



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975

Butte Environmental Council Newsletter

July 2014

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Last Month's E-Sentinel

Dear Robyn,

Sometimes I marvel at all we're able to accomplish on behalf of the environment -- kids educated, citizens engaged in creek stewardship... And sometimes it feels as if we're running full speed, trying to respond to all the latest threats facing our trees, water, and open spaces.

There's a lot happening and there are many opportunities to get involved and lend a hand. Together, we are having a big impact.

Upcoming BEC Events

Friday, February 6 6 - 10 p.m.

[Local Climate Rally Art Party & Statewide Rally in Oakland](#)

The Habitat Lab, 199 E 13th St, Chico

Saturday, February 14

[Love & Bicycles Bike-in-Date Night Movie](#)

GRUB Cooperative Great Room, 1525 Dayton Rd, Chico

Thursday, February 19 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[BEC Annual Member meeting](#)

Annie K Bidwell Parlor, 956 Salem St, Chico

Friday, March 27 5:30 - 8 p.m.

[Environmental Community Gathering](#) at C.A.R.D.

Sunday, April 12 4-8pm

BEC Garden Party Fundraiser, Arc Pavilion

(See articles below for all event details or visit our website at www.becnet.org/events)

PG&E Tree Removals

While our friends at **Save Oroville Trees** have continued their daily round-the-clock vigils on site at the Oroville Cemetery to protect the remaining nine trees.

Save Oroville Trees organizers have been camping out overnight in front of the trees, prepared to activate their phone tree when the work crews return. **Over 100 citizens** showed up on Monday morning at dawn to confront the tree crews, many prepared to be arrested by putting themselves between the trees and the chainsaws. But the crews didn't come that day.



This morning (Thursday) the tree crews arrived. Protesters are being arrested and their vehicles are being towed. By the time you read this, the last 9 remaining trees will likely be down.

To support the dedicated folks at Save Oroville Trees, please consider [making a secure online donation](#) on BEC's website or plan to attend their [Spaghetti Feed fundraiser](#) on Feb. 26th.

More Tree Removals Planned for Chico, Paradise, & the Midway

Meanwhile, BEC has been working hard to learn about PG&E's plans for tree removals along the Midway, around the Comanche Creek area in Chico and up towards Paradise along Neal Road.

After much Nancy Drew-style sleuthing for details and answers, we have managed to gather a few documents provided by the City of Chico, Butte County, and PG&E but still have many unanswered questions about which trees will be cut, when they will be cut, whether there are plans for tree replacements, and who will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs with planting new immature trees.

Over 100 of the iconic trees along the Midway were considered for removal, but as reported in the [Chico E-R on Jan. 30th](#), the final list indicates 32 trees along the bike path. Of those, most are smaller diameter trees and are either Chinese Pistache or Pepper trees.

In Chico, we've learned there are 84 trees to be removed. Some removals already took place in the Comanche Creek Greenway area and on Estes Rd. Many of the trees removed were invasive or non-natives including ailanthus (Tree of Heaven), Black Walnut, and Chinese Pistache. **There were also 25 "small diameter" Valley Oaks.**

PG&E has said they intend to plant replacement trees as mitigation for the loss of the mature trees. But while mature trees require little maintenance, new trees will have at least 3 years of maintenance costs including watering and pruning. Will the City of Chico be asked to foot the bill or will all those costs be

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accounted for? When, where, and by whom will the trees be planted?

BEC is working hard to get answers and is calling on PG&E to hold a public meeting before any further trees are removed. County staff have assured us they will hold any permit requests until PG&E provides an opportunity for public review of their plans. We have urged the City of Chico to do the same for the remaining proposed removals. What happened in Oroville must not be repeated in Chico and the County unincorporated areas.

Local Climate Action & Statewide Action in Oakland: Feb 6 & 7

BEC has launched a year of climate action leading up to the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015. Our next action event will be this **Friday night, Feb. 6th** at 5 p.m. to kick-off the big "Action on Climate Leadership" march in Oakland the following day.



A charter bus has been organized by Frack-Free Butte County to take local folks down to Oakland on Saturday, Feb. 7th for the statewide [March for Real Climate Leadership](#). Currently the bus is full with a waiting list and ride shares are being organized through [GroupCarpool.com](#). Anyone who wants to give or get a ride can meet up at the **Butte College Chico Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7th.**

BEC's hosting the Friday evening send-off party of art and music at the Habitat Lab (199 E 13th St in Chico) the night before to get more local folks involved and to make signs for the march. It will be an infectious evening of activism and art.

Everyone is invited to this free, family friendly event, whether you are going to Oakland or not.

[Check out the Facebook event page](#) for more details about the Friday night event.

Fracking Ban Final Hearing

Will Butte County finally ban fracking next week? It might depend on how many supporters show up on Tuesday, February 10th to show community support for the ban!

A final vote by the Board of Supervisors will take place at a public hearing on the **Ordinance to Ban Hydraulic Fracturing** in Butte County on **Tuesday, Feb. 10th**. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and this agenda item is scheduled to begin at 10:45 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 25 County Center Drive in Oroville.

BEC has actively participated with the Frack-Free Butte County campaign which began organizing in summer 2013 to ban fracking (hydraulic fracturing for natural gas extraction).



We are at the finish line of a year and a half-long race to ban fracking in Butte County and protect precious water, air, and health. To get us across the finish line, we need all hands on deck - **and that means you!**

Ask the Board to honor their April 2014 vote to ban fracking and respect the resolution of the 10,000 signatures collected to ban fracking in our county. The oil and gas industry is exerting tremendous pressure and employing scare tactics on the Board. **Show them the public support they need to do the right thing and protect Butte County's water, air, and health.**

I'm asking you to do three things that will make or break a victory on Feb. 10th:

1. Call your supervisor (information below)
2. Write your supervisor (information below)
3. Pack the room at the Board of Supervisors meeting - Tuesday, February 10th at 9am - County Supervisors Chambers, 25 County Center Drive, Room 205, Oroville 95965

The opposition seems mighty, but we have the voice of the people on our side. So let the board hear you loud and clear: **"Ban Fracking in Butte County!"**

<https://www.facebook.com/frackfreebuttecounty/posts/864100900318746>

New Energy Education Program at BEC!

We are **AMPED** to announce that BEC has kicked off the new year with a new Energy Ambassador Program. We were selected as one of 53 **POWERED UP** organizations statewide participating in an **ELECTRIFYING** energy conservation education outreach program, funded by an **EMPOWERING** grant from Energy Upgrade California.



We'll be out in the community throughout the year with an **ENERGIZED** outreach booth with **POWERFUL** information on energy efficiency for homes and businesses including information on **POWERING UP** with solar and rebates to save money while **POWERING DOWN** through home upgrades.

We're proud to be working with GRID Alternatives North Valley, our program partner whose goal is to bring solar to low-income residents throughout Butte County. Each month, Becky Holden, our Energy Ambassador Program Coordinator, will be bringing you **POWERFUL** Energy Conservation tips.

Rainbows belong in the sky not on the Ground!

For most folks these day, oil changes seem to consist of driving ones car to a garage, waiting patiently for the technician to check all fluids in the vehicle and then simply signing your name on the dotted line. However, for the true do-it-yourself individual



it is an exercise that is of utmost importance and skill.

Changing the oil in my car was one of the first things that my Dad made sure I knew how to do before I could take on the responsibility of being a licensed driver. It was important to him that I understood the importance of taking care of my vehicle and the importance of being environmentally conscious while doing so.

When not properly disposed of, **one gallon of oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water**, enough to supply 50 people with drinking water for a year. Every year, 20 times more oil is dumped carelessly into water sources than was released during the Valdez oil spill.

Here are few tips that you can keep in mind if you are passing these same pre-driving tests onto your children, friends and neighbors.

- Do not spill any oil on the ground.
- Put your used motor oil in a clean plastic container with a tight lid. Never store used oil in a container that once held chemicals, food or beverages.
- Do not mix the oil with anything else, such as antifreeze, solvent or paint.

Take used motor oil to a **service station or other location** that collects used motor oil for recycling. Here is a link to local oil recycling drop off centers: <http://www.buttecounty.net/recyclebutte/UsedOil.aspx>.

BEC's 2015 Annual Member Meeting

This month we are excited to host our annual member meeting. This event, which will be held **Thursday, Feb. 19th** at the [Annie K. Bidwell Parlor](#), is the perfect time to join your fellow BEC members for an exciting evening of activism, socializing and fun.



Our 2015 Member Meeting will include a short introduction and update from our Executive Director and Board President, followed by **interactive round-table discussions on the topics of interest to you**. This will provide you a chance to get more familiar with the organization's top priorities while inviting you to provide your feedback on how BEC is doing. The roundtable discussions will focus on BEC's strategic priorities in the areas of advocacy: on water policy, environmental justice, climate change, and many more, as well as our organizational goals for growing the organization.

We look forward to seeing you later this month!

Tips from your Energy Ambassador: Use a Power Strip/Plant Trees

Use a Power Strip.

TVs, game consoles, cable boxes, and other electronics all draw small amounts of power, even when not in use. A power strip makes it easy to turn them all off with one click. Advanced models offer options like timers, remote control, or the ability set a "master device" to shut down everything else when it's turned off. For more information and resources, www.energyupgradeca.org.

Light Bulbs: CFL? LED? Energy efficient lighting is a great way to save on your

A compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb is shown against a green background. The bulb is illuminated, casting a soft glow. It has a standard screw base and a spiral-shaped tube.

THIS IS A Bioswale

This simple garden—called a **Bioswale**—is a special form of landscaping that captures and filters polluted water runoff.

- 1** Parking lots collect runoff pollutants (oil, petroleum, etc.). Each water runoff carries these pollutants threatening the cleanliness of our water supply.
- 2** The bioswales collect this runoff through a gradual slope. The water slowly seeps into the soil, filtering the roots of native plants, where pollutants are removed.
- 3** The water then goes through a secondary filtration system of rocks, sand, and good nesting plants, and out.
- 4** The water then flows into a nearby water body.

