



116 W. Second Street, Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-6424

www.becnet.org

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Contact:

Robyn DiFalco
Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council
(530) 891-6424
robynd@becnet.org

Environmental Coalition Hosts 3rd Annual Community Gathering

CHICO, Calif. (March 12, 2015) -- A coalition group of local environmental organizations will host the Environmental Community Gathering on Friday, March 27 at the CARD Community Center from 5:30 to 8 p.m., following the last keynote presentation of the "This Way to Sustainability Conference" at Chico State.

The Environmental Coalition was formed as an effort to unite the various local environmental groups around the biggest environmental issues taking place in Chico and Butte County, including the implementation of the General Plans (City and County), the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, the Agricultural Mitigation Ordinance, climate change issues and water issues.

"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," said BEC Executive Director Robyn DiFalco..

Twenty-three original groups participated in the first Community Gathering event in March 2013. Over the past two years, several more groups have joined including Outdoor Education for All, Chico Tree Advocates, and Cultivating Community North Valley. According to DiFalco and other members of the Coalition, these groups are coming together to combine their skills and expertise by working collaboratively and strategically on solutions to the challenges facing Northern California.

"We look forward to this event to see all the energy our community has on these issues; to see what is happening; to get inspired," said Charles Withuhn of Chico Tree Advocates.

The reception will provide an opportunity for the organizations of the Chico Environmental Coalition to reaffirm the importance of working together. This event will take place just following the final keynote speaker of the "This Way to Sustainability Conference" at Chico State. Attendees will gain a fulsome picture of our progress and challenges in environmental work through visiting the tables, talking with one another and from the presentations at the conference.

"The gathering event offers members of the environmental community an evening to come together in a celebration of recent achievements and bolster the sense of connection between the numerous groups," said DiFalco.

The coalition began meeting regularly in November 2012 and brings together approximately 30 nonprofit groups as well as representation from both Butte College and Chico State. Participating organizations include:

- Butte Bicycle Coalition
- Butte College Sustainability
- Butte County Resource Conservation District
- Butte Environmental Council
- California Streams Alliance (Stream Team)
- Chico Cloth
- Chico Creek Nature Center
- Chico Permaculture Guild
- Chico State Sustainability
- Chico Tree Advocates
- Chico Velo
- Citizen's Water Watch
- Citizens Action Network
- Cultivating Community North Valley
- Ecotopia
- Frack-Free Butte County
- Friends of Bidwell Park
- GRID Alternatives
- GRUB Education
- Kids and Creeks
- Mt. Lassen Chapter CA Native Plant Society
- Nor Cal Regional Land Trust
- Outdoor Education for All
- Respectful Revolution
- Sacramento River Trust
- Yahi Group of the Sierra Club

Anyone from the public is welcome to attend the Environmental Coalition Community Gathering. Participating organizations will provide free appetizers and adult beverages will be available for purchase at the event.

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For more information, please visit www.becnet.org/events or contact Executive Director Robyn DiFalco at (530) 891-6424 or robynd@becnet.org