station for a total of 24 stations in our system. I think it took him two full hours. At each point, Ted identified not only each defective sprinkler head, but also made suggestions for the type of sprinkler head that might work better for each unique location. That's awesome, but here's where it goes from awesome to UNBELIEVABLE: Ted told us that Cal Water itself was going to replace all of the sprinkler heads for free in order to help us repair this ridiculously ineffective and wasteful enterprise. Then just imagine our excitement when we learned that Cal Water would also install - at no cost to us whatsoever - the incredible Rachio sprinkler controller to manage the whole system! The kids and I were just gobsmacked.

I'm in the process of scheduling these incredible upgrades and repairs with Cal Water, but I'm so thrilled with this offering that I thought my neighbors should also get with the program, so to speak. If you'd like to unfold some fantastic in your own yard, you can apply for this program with Cal Water at calwater.com/conservation/tuneup.

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

According to Cal Water, for our water district (Bear Gulch) more than 50% of all home water usage takes place outside. Given the larger lot sizes in Atherton, that percentage is likely closer to 65-75%. This presents a great opportunity for Atherton residents to conserve water.

As of April 15, addresses ending with odd numbers may water on Tuesday and Saturday, and even numbered addresses may water their yards on Wednesday and Sunday. On your designated day, only water between 8pm and 6am (while the sun is down) to reduce evaporation.

OUTDOOR WATER-SAVING TIPS

Install Smart, Drip Irrigation

Converting spray irrigation to drip will dramatically cut your water usage (and bill!), and smart irrigation systems can ensure you're watering your garden exactly what it needs, and no more.

Mulch!

Mulch helps retain moisture in the soil and control water-stealing weeds.

Install & Close Pool Covers

Prevent evaporation and cut the costs of reheating your pool or spa.

LAWNS

Lawns are estimated to use about 40-60% of landscape irrigation in CA.

Water Lawns Less

Look to make sure your lawn actually needs watering before you irrigate. Most lawns can survive on 25% - 50% less irrigation than they are normally given, provided they are watered deeply once or twice per week. Lawns with drought stress retain footprints for several minutes after being walked on, will have wilting grass blades and start discoloring. Just step on the grass, and if it springs back up, you may not need to turn on the sprinklers.

Keep Taller Grass

Change your lawn mower blade settings to at least three inches. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.

Avoid Over-Fertilizing Your Lawn

Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.

CAL WATER PROGRAMS & REBATES

Smart Landscape Tune-Up Program

Irrigation system efficiency evaluation AND installation of efficient devices and repairs for FREE.

Lawn-to-Garden Program

Rebate of up to \$3 per square foot of lawn removed and converted to drought-tolerant plants.

Spray-to-Drip Program

Rebate of \$0.50 per square foot of landscaping converted from a standard spray irrigation system to a drip system.



LANDSCAPE WITH LOW-WATER NATIVE PLANTS

You can still have a beautiful, lush yard and reduce your water consumption through low-water and drought-resistant plants. Plants that are adapted to long, dry summers and short, rainy winters are called "Mediterranean-zone" and/or "California native" plants. Lawns capture less carbon than many other plants, consume significantly more water and require fertilizer (the production of which is a carbon-intensive process). Native grasses and ground cover plants have deep root systems and are particularly effective at storing carbon.

A MESSAGE FROM CAL WATER

All of these simple tips help customers do your part to save water every day - and help sustain our planet. Beyond rebates, many of which were doubled recently, and conservation programs, Cal Water is also replacing, repairing, and upgrading infrastructure to minimize water loss. The Bear Gulch District has a localized 30-year Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan, along with a Conservation Master Plan, to ensure water supply sources remain reliable, both now and in the future.

"Although our efforts are critically important, they can't take the place of customer conservation efforts," said Dawn Smithson, Cal Water's District Manager. "We are here to partner with and support our Atherton customers, and together, we will get through this drought."

For more information on Cal Water's industry-leading programs and rebates, visit: calwater.com/conservation.

The Good Earth: Fighting Climate Change One Garden At A Time

Written by Maggie Mah, UC Master Gardener, SMSF Chapter



On Earth Day, we hear a lot about things we can do to help the planet. But did you know that one of the best weapons we have in fighting climate change is right beneath our feet? It's called "soil" and it's powerful stuff.

