



# 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

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## Dear BEC Member,

While most of us are probably slowing down for the summer, BEC is still very busy! In addition to all the great programs and events you'll read about below, **we're moving our office** -- next door in the same building! This is an exciting move because it gives us a little more space for meetings in our conference room and for our growing staff and intern team in the office.

**But it's a huge job and we need plenty of extra hands!** If you've got a spare hour or two, please stop by to help us move into our cool new office. We're in downtown Chico on 2nd St right above the Naked Lounge coffee shop. Call ahead to let us know you're coming: 891-6424.

And thanks again for all your membership support. Without you, none of this would be possible!

Sincerely,  
Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director



## Upcoming BEC Events

**Every Sunday morning:**  
**Volunteer Oak Seedling Watering in Upper Bidwell Park**

**Saturday, July 18:**  
**5K Climate Challenge Community Run.**  
*Join GRID Alternatives and BEC and Reduce Our Carbon Footprint.*

## Thank You For Tasting

BEC's Wine Tasting fundraiser on May 28 at the Bidwell Bar & Grill at the Bidwell Golf Course was a huge success, raising \$850 for BEC, as well as promoting environmentalism and stewardship in Butte County. Special thanks to the event's sponsors: **Grocery Outlet, Chico News & Review, and the Bidwell Park Golf Course**, as well as **Feather River Casino** for donating the raffle grant prize and **Klean Kanteen** for its matching campaign funding. Stay tuned for more events like this one, which are a great way to meet your neighbors and taste some wine, while helping BEC.



## The Annual Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup September 19

Save the date! This year the Butte Environmental Council will be hosting our annual Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup event on Saturday, September 19, 2015 in collaboration with the **City of Chico** and **Butte County**, as well as many other community partners.

We all appreciate the beauty of our local creeks and recognize them as a great asset in our Chico community. **BEC invites individuals, social groups, and local businesses to gather a team** to give back to our shared watershed. [Click here for more information.](#)



Sponsors confirmed for this year's event include: Klean Kanteen, Butte County Fish & Game Commission, TriCounties Bank, Chico U-Lock-It, Orchard Supply Hardware and the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. We're looking for more sponsors so if your business

## Junkyard Continues to Put Residents at Risk

BEC is working with a coalition of local groups and concerned activists to push for accountability from **Chico Scrap Metal** to clean up its toxic pollution in the Chapman/Mulberry neighborhood and relocate from its 20th St. property, as ordered by City Council. The **Chico City Council** will consider the business owner's request to simply improve the aesthetics of the fence on 20th St., but we find this "remedy" completely unacceptable. This is not an issue of aesthetics. It is about pollution that is affecting children at neighboring schools and in one of Chico's low-income residential neighborhoods, as well as ecological damage alongside **Little Chico Creek**. **This is an environmental justice and public health issue** of which we should all be concerned, and BEC is mobilizing to push the City to hold this polluter accountable for cleaning up his mess and relocating the business.



Chico Scrap Metal has been entangled in court cases for at least seven years over their mishandling of their hazardous waste. The **Butte County District Attorney**, the **State of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control**, and the **Clean Water Action Network** have all **filed suit against the local business**. Cleanup orders have been issued and even during cleanup activities, toxic dust blowing in the air resulted in additional citations.

The Chico City Council called for the business to relocate by Dec 31, 2014 but is now poised to consider an alternate proposal from the business owner, George Scott. There will likely be public hearings this summer at the Planning Commission and City Council. **BEC and the "Move the Junkyard" coalition** are mobilizing to make sure our decision makers don't overlook the very real threats to public and environmental health and accept a "deal" that only solves the aesthetic issues on 20th St.

## Watering Oaks through the Summer

Calling all groups. Individuals too. This Beginning Sunday, June 21 **is our summer oak watering project.**



Come out to the **North Rim Trail** parking lot at Upper Bidwell Park on **Sundays at 8:15 a.m.** to water the seedlings that were planted by BEC in Fall 2014. Of the 100 planted, 80 are established and growing. They need your help this summer to survive the drought!