Respectful Revolution's goal is to cultivate informational, community-based

dialogue around what is happening in our own region, as well as within the larger thematic topics. Their broader intent is to not only bring useful information to the public, but **inspiration** and **hope** as well in the form of good works that are taking place right under our collective noses!

This event is free and open to the community.

Donations are encouraged and gladly accepted.

For the full schedule and more information, check out the event page on [Facebook](#) or email Stacey Wear at stacey@respectfulrevolution.org.

Sustainability Conference and Environmental Gathering: March 26 & 27

Mark your calendars for [This Way to Sustainability Conference X](#) on **Thursday - Friday, March 26 and 27, 2015 at CSU, Chico**. This year's conference will focus on Community Resilience. **Community resilience** is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. [Conference registration](#) is open now through **March 20**. Students are free but must pre-register and fees for non-students are about as affordable as any conference out there.



BEC is proud to again host the closing reception of the conference.

Whether or not you attend the sustainability conference, the entire environmental community is invited to join this free event.

Environmental Community Gathering

5:30 p.m. at the C.A.R.D. Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave, Chico

The newly renamed Environmental Coalition of Butte County invites you to a Community Gathering on Friday, March 27th following the last keynote presentation of the conference. This event brings together local environmental organizations and their supporters for a night of conversation and celebration. By gathering together we hope to strengthen relationships and improve communication between the organizations to develop more viable strategies and alliances for a safer, healthier and more vibrant community. There will be free appetizers and adult beverages for sale.

All from the local environmental community are encouraged to attend. The C.A.R.D. Center is located at 545 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico. For more information about this event please contact Butte Environmental Council staff at (530) 891-6424 or visit the BEC website at www.becnet.org.

This event is sponsored by the Butte Environmental Council.

Environmental Events in the Community

For more information about upcoming local events please visit **BEC's**

Environmental Events Calendar:

<http://www.becnet.org/events>

Fri, Feb 6 [Pre-Party in Chico for Climate Leadership March](#)

5 p.m. at Habitat Lab (199 E. 13th St, Chico)

Sat, Feb 7 March for REAL Climate Leadership

Noon in Oakland

Sat, Feb 7 Workshop - Planning Your Spring Crops

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fresh Start Youth Farm (42 County Center Dr. Oroville)

Sat, Feb 7 BEC Community Garden Work Day at Oak Way

8 a.m.-noon

Sun, Feb 8 BEC Community Garden Work Day at Humboldt Community Garden

8 a.m.-noon

February Chico Tree Advocates Tree Planting: Feb. 8, 13, 15 & 16

Noon-3 p.m.

Tues, Feb 10 Fracking Ban at the Butte County Board of Supervisors:

25 County Center Dr, Oroville (call BEC for carpool info)

Wed, Feb 11 Presentation - Growing More from Scarce Water

3:30-5 p.m. at Organic Vegetable Project, University Farm

Sat, Feb 14 [Love & Bicycles](#)

A Valentine's Day fundraiser for the Chico Bicycle Music Festival

Wed, Feb 18 [Respectful Revolution 8-week Film Series Begins](#)

7-9 p.m. at Chico State Campus - Siskyou Hall, Room 120

Thurs, Feb 19 [BEC Annual Member Meeting](#)

5:30-7:30 p.m. at Annie K Bidwell Parlor on Salem St

Wed, Feb 21 Environmental Coalition of Butte County meeting

9-10:30 a.m. at Chico Peace & Justice Center.

Sat, Feb 21 [Late Winter Supper](#) - a fundraiser for Frack-Free Butte County

Thurs, Feb 26 [Save Oroville Trees spaghetti feed fundraiser](#)

5-8 p.m. at the South Side Community Center in Oroville (2959 Lower Wyandotte Road.) Price is \$10 adults and \$5 for kids under eight years.

March / April ["Bidwell Park: What's There and Its Care"](#)

A weekly lecture series on Tuesday afternoons in March and April available to retirees who are members of OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).

Register at: <http://rce.csuchico.edu/osher/register>



Sun, Mar 1 [Seed Swap event at GRUB](#)

2-6 p.m. at Chico Grange Hall

Wed, Mar 11 Environmental Coalition of Butte County meeting

9-10:30 a.m. at Chico Peace & Justice Center.

Fri & Sat, Mar 13-14[ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE - Dr. Guy McPherson and Nature Bats Last Staff](#)

Chico Peace and Justice Center (526 Broadway St.)

Thurs-Fri, March 26-27 [This Way to Sustainability Conference at CSU, Chico](#)**Fri, Mar 27 [Environmental Coalition Community Gathering](#)**

C.A.R.D. Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico

Fr., April 10 [Banff Mountain Film Festival](#)[Forward this email](#)

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Butte Environmental Council | 116 W 2nd Street, Suite 3 | Chico | CA | 95928