Excess carbon (CO2) in the atmosphere acts as a greenhouse gas and is the main contributor to climate change. Unlike carbon in the atmosphere, carbon stored in the soil is a good thing and actually improves the soil. Through a process known as "carbon sequestration," soils absorb carbon from the atmosphere and hold onto it. Although trees and plants are the poster children for atmospheric carbon removal, recent studies show that soils alone actually trap more than twice as much carbon—about 25% of the world's annual fossil fuel removal. In fact, planting more plants increases the need for carbon in the soil which can only be done with healthy soil.

"Dirt" vs. "Soil"—what's the difference?

Dirt is soil that has been degraded through tilling, compaction, over use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc. It is a lifeless blend of minerals, air and water and cannot hold onto carbon, which is quickly released back into the atmosphere.

Healthy soil is water efficient:

Healthy soil acts like a sponge: it absorbs carbon and also holds onto water so plants can use it as needed. According to the USDA, every 1% increase in organic matter increases the soil's water holding capacity by as much as 25,000 gallons per acre. When water is stored in the ground, it also recharges groundwater and improves water quality by filtering out pollutants.

How can I be sure my soil is healthy?

Add plenty of organic materials such as compost and mulch to provide steady, continuous supplies of nutrients. This will create and maintain a desirable environment for the beneficial microorganisms that are essential for healthy soil. Did you know that leaving lawn clippings in place and allowing fallen leaves to remain is an effortless way to improve your soil? These materials break down quickly leaving lots of organic material.

Keep it covered: keeping soil covered with plants, leaves and organic mulch moderates soil temperature, conserves moisture and prevents erosion while adding habitat for beneficial organisms. All of these materials eventually break down, adding more organic material to the soil

Do not disturb: avoid tilling or turning the soil. Instead, add layers of organic material on the surface and let nature do the work of aerating and opening things up. Be careful with leaf blowers by limiting their use to hardscape areas. This helps preserve valuable topsoil and the beneficial microbes who live there.

So there you have it: better soil, better plants, better atmosphere, better planet. Happy Earth Day!

For more information on improving your soil, go to: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/soils/>

The UC Master Gardener host regular free, public sustainable gardening workshops, run a free helpline and host local, seasonal gardening guides on their website. Atherton is mostly in the Garden Zone 9B.

Spring Garden Market and Education Fair: Saturday, April 9 | San Mateo County Event Center

The UC Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties are teaming up to host a spring market. Funds raised will be used to purchase material and supplies for future training and workshops that will be free to the public. Get your Spring/Summer kitchen garden started: a large variety of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, herbs, and other plants have been selected and grown just for the SF and Peninsula climate zones. There will be free demos and workshops, and Master Gardeners will be available throughout the day to answer any questions.

www.smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.edu

Buy From San Mateo County Farmers!

When you think of San Mateo County, you may not think of farming, agriculture and fishing – but our region has more than 50 working farms and bay harbors with fishing boats galore! San Mateo County's "As Fresh as it Gets" Program connects residents to our neighbor farmers and fishermen.

Reduce the carbon footprint of your food by buying local! Locally sourced items tend to be fresher and last longer. Shop at our many local farmers markets, or road trip down the coast to visit farm stands, many of which offer tours or u-pick opportunities.

OUROBOROS FARMS
12511 San Mateo Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
www.ouroborosfarms.com

Aquaponic farm open year-round for year-round fruits & vegetables, plus tours & u-pick events.

BLUE HOUSE FARM
950 La Honda Road
San Gregorio, CA 94074
www.bluehousefarm.com

Certified organic vegetables, fruits and cut flowers year-round.

HARLEY FARMS
205 North Street
Pescadero, CA 94060
www.harleyfarms.com

Farmstead dairy featuring award-winning cheeses, goat-milk body products and paints.

PIE RANCH
2080 Cabrillo Highway
Pescadero, CA 94060
www.pieranch.org

Non-profit educational farm that cultivates a healthy system from seed to table. Year-round fruits, veggies and pies.

Pick Your Own Berries this Summer!

Pack a picnic and bring the whole family to collect your own strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and more.

BLUE HOUSE FARM
950 La Honda Road
San Gregorio, CA 94074
bluehousefarm.com

R & R FRESH HERBS
2310 Pescadero Creek Rd
Pescadero, CA 94060
rnrfresh.com

WEBB RANCH
2720 Alpine Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
webbranchinc.com



Fun in the Fall!

If you are looking for a fall-themed activity, there are a dozen farms where you can pick your own pumpkins (and Christmas trees) on the coast.

Visit Skyline Chestnuts in early October to pluck chestnuts freshly fallen from the trees.

