

# City of Cotati Climate and Sustainability Newsletter

## September 2024

### Housing Fair – Sept. 14th

The City of Cotati is partnering with the City of Rohnert Park and the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library to host a housing fair on **September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-1 PM**. The Housing Fair will be located at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library and is open to the public! The fair will include tables with community-based organizations and affordable housing providers, a food truck, a tenant/landlord rights workshop led by Legal Aid of Sonoma County and Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California, and fun activities for kids and families. Check out the Facebook event [at this link](#) for more information.

### Your Energy Efficient Home Workshop – October 12th

The Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) has partnered with the County of Sonoma to create the Your Energy Efficient and Resilient Home workshop. This workshop educates Sonoma County residents about home repairs and upgrades that will improve your home’s energy efficiency and reduce your energy bill. The presentation will include information on home improvement projects, an induction cooktop demonstration, rebates, and project financing opportunities. Join us in the Stony Point Classroom at 216 E School St (next to Cotati City Hall) on **October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-12 PM** for this exciting opportunity. Light refreshments and giveaways will be available! Register for the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/your-energy-efficient-and-resilient-home-cotati-tickets-1007924247557?aff=erelexpmlt>. Registration is encouraged but not required.

### Bike Share Pilot Program

Cotati has teamed up with Sonoma and Marin transportation agencies, cities, and towns from Santa Rosa to Larkspur to **bring the Redwood Bikeshare program to communities located along the SMART train line**. The e-bikes will be for public use and are there to encourage SMART ridership, healthy lifestyles, clean air, and alternatives to automobiles. Take a ride when the bikes arrive! **In Cotati you’ll find the bikes at the SMART Station, next to the Jaded Toad, and downtown**. Remember that e-bikes can be faster than conventional bicycles, so please obey all traffic laws, including riding in the same direction as traffic on roadways for everyone’s safety. We will continue to update the community as the e-bikes arrive.

## Focus on Housing

The City of Cotati recently adopted new residential development standards in its Land Use Code that will facilitate the creation of different housing types and more affordable housing. Some of these new standards are meant to promote the development of “**plex housing**,” which is a building or multiple buildings on a single property with 2 to 9 dwelling units total, including duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, courtyard housing, townhouses, and other smaller-scale types of multifamily housing. Plex housing can be more affordable than larger single-family homes and is particularly suited to smaller-sized infill properties in Cotati. The building and site design standards for plex housing are intended to create pedestrian-scale buildings with “eyes on the street,” which can promote more walkable and bikeable neighborhoods.

Other new standards are intended to facilitate housing development in general in Cotati, including reduced minimum lot sizes and widths, setbacks, and parking requirements. Some of the standards, including dwelling unit size maximums, are specifically intended to create smaller-sizes housing units, which may be more affordable to a range of income levels. Finally, the City also adopted **Objective Design Standards (ODS)** for all types of housing—multifamily of 10 units or more, plex housing, and single-family homes. The purpose of the ODS is to provide clear, specific, objective standards for all housing development, which can help simplify the permitting process, ensure that all projects are evaluated by the same standards, and reinforce Cotati’s unique character.

The new housing development standards will go into effect on September 26. For more information, please contact Autumn Buss, Associate Planner, at 707-238-5276 or [abuss@cotaticity.org](mailto:abuss@cotaticity.org).

## Recology Audits on Waste

Since 2022, Recology has been conducting audits on waste receptacles to ensure everyone is placing trash, recycling, and compost in the correct bins. Placing compostables and recyclables in the proper bins prevents excess materials from entering landfills and repurposes items that would otherwise go to waste. Recology audits both residential and commercial waste receptacles and may notify property owners that are not properly disposing of their waste. Want to learn what is supposed to go in your compost and recycling bins? Visit [Recology’s Sorting Guides & Resources](#) webpage for this information and more!