

Solano County is getting ready to be green with several Earth Day events this month.

April 7

To help clear pollution from the air, Solano County has teamed up with the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and PG&E to sponsor a mower exchange program. Qualified residents can recycle a polluting, gas-powered mower in exchange for a discounted new, zero-emission, cordless, rechargeable mower.

On April 7, residents can call (800) 465-7894 beginning at 8:30 a.m. to reserve a mower and receive a voucher. Calls will be taken until sold out or 5:00 p.m., whichever comes first.

Qualified residents then drop off their gas-powered mower at a participating recycler and arrange payment with the manufacturer. The new mower will cost \$189 or \$289 and will be delivered free to their home.

April 18

Vallejo will celebrate on Saturday April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Vallejo's Farmers' Market in downtown Vallejo. Activities include a mercury thermometer exchange, California native plant sale, raffles, Jugglers, kid craft table, Loma Vista Farm Petting Zoo, kid finger printing from the Vallejo Police Department and a myriad of green booths. Go to [www.VALCOREcycle.org](http://www.VALCOREcycle.org) to register or to volunteer.

A Confidential Paper Shredding will be held the same day at VALCORE Recycling from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be charge of \$5 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

April 19

Explore Lake Chabot's Underwater World from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come to Dan Foley Park at the boat launch and look at the critters that live in Lake Chabot with local scientists and volunteers. For more information call 707 644-8949 x292.

April 22

Vallejo residents can enter a Recycled Sculpture or Artwork contest. Over \$2000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. There are three age groups: five to twelve years of age, thirteen to seventeen year olds and adult.

Items must be made out of 100 percent recycled content which means that they must have been used once and are destined for recycling or the landfill or came from a thrift store or garage sale. Entries are due by 5:00 p.m. on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22 2009 at City Hall, 555 Santa Clara St. For more information call 707 648-5346.

Winners will be announced on Friday, April 24th.

April 25

Celebrate Earth Day in Fairfield at the lake behind City Hall (1000 Webster) from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. There will be information booths, composting class and Sierra Club's Mr Green will be there to sign his new green book and answer the toughest green living questions. For more information call 707 428-7489.

Others are also getting on the Earth Day Bandwagon.

Payless Shoes is adding a green line of shoes made of eco-friendly materials such as organic cotton or hemp with recycled soles and delivered in green packaging.

Google is powering [www.ecosearch.org](http://www.ecosearch.org). EcoSearch uses advertising profits to fund its environmental nonprofit as well as other organizations such as Sierra Club.

Check out [www.fixya.com](http://www.fixya.com) for hints on repairing electronic gadgets. Frustrated by the lack of practical post-purchase information, entrepreneur Yaniv Bensadon set out to build a community resource capable of providing up-to-date troubleshooting data. His techies provide free fix-it advice for common problems with gadgets and electronics.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the formation of the California Green Corps, a statewide effort to train young adults between 16 and 24 years old to work in the state's fledgling green-tech industry. The idea is to create a 20-month pilot program to train up to 1,000 people for jobs installing solar-panels or manufacturing wind turbines. Check out [www.californiavolunteers.org](http://www.californiavolunteers.org)

Under President Barack Obama's leadership, Congress has pending legislation to expand the AmeriCorps program and establish new service corps. Middle and high school students could enroll in a "Summer of Service" program to volunteer locally and earn \$500 toward college costs.

The Serve America Fellowships would allow seniors to develop their own plans for serving their communities. Silver Scholarships and Encore Fellowships would help seniors enter new careers in the public or nonprofit sectors. Awards would be up to \$1,000 for 500 hours of service.

*VALCORE Recycling Board Member Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit [www.VALCOREcycle.org](http://www.VALCOREcycle.org).*

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