

You Can't Spell Sustainability Without Albany: A Monthly Column  
April Topic: Earth Month

What better time to kick off this monthly Albany Patch column on sustainability than April – Earth Month! Spring is here, and we hope you will celebrate Earth Month by planting a bay-friendly garden or trees. You can do that where you live, or by volunteering with the city's arborist, Tony Wolcott.

According to Arbor Day Foundation, trees can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. With our mild and sunny climate, trees can also bear a variety of delicious fresh fruit. Planting a native garden can provide a beautiful, low-maintenance yard that requires little water. The [Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening](#) website has extensive resources on what to plant, where to plant, and when; information about composting; how to “lose your lawn” and other helpful hints.

To get a hands-on horticultural experience, please join Albany's master Arborist, Tony Wolcott, and learn about plants, weeds, pruning and trees as you help keep Albany's parks, medians and other landscaped areas looking tidy. The next event is May 7 from 9:00 – 1:00 at Memorial Park. For more information, contact Chelle Putzer at (510) 559-7218 or [cputzer@albanyca.org](mailto:cputzer@albanyca.org).

April has two major environmental celebrations – Earth Day (April 22nd) and Arbor Day (April 29th). To celebrate Earth Day, Albany is featuring a shoreline cleanup event on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 – noon. Meet at the foot of Buchanan Street - for more information: [Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup 2011](#). There are also Earth Day celebrations in Berkeley and El Cerrito on Saturday April 24. Finally, be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday May 2 – [Albany's Arts & Green Festival](#). This annual event will be held at Memorial Park from 11:00 – 3:00 and features live music, art activities, booths where artists will be displaying and selling their works, and vendors that will share information about activities of local environmental and green action groups, workshops, and all the things you can do to make Albany an even greener city. We hope to see you there!

April Event Resources:

- Arbor Day's Tree City USA (<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm> )
- Earth Day - <http://www.earthday.org/>

*Dan Lieberman's monthly column for Albany Patch intends to provide information and resources for local residents and businesses to reduce their negative impact on the environment in a cost-effective manner.*