

December 2024 Newsletter

# ECO-LOGIC

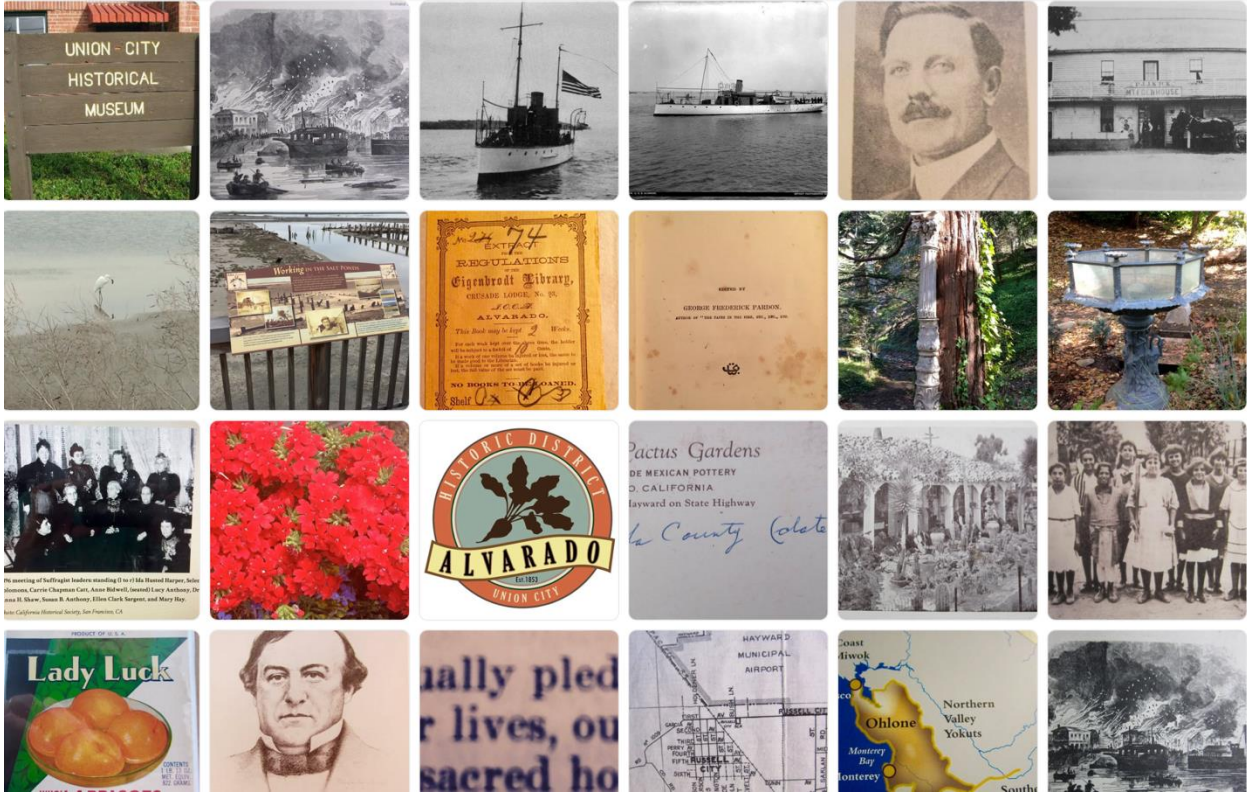
The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



ECO-LOGIC

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# Patricia Schaffercyzk, Board Member of TCEC is happy to announce the re-opening of the Union City Historical Museum!



City Manager Joan Malloy reported to the Tri City News that the 3841 Smith St. Building had been closed since 2020 due to Covid 19 issues, and discussions are now underway to make repairs and prepare the building for occupancy. The Union City Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Township Museum of Local History are partnering to on a proposal to repurpose the building as a hub which will include an updated museum to honor local history. “We’re excited about the prospect of opening the museum”

Patricial Schaffarczyk has commented, acknowledging that the renovations may cost \$150,000. Grants may be sought after by Union City staff, and volunteers and local historians may be asked to work on preserving the remaining historical artifacts.

## **Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count - December 20**

The 16th Annual Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count will be held on Friday, December 20th. To participate, send an email to **[eac.cbc@gmail.com](mailto:eac.cbc@gmail.com)**.