In Butte County both Valley and Blue Oaks are not regenerating adequately to ensure ecological survival. Sponsored by the **California Wildlife Foundation**, BEC's Oak Planting Project is an ongoing endeavor to grow 200 seedlings and carefully maintain them for the first few years of their lives.

Use this helpful [link](#) to quickly Sign up for any Sunday with a group, or by yourself. Or skip the sign up, and just show up on Sunday morning at 8:15 AM! More details here: [www.becnet.org/oak-tree-planting](http://www.becnet.org/oak-tree-planting)

## Watershed Change in Leadership

Our Watershed Coordinator, **Nani Teves**, has decided to take a year to travel the nation with her husband Jonas and their two children, offering them a well-rounded, cross cultural education at national parks, historic sights and more. Our sadness for their departure is matched only by our excitement for their grand adventure!



In her place, we are excited to introduce our new Watershed Program Coordinator, **Lindsay Wood**, a Butte County native. She may look familiar to you, as she has been involved with BEC since 2012. She began her involvement in our organization first as an intern and more recently held a position on our Board of Directors.

Lindsay comes to us with a strong background in conservation ecology, outdoor education, and water policy. Lindsay graduated from **Chico State's Biological Science program** in 2013 after spending her undergraduate years leading the Hands on Science Lab, surveying the Western Pond Turtle, and studying rainforest conservation at her (other) beloved alma mater, the **Universidad de Costa Rica**.

Since graduating, Lindsay has been involved with several species level conservation studies including the Greater Sage Grouse, Aechmophorus grebes, Steelhead, and Chinook salmon.

The next time you see Lindsay, please be sure to give her a warm BEC welcome.

## Energy Conservation Tips

Make your home more energy efficient, easily and affordably, with the Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade Program. Here are the steps:

- First, find a number of participating contractors in the area using the easy search on [energyupgradeca.org](http://energyupgradeca.org)
- Second, through your contractor, schedule a date for your home upgrades to make your house more comfortable this summer, as well as energy efficient, and therefore more affordable
- Finally, either your contractor, or you can find \$6,500 worth of rebates through the state, and PG&E. Find them now on [energyupgradeca.org](http://energyupgradeca.org)

Think it's too expensive? Great financing is offered, and makes it even easier to get started now. Luckily the state and PG&E want you to use less energy. The financing options are through the **GSFA Residential Energy Retrofit Program, PowerSaver Loan Program**, and the **Statewide Clean Energy Upgrade Finance Program**.



## Join the 5K Chico Climate Challenge

Join the 5K Chico Climate Challenge for a community run in the beautiful, Lower Bidwell Park on July 18, 7 a.m. The purpose of the 5K Chico Climate Challenge is to raise funds for and awareness of non-profit programs to **reduce our region's carbon footprint**. After the run, participants can enjoy a light breakfast, music, and learn about climate action in the Chico community.



Proceeds from the event will benefit **GRID Alternatives** and the **Butte Environmental Council**. Our goal of \$5,000 will go towards making solar accessible to families in the Chico area, resulting in the prevention of 80 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. With the contribution from your \$35 registration, you will prevent a 1/2 ton of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to planting 13 trees.

Come out as an individual or build a team (at least 5) to help Chico reduce its carbon footprint. For more information and to register, go to: [www.gridalternatives.org/chicoclimaterun](http://www.gridalternatives.org/chicoclimaterun)

## What Do the Three Chasing Arrows Mean?

Answer: Did you know each arrow in the recycling symbol represents one step in the recycling loop?

- The first step is **collection**: When you put your recyclables into your recycling bin. The collected materials are then prepared to be marketed and are sold to a manufacturing facility.
- The second step is the **manufacturing process**: The materials are converted into new products and shipped to stores across the country to be placed on shelves as new consumer goods.
- The third step is where you, the consumer, **purchase products made with recycled content**. When you "Buy Recycled," you complete the recycling loop. Each dollar you spend to buy recycled material serves as a vote FOR recycling.



Recycling Tips Brought to you by BEC's Recycling and Rubbish Education (RARE) Program.