

It's that time of year again to get those end-of-year donations in! Donations made to BEC by Dec. 30 will be deposited in the 2016 calendar year, making your donations eligible for tax write-offs!



Butte Environmental Council Protecting Butte County's Land, Air and Water Since 1975

E-Sentinel - December 2016

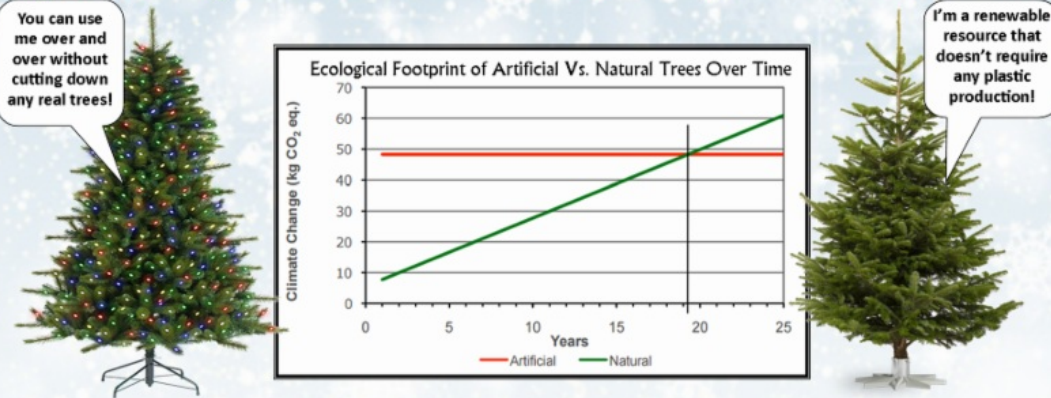
THIS WEEK: [BEC offering Upcycled Gift Wrapping](#)
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BEC offering Upcycled Gift Wrapping

THIS WEEK: BEC is be offering upcycled gift wrapping to the community here at our office! Bring your gifts to our office at 116 W. 2nd St. Ste 3 to be wrapped in upcycled materials (think maps, comic books pages, newspaper, and more!) to give your gift a little extra flair this year. This awesome service is free, but please consider giving a suggested minimum donation of \$3 when you bring your gift.



Choosing a Christmas Tree: Artificial or Natural?



For most sustainability criteria, natural trees beat out artificial; *unless* you keep your artificial tree for over 20 years.¹

The average use of an artificial tree is 6-9 years.²

1. <http://www.christmastrees-wi.org/LCA%20Christmas%20Tree-ellipsos.pdf>

2. <http://www.pnwcta.org/news-events/facts-at-a-glance/>

Did you know Americans create 25% more trash during the holidays?

Green up your holidays!

1. Use LED Holiday Lights to use up to 80% less energy
2. Re-charge it! When purchasing items that require batteries, always look for rechargeable batteries. Save money and help the environment.
3. Make Gatherings Zero Waste. Instead of disposables, serve food on reusable dishware.
4. Stop Junk Mail. The holidays can bring catalogs and other mail asking you to buy! Buy! BUY! As soon as you receive an unwanted publication, call their 1-800 number and ask to be removed from their list.
5. Wrap it and Pack it the green way: Wrapping paper is difficult to recycle. Let BEC help. We have an assortment of creative wraps. At home, choose reused/reusable alternatives like comics, posters, maps, blueprints, or calendars, fabric, bandanas. Etc. Check out our Pinterest board to get some ideas!
6. Finally, recycle electronics, christmas trees, and wrapping paper after the holidays- For locations, hours, and a list of materials to recycle,

BEC's 2015-2016 Annual Report

**Butte Environmental Council's
Annual Report**
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Get Involved with BEC, and do your part to help protect our region's most precious natural resources!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

28th Annual Bidwell Parks and Chico Creeks Cleanup



530 volunteers
16 miles of Chico's creeks
20,785 lbs of waste & recyclables

BEC welcomes NEW Executive Director Natalie Carter





400 students
30 community organizations
Countless childhood memories

37th Annual Endangered Species Faire





40th Anniversary Gala
Familiar faces & Treasured memories

Barris Farms Service Award - Lesley Kuykendall for leading the Oroville Dioxin Education Committee.
Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award - Karl Ory for decades of work toward social and environmental justice.
Environmentalist of the Year Award - Kaitlin Haley and Kevin Killion for successfully leading a student campaign that got Chico State to divest from fossil fuels, making it the first public university in the nation to do so!