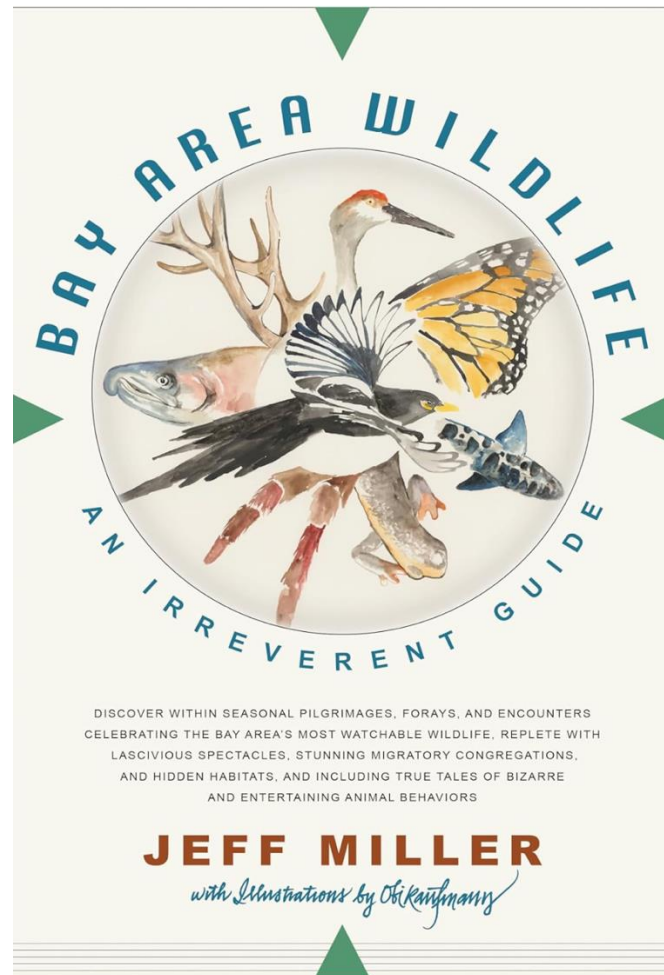
## More Good News - Biological Restoration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries program has granted 4.3 million dollars to remove the last fish barrier from Alameda Creek. This project, completing the 22-year Sunol Valley Fish Passage work, is the last of 16 fish passages needed to allow the Steelhead and Chinook Salmon to make their way up the creek for spawning. There were many partners in the work including Alameda Creek Alliance (see Jeff Miller's new book!)

ACWD, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Francisco Public Utilities Zone 7 Water District, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Whoo, can you memorize all that?

CalTrout, a non-profit, is overseeing and coordinating partners since July of 2023. Alameda Creek runs 52 miles till it reaches the bay and the anadromous fish will be able to travel from salt to fresh water, and as Jeff Miller has said – “salmon and steelhead, even though they live in the creek, are tied to everything that happens in the entire watershed because anything that happens in urban development like roads or pollution that comes in the creek or land management upstream is all eventually going to impact the stream and fish habitat.” When steelhead trout were listed as an endangered species in the 90's Miller formed the ACA to help push public agencies into saving the creek habitat. He has recently

published a book now available on Amazon.



**Learn about the wildlife of the Bay Area from a lifelong protector of endangered species, and enjoy the wild ride. 384 pages**

Jeff Miller's quirky guide to the coolest animal neighbors in the Bay Area will have you gawking at elk, whooping with cranes, and crowning yourself a crossing guard for newts before you know it. Join Jeff on a local safari to meet more than sixty species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, and discover the fascinating and sometimes bizarre mating, feeding, and athletic antics of our most charismatic animals.

## Time to Donate – TCEC is doing its share

TCEC annual donations 2024 –

-recorded by **janis stob, Friday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 9:01 AM**

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas! We had fun last night getting together in person! And we came up with what we will be donating this year as our gifts!

1. Alameda Creek alliance \$450.
2. Bay Area Ridge Trail, \$100.
3. California Oak Foundation \$100 and as I'm typing this I am wondering if they actually ever cash the check last year so Beth that's a question for you :-)
4. Citizens committee to save the refuge \$800.
5. Ohlone audubon at Shin Park \$200.
6. Bay keepers \$100.
7. OHS wildlife rehab center \$500 with a clear note that this is intended for their rent.
8. Museum of local history/Fremont \$200.  
(Also setting aside \$400 for the startup of the Union City Museum revamp)
9. LEAF \$350
10. Pat is going to buy books for all the libraries in the Tri-City allocating \$300.

(These are Jeff of the Alameda Creek alliance brand new books on

the wildlife gorgeous book)

11. CORE(California Orchard restoration experiment.) \$500

This is the Orchard restoration for the historic nursery/Orchard in

Niles brought to us by Phil Stob, Janet Barton, Rich Godfrey

We rounded to get to \$4000 spent !!! All of these are deserving recipients and there is lots of excitement for 2025!

## Interview with Santa – updated 2024



TCEC - Hello Santa, we're back to ask a few more ecologic questions if its ok?

Santa – I'm ready to give. Ask away.

TCEC – Well word is out that the North Pole is still melting, how do you feel about that.



Santa – Nothing new. The ice is melting at around 13% per decade so the norwhales, walrus, and polar bears are in trouble, to say the least. Not a good thing. The artic sea ice may be gone by 2927, so don't expect many presents if I'm in ice water.

TCEC – Ouch! What can you do to help this situation by Christmas time? Do you have some solutions?

Santa – Like I told you last year, my reindeer don't emit any gases. How about you in the Tri City area? Have you done anything?

TCEC – you mean like electric cars, or heat pumps or hot water heaters? Can you make those presents?

Santa – Ha ha, ho ho. If you like Christmas then you should read to the end of the newsletter to see how an eco-Christmas works!

TCEC – Thanks Santa, stay warm, I mean cold. There's always hope if we act.

Santa – Right, just make a donation to TCEC! Ho ho ho!

## A Sustainable Holiday Guide – From StopWaste.org

From discarded wrapping paper, retired e-waste, and uneaten leftovers, the holidays come with a lot of waste—from Thanksgiving to New Year's, Americans produce 25 percent more waste! With some planning and intention, we can reduce our carbon footprint while still experiencing the joy of coming together with family and friends. Here's a guide to celebrate, give back, and stay green this season.



### When Cooking and Eating

- **Buy only what you need.** Plan your shopping trips and avoid wasted food. Use this [Guest-Imator tool](#) to adjust your ingredients and portions accordingly.

- **Send guests home with leftovers.** Everyone appreciates having the next day's meal ready to go, and it ensures all that delicious food gets eaten! Have guest bring empty containers, or reuse empty food containers you've saved and cleaned.
- **Compost your food scraps.** Keep a small tub near your cutting board to collect vegetable trimmings, then easily dump into your curbside compost bin. Go one step further and save those onion peels, carrot skins, and celery tops in the freezer for a delicious veggie stock.



### When Giving

- **Try second-hand first.** Shopping at vintage or thrift stores, or your local buy-nothing group, not only saves money, but keeps stuff out of the landfill.

- **Shop at local stores.** Shop local and support businesses that focus on sustainable, lasting goods, when possible. Try to avoid buying online which creates additional packaging and transportation waste.
- **Give experiences.** Gift tickets to a museum, gift cards to a local restaurant, or make home-cooked meals, baked goods, or [home-made treats](#) to share with neighbors, family, and friends.
- **Give back.** Along with reducing own own wasted food over the holidays, there are also many ways to support essential local food organizations that help nourish our communities throughout the year. [Here is a list of local organizations to get started.](#)

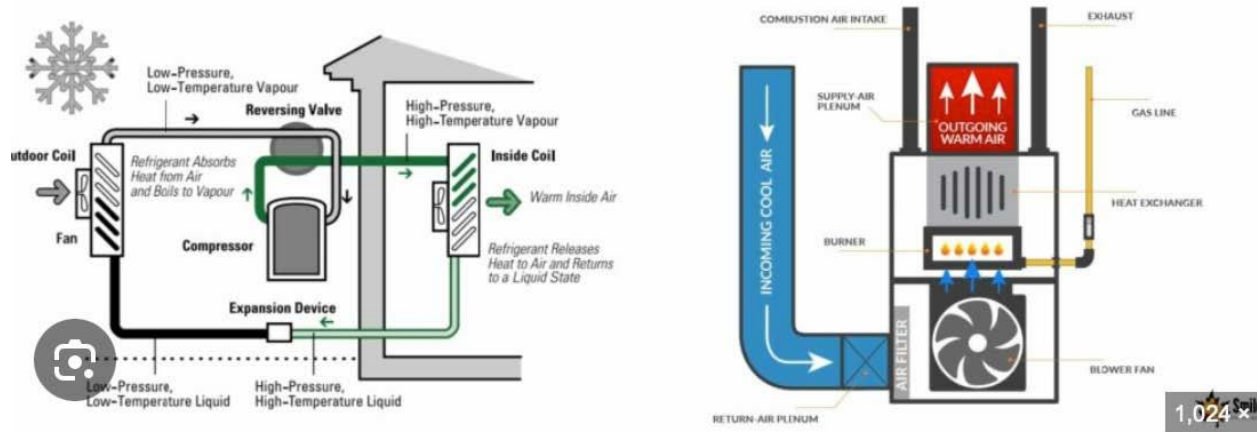


## When Wrapping

- **Skip the store bought wrapping paper.** Get crafty with repurposed materials you may have around the house. Paper bags, newspaper, and fabric make [beautiful options](#).
- **Repurpose extra jars and containers.** If you're giving the gift of homemade goodies this year, [repurposed glass jars and containers](#) work wonderfully.

It's Time to Electrify Your Home, Rebates are Here

# HEAT PUMP VS FURNACE



Do you have an old gas furnace or gas water heater you have been thinking about replacing? Now is the time to re-think your options for air heating/cooling and water heating your home. It's time to go electric! By upgrading our homes and buildings to electric and making them more energy efficient, we can save money and eliminate a major source of carbon and indoor air pollution. Did you know that households would save \$1,800 per year on average by going fully electric, that burning fossil fuels indoor is a major source of health problems like childhood asthma and fossil fuel burning in buildings is a major source of climate pollution?

The Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law in August 2022 and tax incentives and rebates for California households are available now. You can get tax credits up to \$2,000/year for heat pump space & water heaters and now rebates are available.

If you want to replace your gas furnace, now, you can get rebates of up to \$8,000 per unit (80% Area Median Income) or \$4,000 per unit (80-150% Area Median Income) for a new Air (HVAC) Heat Pump. In addition, TECH Clean California will give you an additional \$1,500 on top of the other rebate. If you want to replace your water heater, you can get a rebate of \$1,100 per unit for a Heat Pump Water Heater. The Inflation Reduction Act offers other incentives to electrify, such as, induction stoves, other electric appliances, rooftop solar, electric vehicles, etc.

What is a Heat Pump? HVAC Heat pumps use electricity to move heat from one place to another to cool & warm buildings, so they replace both your old gas furnace and your air conditioner! They are 3–5x more efficient than most current fossil fuel heating systems. It's easier to move heat around than to generate it.

If you want to save money, stay healthy and help the environment, go to THE SWITCH IS ON, [switchison.org](https://www.switchison.org) to find your savings and qualified contractors. To learn more about the Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs, go to <https://www.energy.ca.gov/>.

# BECOME A MEMBER

## WANT TO JOIN TCEC?

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To know more about TCEC please visit our website at <http://www.tricityecology.org> Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom due to Covid-1. Please call to verify. If you wish to speak on a subject, please call 510.793.6222 or 510.790.1685. If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please fill out [THIS](#) form.

## TRI CITY ECOLOGY BOARD

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*Special for TCEC Members -  
Compostables*

**7" plate - was \$3.70 - now \$3.20 10" plate - now \$5.16**

**11.5 oz bowl - was \$2.70 - now \$2.95 8oz no tree hot cup - now \$3.45**

**9" cold cup - now \$3.84**

**10 oz cold cup - \$6.25**

**16 oz cold cup - now \$5.98 Teaspoon, fork or knife - now \$1.60 3**

**gal kitchen pail bag - now \$2.85 and 13 gal kitchen pail bag - \$3.15**

Orders May be picked up at 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, on Thursdays between 11 AM – 2 PM, or by special arrangement. When purchasing please fill out an order form and pay by cash or check. Sorry, we don't have change. This benefit is for TCEC members only. Questions? Please text Bill Palleschi at 510 396 6694 or email him at [Billpalleschi@gmail.com](mailto:Billpalleschi@gmail.com), and please cc: Caroline Harris at [caroline.harris@earthlink.net](mailto:caroline.harris@earthlink.net)