Wander the sunflower fields at Andreotti Family Farm.

www.smccvb.com/fresh-as-it-gets

Who Runs the World? Bugs!

Without bugs to pollinate our plants and flowers, we would not have a stable source of food. Unfortunately, insects are extremely sensitive to the consequences of climate change. Scientists have observed a 45% decline in the overall insect population in the last forty years.

How can you help? Native plants! Not only are they better adapted to our climate and use less water, they will also support pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, flies, beetles, wasps and bats). More tips to support our pollinators!

- Plant a variety of native plant types that bloom from February to October.
- Provide a birdbath or shallow water source, and mud for butterflies and bees.
- Provide shelter and overwintering sites, for example native bee blocks or boxes. Leave bare ground for ground-nesting bees.
- Avoid using pesticides. Use horticultural oil or insecticidal soap if necessary. Apply in the evening when bees are not foraging.

The bug exhibits at our Earth Day Festival are so un-BEE-lievable, we have butterflies in our stomachs:

POP UP BUG MUSEUM BY THE BEETLELADY
Bug science for everyone: the Beetlelady will host a museum-quality insect display! Beetlelady is a PhD Entomologist. Through her educational programs and artistic works, she hopes to share her sense of awe and wonder for the beauty of arthropod life.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN POLLINATOR POTTING STATION BY THE UC MASTER GARDENERS
Learn about pollinator-friendly native plants and get your hands dirty building your own take-home bee and butterfly garden with the UC Master Gardeners.

BEEKEEPERS' GUILD OF SAN MATEO COUNTY
Thinking about becoming a "newbee" beekeeper? Talk to local beekeepers, check out their gear and the observational bee hive, pick up some local honey and beeswax-based products or take a pic in their bee frames.

SAN MATEO COUNTY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL
Worried about being too bug friendly? Learn about the County's services, including sustainable mosquito and yellow jacket control, plus fun activities for kids!



Sukey Bryan creates large-scale outdoor installations concerning the environment and climate change. She will be bringing a selection of large indoor and outdoor pieces to Atherton's Earth Day Festival.



Environmental Student Art from multiple classes at Sacred Heart School. Pictured below: Peruvian subsistence farmer and environmentalist, Máxima Acuña, created by student artist Iris O'Conner



Drawing You to Save the Planet

Art has the power to establish an emotional connection with what is happening to our planet, so our Earth Day Festival will feature an abundance of art! The Atherton Arts Foundation has curated an Environmental Art Exhibit, featuring:

- Outdoor & large-scale indoor installations from climate artist, Sukey Bryan
- Environmental Art from Atherton Arts Foundation
- Student Art from Sacred Hearts School
- Live Botanical Art Demo
- Large Bonzai Tree Exhibit

Atherton's Tree Committee will host a Holbrook-Palmer Guided Tree Walk at 11am using the booklet, featuring art from Atherton Arts Foundation Botanical Artists.

There will also be a number of crafts available at various exhibitors at our Green Vendor Fair.

Do It for the Kids!

The soon-to-reopen Atherton Library will preview some of its new features, including:

- Story Time at 11:30 and 2pm
- Earth-Focused Family Craft Kits
- Environmental Virtual Reality Experiences
- 3D Printing Demos
- Library Bikes

In addition to the Library, exhibitors throughout the Green Vendor Fair will have kid-friendly activities:

- Face painting
- Games with prizes
- Interactive displays
- E-Bikes to test out
- Pop Up Bug Museum
- Butterfly Garden Potting Station
- Animals, including chickens and puppies
- More!

And, if your family gets tired, there will be free ice cream to pick them back up! Plus, music, food trucks and family-friendly Electric Vehicles, including SUVs to enjoy.

Spare the Air: Electric Leaf Blower Bowling

Atherton "celebrities" like our City Manager and City Council members will try their hands at Electric Leaf Blower Bowling at 12:30pm. Come for a laugh! Marvel at how quiet, powerful and odor-free electric blowers can be, then take a turn against the pins yourself.

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CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION!

April 30: Bayside Family Festival

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (East Palo Alto)

September 10: Coastside Community Celebration

Johnston Ranch (Half Moon Bay)

www.openspace.org/50-years



Use your phone's camera to scan this QR code to visit Atherton's new sustainability site!

You'll be able to find a virtual copy of this magazine with source links for more information, plus links to rebates and more.

www.ci.atherton.ca.us/438/Sustainability-Homepage