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Butte Environmental Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit environmental organization based in Butte County, California. Our mission is to protect and defend the land, air and water of Butte County and the surrounding region through action, advocacy and education. Get involved today at becnet.org

By supporting BEC you give your community connections with nature that last a lifetime and cultivate generations of environmental leaders!



Photo: BEC's 2015-2016 Community Cleanup Project. Photo: BEC's 2015-2016 Community Cleanup Project.

This year 100 BEC volunteers spent over 1,000 hours participating in our Block Party with a Purpose. Participants helped to remove and clean up the community's most visible trash and debris. The team spent 100 hours cleaning up the Butte County area, including Bidwell Park, Bidwell Creek, and the Bidwell Creek area. The team also helped to clean up the Bidwell Creek area, including Bidwell Park, Bidwell Creek, and the Bidwell Creek area.

In the 2015-2016 year BEC had 4,107 volunteers in the Butte County area, including Bidwell Park, Bidwell Creek, and the Bidwell Creek area. The team also helped to clean up the Bidwell Creek area, including Bidwell Park, Bidwell Creek, and the Bidwell Creek area.

Part of a statewide program BEC has been a part of for 100 years. The program is called the Bidwell Creek area, including Bidwell Park, Bidwell Creek, and the Bidwell Creek area.

This year the second year of the program with 100 years of history. BEC has been a part of the Bidwell Creek area, including Bidwell Park, Bidwell Creek, and the Bidwell Creek area.

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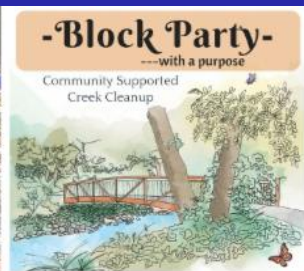
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Download the full report [here](#).



Block Parties with a Purpose

Caring for our water supply means keeping pollution out of the creeks and removing trash and invasive plants that have settled in. To do this,

the Butte Environmental Council hosts monthly neighborhood creek cleanups from December to May.

Last season our Block Parties with a Purpose, removed 11.3 tons of unwanted trash and invasive plants from in and around our creeks. We need your help to improve this score and make Chico's creeks some of the cleanest!

Join us!

www.becnet.org/watershed/blockparty

Block Parties are held the second Saturday of each month from 9am to 12pm

January 14

Lindo Channel near the Esplanade - Meet at 100 Cohasset Lane

February 11 - *Location TBD*

March 11 - *Location TBD*

Apr 8 - *Location TBD*

May 13 - *Location TBD*

"We can no longer take water for granted. Wherever we look, its assured supply - and its purity - are at risk. We live at a time when almost none of the water in the world's major rivers is still fit to drink and when more than a billion people do not have the access to safe water enjoyed by the ancient Romans. All over the planet, aquifer and thus water table levels are dropping, sometimes alarmingly, and rampant pollution is poisoning far too much of what is left."

-Marq De Villiers, from his book, "Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource"

Oak Restoration Project Update!

The results are in! After another long summer of watering and maintenance, here is some updated information on the status of our project.

Oak Restoration 2016 Update



of our 204 plots had at least one surviving seedling since last season.



of our surviving plots have more than one seedling sprouting up!



of our surviving plots have graduated to cages!



is the average height amongst our surviving seedlings.



Will you become a BEC Angel?

Through the month of December, BEC will be conducting an end-of-year membership drawing for a beautiful basket of wine! All new BEC Angels are entered to win with a minimum \$10/month membership. If you are an annual donor and become a BEC Angel, you are entered to win. If you are an existing BEC Angel, thank you!



Increase your donation by \$10/month, and you will be entered in the drawing. The beautiful basket of wine includes 6 wine bottles valued at over \$50. The drawing winner will be contacted personally and announced on January 3 on our website and on our Facebook page!

