



SIERRA CLUB

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Earth Day Fresno 2026: A Remarkable Success

by Gary Lasky

Earth Day Fresno 2026 returned to Fresno City College on April 18 with several new features, including a Green Home & Garden Show, an Anthropocene art exhibit, and a do-it-yourself (DIY) zone. This year's 17th consecutive annual event was **the biggest and most comprehensive ever**, with nearly 2,000 Central Valley residents coming together to enjoy a free, family-friendly celebration of sustainability, education, creativity and community action.

Earth Day Fresno is co-sponsored by the **Environmental Collaborative of Central California** (Radley Reep, Chair), and the **Fresno City College Math, Science & Engineering Division**. Nearly 75 visited our Sierra Club table staffed by Ken Wall, Brenda Markham, Bob Turner, and Sanjiv Kapoor. Many were unaware that our Club, with 450,000 members, was founded in 1892 by Sierra legend John Muir, and is **the oldest and largest environmental organization in the nation**.

More than 70 exhibitors included eco-friendly, energy efficient, and sustainable vendors, including merchants selling products that are **good for the environment and raise environmental awareness**. Homeowners were able to ask questions of experts on recycling, solar energy, window upgrades, sustainable flooring, energy efficient kitchen appliances, and cheaper alternatives for residential cooling and heating.

The event included Fresno's first-ever **Green Home & Garden Show** highlighted practical, money-saving solutions for home energy efficiency and eco-friendly home improvements. Attendees met with experts and businesses offering real tools for greener living. For the **home gardener**, experts were present to answer questions on sustainable landscaping, ornamental gardening, tree selection, soil amendments, water conservation, and beekeeping.

For the first time, this year's celebration teamed up with the Fresno arts community and included an **"Anthropocene art show,"** in which Central

Valley artists reflected on ways humanity has become a force of nature, driving climate change at a rate unprecedented since 65 million years ago. The art show was organized and curated by the Cultural Arts Rotary Club of Fresno together with the Corridor 2122 Art Gallery. One artist produced 3-D paper Monarch butterflies perched on real leaves; another created a tree from recyclable balloons.

Also new this year was a do-it-yourself **"DIY Zone"** where children and adults designed handmade, self-published "zines" (mini-magazines). They also constructed kites from recycled materials, reusable bags from old t-shirts, and works of art with cardboard boxes, scraps, and their imaginations. Also, a sewing expert provided information on sewing machines, upcycling, altering clothing and the hidden cost of synthetic fabrics.

At our Sierra Club table, folks picked up a free steel mug with a carabiner handle, and kids received a coloring book. They could see how a tent is set up and a backpack is packed, and tried (unsuccessfully!) to open a bear canister, a cylindrical device used to safely store food from bears that roam National Park campsites.

Event goers were also treated to a presentation by Carson DeBlieck of the Sierra Resource Conservation District, **"Growing Habitat at Home,"** highlighting the importance of a healthy ecosystem for homeowners, habitat design, pond creation, the value of native plants, seed collection, composting, and not-so-scary insects.

Also shown was the acclaimed film **"Thin Ice,"** which explored the frontlines of climate science and highlights human responsibility for global warming. The film offers an insider's view, interviewing researchers working in the Arctic, Antarctic and around the world to explain complex climate data.

Festival goers thinking of purchasing an electric vehicle were given an opportunity to **test drive a range of EVs** with the help of the Central California Asthma Collaborative. Also on display were EVs provided through the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce's Clean Shared Mobility Network, which operates a fleet of electric vehicles and e-bicycles for underserved



residents in rural areas. A big hit was the all-electric garbage collection truck showcased by Republic Services.

The Central Valley's **nonprofit sector** was well represented by organizations that diligently work to protect and enhance our lives. Fifty different local nonprofits and agencies participated, including the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, City of Fresno Parks and Recreation (PARCS) Department, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Twenty-five vendors offered green products and services, including Solar Negotiators, VRR Flooring, and Uplift Balloon Events.

Earth Day Fresno is **designed to inspire practical action while celebrating the creativity and leadership already happening in Central California**. From renewable energy providers and water conservation experts to environmental advocates and artists, this year's event connected community and environment. Plans are already underway to return the April 17, 2027 event to Fresno City College.



A Tale of Two Mountains: The Amazing Geologic Story of Table Mountain and Little Table Mountain

Join us for our last General Meeting before summer hiatus. Our speaker for the month of May is **Craig Poole**, Emeritus Faculty Member in Geology from Fresno City College. Craig will join us on **Tuesday, May 5, at 7 PM at the Woodward Park Regional Library** (944 E Perrin Ave, Fresno) to present a virtual field trip to Sierra Foothill Conservancy's McKenzie Table Mountain preserve in Fresno County.



We will learn what an amazing geologic story can be deduced from reading the rocks and landscapes. In addition, we will see how Little Table Mountain in Madera County has a much different geologic history. The foothills reveal many important clues to the uplift of the Sierra Nevada. And after this presentation, if you are so inspired, you may decide to go on one of Craig's actual guided hikes on Sierra Foothill Conservancy lands next season. The talk is open to the general public.