

Radicle

WHY RADICLE?

The radicle is the first part of a seed to emerge when it is germinated; it is the vanguard of a small unit that promises an expansive system of roots. We find this a fitting metaphor for the work we're doing in Eco Vista; what began as a dream in the minds of a few has spread into a growing system of people forming the new foundation for our community.



Current Projects

ECO VISTA POWERED BY THE SUN

We are working to make it easier for renters in Isla Vista to get solar panels on their property. Initially, we are going to create a piece of literature that will outline how to get a property assessment to determine the suitability of solar panels, recommendations on the best solar panel outfitter, an explanation of the installation process, how the solar panels will be managed and how Isla Vista renters can obtain funding for the process. Our end goal is to create an Eco Vista 100% reliant on clean, affordable, locally produced renewable energy in order to lower the communities carbon footprint and increase our communities resilience.

GUERRILLA COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives are organisations controlled by their members. The Guerilla Cooperative project aims to create an Eco Vista enriched with the spirit of cooperation: a commitment to creating a democratic society in which the community have control over the organisations which provide their needs. Housing and local businesses will be modelled after the housing and food cooperative model which already exist as vibrant community hubs in Isla Vista, and these will work to provide a healthy, affordable and community rich living environment in Eco Vista. Eventually there will be a diversity of cooperatives founded within Eco Vista, including credit unions, tool libraries and an energy cooperative providing affordable and locally produced renewable electricity.

FOSTERING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ECO VISTA

Our end goal is to foster a circular economy within Eco Vista in order to reduce waste as well as increase access to essential items and services for every member of our community. Firstly, we are working to set-up a Free & For Share Facebook page to allow the same convenience and efficiency of the Free & For Sale page, only instead of selling items, it would be for sharing, borrowing and/or trading them. It would also be a platform for sharing skills and community events. This would remove the value of an economy based off of the dollar and shift it to one based off of collaboration within our community. We are working to organize the collection and storage of the the huge amount of furniture and appliances wasted each summer in Isla Vista. These will then be redistributed via setting up a free thrift store in order to provide all community members access to essential household items and school supplies they might otherwise struggle to afford.

FARMER'S MARKET

We are working to bring a farmer's market to Eco Vista, with an end goal of creating a space for community members to come together and enjoy the sun, sell craft items, and connect with each other and the source of their food. We hope to create a deeper culture of community through this market whilst combating food insecurity and reducing the carbon footprint of Eco Vista residences.



Skill Share

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN COMPOST BIN WITH LESS THAN \$20

THE MOST COMMON EXCUSES PEOPLE GIVE AS TO WHY THEY WON'T START COMPOSTING IS IT'S HARD, TIME INTENSIVE, AND EXPENSIVE, BUT ALL OF THESE DON'T HAVE TO BE TRUE IF YOU STICK TO A SIMPLE VERMICOMPOST BIN. "WHAT'S VERMICOMPOST?", YOU MAY ASK. WELL, IT'S SIMPLE, IT'S COMPOSTING WITH WORMS. HERE'S HOW TO DO IT!

SUPPLIES:

- + 2 BINS OF ANY SIZE (THINK OF SIMPLE, PLASTIC STORAGE BINS) AND 1 LID THAT FITS
- + SOMETHING TO POKE HOLES IN THE TOP BIN (SCREWDRIVER, DRILL, ETC., BE CREATIVE!)
- + 2 WOOD BLOCKS OR BRICKS LARGE ENOUGH TO PROP ONE BIN ON TOP OF THE OTHER BY A COUPLE OF INCHES
- + RED WIGGLER WORMS (I SUGGEST YOU GET THEM FROM ISLAND SEED AND FEED IN GOLETA)
- + CARBON AND NITROGEN SOURCES

HOW TO:

1. POKE AROUND 12-15 HOLES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST BIN AND IN THE LID NO BIGGER THAN A PENCIL ERASER.
2. PLACE YOUR BLOCKS EVENLY SPACED IN THE BOTTOM BIN, THEN PLACE THE ONE WITH HOLES ON TOP.
3. TO START PUT A NICE LAYER OF THE NITROGEN SOURCE (FOOD) AND OF A CARBON SOURCE (PAPER OR LEAVES)
4. ADD YOUR WIGGLY WORMS!

TIPS:

- + CARBON SOURCES: SHREDDED NEWSPAPER OR ANY OTHER PAPER (NOT MAGAZINES) OR LEAVES (NOT EUCALYPTUS)
- + NITROGEN SOURCES: FOOD SCRAPS! A GREAT RULE OF THUMB IS IF YOU WOULD TOUCH THE FRUIT OR VEGGIE UP TO YOUR EYE AND IT WOULD BURN, THEN IT WOULD BURN THE WORMIES (I.E. ONIONS, PEPPERS, CITRUS, ETC.)
- + ALSO: ABSOLUTELY NO ANIMAL PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND EXCEPT EGG SHELLS AND NO COOKED FOOD.



EARTH DAY

This past Saturday the community of Isla Vista celebrated Earth Day. Coming together to communicate, share and create, Anisq'Oyo park came alive with the steely determination to protect our earth. Students and community members alike gathered to share in live music, tie-dyeing, a pop-up thrift shop hosted by the environmental affairs board, free food, succulent plating and DIY-beauty supply making. A testament to how the global climate movement is growing, the event was a nucleus for campus and off-campus environmental organizations to table and share their resources. Though the days celebrations have now come to an end, the stand of alliance speaks to the potential this community has for the permanent and manifest structural change that Eco-vista envisions for the future. A time when Earth Day is no stand-alone event but, rather, our everyday.

Other News

CO-OP SOLAR

Local energy production is a fundamental aspect of creating a circular, sustainable economy. RE-volv is a nonprofit organization that helps local communities complete this goal, and they are working with the Merton co-op house to install an 11.5 kw solar system through crowd-funding. You can find out more here at <https://re-volv.org/project/housingcoop/>

ENVIRONMENTALISM SURVEY

We want to know just how knowledgeable and active in environmentalism you are! Take this survey and let us know:
<https://tinyurl.com/y65uk9ya>

GET INVOLVED!

To find out more about Radicle or Eco Vista, visit our website at ecovistacommunity.com

or come to our next general meeting on May 14th at 5PM at Little Acorn Park!