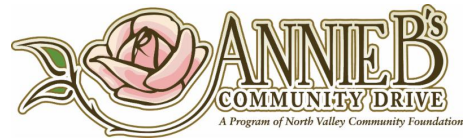
As a BEC Angel, you provide reliable funding which gives us the resources we need to engage in the ongoing battle to protect our environment. You have the peace of mind knowing that your membership is always current and we won't bother you with pesky renewal mailings. The importance of a monthly donation, no matter

how small, cannot be overstated. Angels keep our lights on and our monthly budget in the black. Angel donations are the heartwood of BEC's Tree of Life.

So how do you become an Angel? [Click here.](#)

keep reading....this is interesting

2016 Annie B's & #GivingTuesday Results Are In!



This #GivingTuesday we set a goal of \$1,000 and while we knew it would be challenging to reach this goal (in part due to the timing in the year), we thought we should reach for a high goal and strive to increase this year's donations and that is exactly what we did. With your help, we raised just shy of \$100 and were thrilled to welcome a new Angel! This may not sound like much, but it was nearly double what we raised in 2015, and in 2017 we hope to raise even more so mark your calendars for #GivingTuesday on Nov. 28, 2017.

The 2016 Annie B's results are in! We were able to raise over \$22,000 thanks to all of you! Of these funds, \$13,126.85 will go to the BEC General Fund (all donations + match) and \$8,998.20 was matched by the City of Chico to partially fund our Block Parties with a Purpose program. With your support, BEC raised \$3,000 more than in 2015 through this community campaign!

BEC named a "2016 Top-Rated Nonprofit" by Greatnonprofits

Thank you so much to everyone who sent in a review to BEC! You helped us obtain a special badge that we



will use to promote our mission. Forgot to submit a review? Click [here](#) to submit your review today and share your BEC experience with others.



(530) 895-9999 // 1909 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PKWY.
LOCATED BEHIND MEEKS LUMBER AT THE CORNER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING & E. 20TH

Now Accepting E-Waste for Recycling!



End of Year Giving & the BEC Holiday Wishlist

It's that time of year again to get those end-of-year donations in! Donations made to BEC by Dec. 30* will be deposited in the 2016 calendar year, making your donations eligible for tax write-offs. BEC receives 19% of its funding from community supporters like you! Please consider making an end-of-year donation to BEC to help us start off the new year

with funding and vigor!

*Any donations received after Dec. 30 fall on a Saturday during our holiday closure hours and will not be deposited until the new year.

Interested in donating something a little different to BEC? Consider donating items we can use in educational activities, at events and around the office! Having items donated not only helps keep us going in our efforts to make Butte County a cleaner and healthier place, but keeps our administrative expenses to a bare minimum, allowing us to maximize the amount of money and effort we can put into programs you care about. **All in-kind donations are tax-deductible.** Please let us know if you need a tax receipt for your in-kind donation and we will create one for you. If you're interested in donating something a little different this holiday season, BEC is in need of the following items:

- Crayons, markers & color pencils (new or gently used; for childrens activities)
- Coloring books (new or gently used; for childrens activities)
- Small toys (for Endangered Species Faire scavenger hunt prizes)

- Paper cutter
- Avery 5311 Clear Mailing Labels
- Avery 5160 Mailing Labels
- Sheet protectors
- Scotch tape for tape dispensers
- Phone Message Notebook
- (2-3) 2017 Hanging wall calendars
- Binders - 1" or wider
- 1-hole punch
- Forever stamps
- Picture/artwork frames in various sizes
- Notebooks/Notepads
- Mason jars or cups (to be used at events)
- Fabric for curtains & (4) 49" long curtain rods
- long-handled hook tools for removing trash from local creeks
- 10 gallon storage bins with lids for Block Party supplies.

This December I find myself thinking about gifts. Not the gift that I may get, but instead the ones I am given every day. The gifts that I get from this amazing community, so tirelessly dedicated to our environment. It is a gift to live in this town, to know it's people, and to have a deep connection with nature as it thrives around us. It is a gift to breathe this air, drink this water, and know this land.

So, as we all head into the flurry of holidays before us, lets pause to recognize the gifts we get every day. Let's prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. Lets make a difference. You CAN make a difference today. Give the gift of Butte Environmental Council. [Give to BEC](#) and know that you are giving your community clean creeks, aware youth, and a voice to protect and defend the land, air and water. #BECauseGive

Sincerely,

Natalie Carter
Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council

STAY CONNECTED:

