

Welcome to the Foster City Environmental Sustainability Task Force's (ESTF) quarterly eNewsletter! Our goal is to keep you informed about environmental sustainability activities in Foster City.

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## EVENTS

- Go Green Speakers Series

All Go Green events are held in the City Council Chambers from **6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**. The first half hour is a reception with light refreshments, and the talk begins at 7 pm. The events are **free**, and RSVP is suggested. RSVP to [gogreen@fostercity.org](mailto:gogreen@fostercity.org) or call (650) 286-3291.

- **Wednesday, January 19—Case Study of a Creative and Clever Re-user: How one person simplified her life and bought nothing new for a year**

Join us to hear how one person's personal story about how her commitment to not buy "new" turned into a lesson on society, media and how the environmental movement can more effectively empower people to consume less and care about the planet more. This event will give you a unique perspective on recycling, reusing and decreasing your impact on the environment.

- **Wednesday, March 16—Smarter Gardens and Landscapes: Have a Beautiful View and Save Money Too**

Join us to learn how to create a beautiful, water efficient garden. Details are subject to change; please visit [www.fostercity.org](http://www.fostercity.org), email [gogreen@fostercity.org](mailto:gogreen@fostercity.org) or call (650) 286-3291 for the most current information.

- New Green Footprints Episode - The Energy Roadmap - just released!

Suzanne Emerson, a building energy analyst, explains about energy audits and the top 6 energy efficiency recommendations for your house. Watch the on-demand streaming video at [www.fostercity.tv](http://www.fostercity.tv).

In the fall edition our newsletter, we introduced you to the FCTV Green Footprint series, a fresh and practical Foster City TV original production. Produced in conjunction with ESTF, Green Footprint™ features eco-trends to help consumers recognize and understand a variety of environmental and sustainability efforts that they can undertake for themselves and their homes. Each episode focuses on green alternatives to minimize negative environmental effects and offer sustainable solutions. The first two episodes—*Home Performance 101* and *Water Wise Ways*—are also available for on-demand streaming at [www.fostercity.tv](http://www.fostercity.tv).

- Foster City Earth Day Fair and Swap Meet

Following the success of the first ever Earth Day Fair in 2010, Foster City's Environmental Sustainability Task Force and the City of Foster City are hosting a second event on **Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 10 AM to 3 PM** at **City Hall Plaza, 610 Foster City Blvd.** This lively community event will have fun for all ages. There will be music, entertainment, food, green vendor and informational booths, a swap meet and an e-waste recycling drop-off. **Admission is FREE.**

- **Volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed to assist with event planning and day-of-event tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [gogreen@fostercity.org](mailto:gogreen@fostercity.org) or call (650) 286-3291.

- **Booth space available**

The 2011 Fair will feature Swap Meet and Free-cycle areas. ESTF is looking for community groups who are interested in having a booth space in the swap meet area. Please email [gogreen@fostercity.org](mailto:gogreen@fostercity.org) or call (650) 286-3291 for more information.

Event details are subject to change; please check [www.fostercity.org](http://www.fostercity.org) as date approaches for the most current information.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CartSMART Video Contest

Are you a budding filmmaker, know someone who is? Then RethinkWaste wants you! RethinkWaste, in partnership with Recology and South Bay Recycling, has launched a video contest inviting amateur video and film makers to produce a 30-120 second video that will educate and inspire residents in the categories of Recycling, Composting and Rethinking Your Waste. Grand prize for individuals/families is an iPad, and for school organization/student groups is \$1,000. Entries must be postmarked by February 1, 2011. To learn more, visit <http://rethinkwaste.org/residents/single-family-dwellings/cartsmart-video-contest>.

- Home Energy Efficiency Rebates now available

Through grant funding from Energy Upgrade California™, PG&E is now offering rebates of \$1,000 to \$3,500 to pilot program participants who perform a variety of home energy upgrades. During the pilot program phase, work must be completed by an approved Energy Upgrade California™ contractor. The contractor can help you meet all the requirements to receive your rebate. Visit <http://www.cbpc.org/> or [www.energyupgradecalifornia.com](http://www.energyupgradecalifornia.com) for more information.

- Residents invited to participate in General Plan Update

The Foster City General Plan is a statement of how the citizens of Foster City view their community, how they want it to be in the future and how they intend to deal with planning and development issues facing the community. California planning law requires every City to prepare and update the various required elements of the General Plan on a regular basis. City staff is currently updating the Land Use and Circulation Element of Foster City's General Plan. If you would like to be informed about the progress of the update and opportunities to get involved, please join the General Plan Update email listserve by visiting [www.fostercity.org](http://www.fostercity.org) and clicking on 'join our email lists.'

- Clean Energy Workforce Training Program offered by CBPCA

As part of the Clean Energy Workforce Training Program, Efficiency First and the California Building Performance Contractors Association (CBPCA) are offering low-cost training for employees of eligible home energy performance businesses. Certifications included under this program are offered by nationally-recognized organizations such as the Building Performance Institute (BPI), the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and the California Certified Energy Rating and Testing Services (CalCerts) Home Energy Rating System (HERs). To learn more about this training, and to find out if you are eligible, go to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/cleanenergyjobs/>

- Sustainable San Mateo County offering FREE Personal Energy Review

Sustainable San Mateo County is offering free energy reviews to help make your home more efficient, improve comfort and health in the home and save money! The energy review includes a visit to your home and analysis of your utility bill. The reviewer will identify low cost upgrades, discuss available rebates and help you create a plan to lower your energy use. Visit: <http://www.sustainablesanmateo.org/2010/12/16/free-stocking-stuffer-personal-energy-review/> for more information.

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## UPDATES

- New recycle, compost and trash collection service began January 3!

Recology San Mateo County began providing collection services to all of Foster City on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Learn about the new services by watching the CartSMART videos on demand at <http://www.fostercity.tv/>. These videos also air on Foster City TV (Comcast ch. 27 & AT&T ch. 99) every day at 10 AM and 3 PM. There are customized videos for Single Family Residences, Multi-Family Dwellings and Commercial Customers. For questions regarding the service, please call Recology at (650) 595-3900 or visit [www.rethinkwaste.org](http://www.rethinkwaste.org).

- City considers service reductions and fare increases for shuttle services

At its November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Budget Study Session, the City Council provided direction to City staff to eliminate the Senior Express and Connections Shuttle Blue Line services and charge a fare on the

Connections Shuttle Red Line. Changes are tentatively scheduled for implementation in June of 2011, and more information will be available in Spring 2011 as the budget process moves forward. You can stay updated on transportation budget issues by attending City Council meetings, watching the Council meeting videos on demand at <http://citydocs.fostercity.org/meet.aspx> or subscribing to the City Council Agenda e-mail list (<http://lists.fostercity.org/mailman/listinfo/councilagenda>). For general information on alternative transportation in and around Foster City, contact Teresa Whinery, Transportation Intern, at [twhinery@fostercity.org](mailto:twhinery@fostercity.org).

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## ARTICLE

Foster City Freecycle

By Marah Curry, ESTF Member

Always wondered what to do with those plastic flower pots that plants come in from the nursery? They aren't recyclable by our garbage service and there are only a few select nurseries that will take them back. Or, what do you do with a bunch of bamboo poles that you thought would make a great fence project a few years back? Or that bag of fabric? If you're like me, and can't bear the thought of them ending up in a landfill, consider listing them on Foster City Freecycle! Those are just a few of the items that I've been able to find a new home for via the Freecycle network. Looking through recent posts, you can find moving boxes, a computer desk, a Hoover vacuum, rice cooker, exercise bike, clothing, kids toys, and the list goes on...

What is Freecycle? It's a great online community, specific to your city or town that allows its members to post OFFER/WANTED/TAKEN listings for usable items. To look for a Freecycle group near you, visit <http://my.freecycle.org/>. It doesn't cost anything to join, and it's a great way to find things that you've been searching for, or get rid of stuff that you no longer want or need. You sign up, via the Yahoo group for the Freecycle in your city, and then you are connected with other Freecyclers in your area. The group is moderated by a local member to ensure that all postings follow the rules and are appropriate. The main rule is that if you offer something, it has to be for free (no bartering or exchange offers)! There are some other rules and guidelines pertaining to the format of the posts and the conduct of the users. But, it is designed to be an easy and safe way to reduce and recycle! For the Foster City community, check out <http://groups.freecycle.org/FosterCityFreecycle/> to become a member and start freecycling!

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ESTF is an ad hoc citizen task force established by the Foster City Council in 2008 to develop a recommended action plan for community-wide environmental sustainability in Foster City. We completed our plan in 2009 (follow this [link](#) to see our plan). The plan is composed of recommendations in four main categories – energy, water, air quality, and solid waste. ESTF was re-commissioned by the City Council for a 3 year term (through June 2012) to continue to promote environmental sustainability

within our community. We are working with the City to implement our recommended actions and to engage in public outreach and education. In 2011, ESTF is focused on waste reduction and energy conservation. To learn more about ESTF, follow this [link](#).

The ESTF mailing list SOLELY consists of quarterly ESTF e-newsletters and announcements on ESTF or ESTF- related events. If you do not wish to continue to receive emails from ESTF, please reply to this email with the subject header: UNSUBSCRIBE. Thank you for your interest.