

# GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO **SPRING 2018**

## WASTE SORTING 101

Are you recycling right? Recycling has many benefits and is good for the environment, but people often place items in the recycle container that don't belong—with the hope that somehow, the item will end up getting recycled. These misplaced items present processing problems at the recycling facility, and can lead to an entire load of recyclable materials being landfilled. Review the following guide so that you can recycle (and compost) right!



**Napkins & Paper Towels:** Place paper towels and napkins in your green compost cart. Paper towels are not recyclable for two main reasons: (1) they contain paper fibers that are too short to recycle again effectively and (2) they are usually soiled with food, liquid, or grease.



**Styrofoam:** Expanded Polystyrene, also known by its brand name Styrofoam, is not recyclable, despite having a numbered plastic symbol. Be sure to avoid Styrofoam when possible, and place any you have in your black garbage cart.



**Pizza Boxes:** Place pizza boxes in your green compost cart. Pizza grease and cheese saturate the cardboard, rendering it non-recyclable.



**Plastic Utensils and Straws:** Place plastic utensils and straws in your black garbage cart. Plastic utensils and straws are not recyclable because their small size prevents recycling machinery from properly sorting them. Remember to opt for reusable utensils whenever possible!



**Paper Milk Cartons:** Place paper milk cartons in your green compost cart. Paper milk cartons fall under the category of soiled paper and are not recyclable.

## GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS

### REFUEL YOUR FUN:

From April to June, bring your empty, disposable 1-pound propane cylinder and voucher to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station during station hours and receive a free refillable 1-pound cylinder. Look for the voucher in your April bill insert. Please have your voucher filled out before you arrive to exchange your cylinder to ensure a smooth process.

First Friday of the month 3pm – 5pm  
Every Saturday 9am – 11am  
2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto

## UPCOMING EVENTS

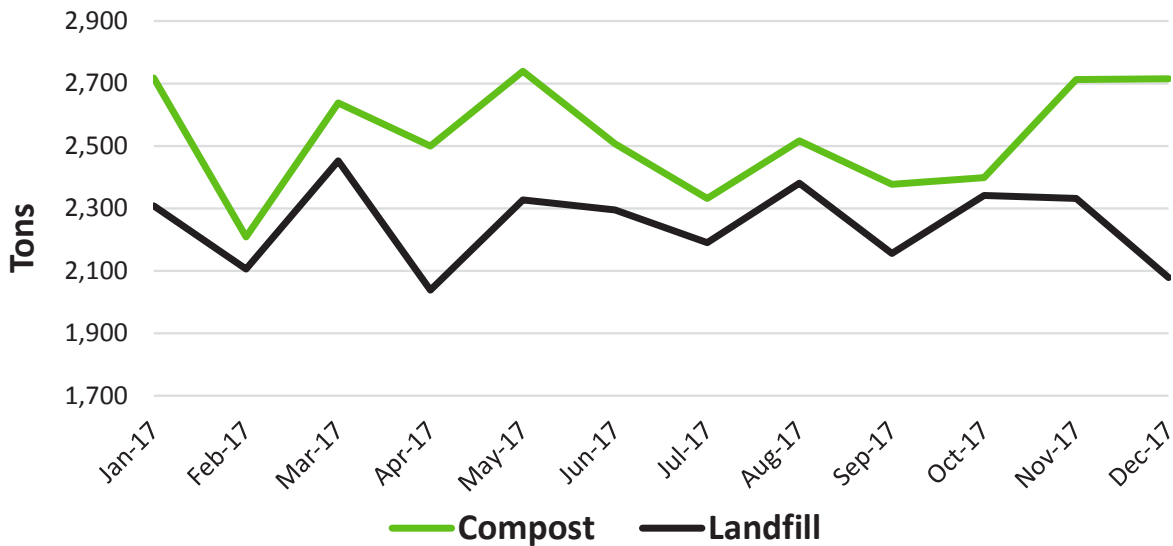
- **DOCUMENT SHREDDING**  
Saturday, July 14th, 8am-12pm  
SMaRT Station  
301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale
- **COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS:**  
Saturday April 14, 9:30am-11:30am  
Saturday April 21, 10am-12pm  
\*Registration is required due to space limitations:  
Online at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/compost](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/compost)  
or call (408) 918-4640
- **REPAIR CAFE:**  
Sunday, May 12, 11am-3pm  
Museum of American Heritage  
351 Homer Ave, Palo Alto
- **WORM WORKSHOP**  
Saturday, July 21, 10am-12pm  
Cubberley Community Center, Room H-1  
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

# COMPOSTING BY THE TONS IN PALO ALTO

As of this past January, Palo Alto's Recycling and Composting Ordinance is fully enforceable. That means all commercial customers within the city are required to subscribe to compost and recycle service and to sort correctly. The Ordinance was enacted to help Palo Alto reach it's goal of 90% diversion by 2021, while complying with state recycling and composting mandates.

In 2017 alone, Palo Alto diverted 30,160 tons of food scraps, soiled paper, and yard trimmings from the landfill. That's an increase of almost 1,800 tons from 2016 and roughly 40% of Palo Alto's total waste stream! These compostable materials are turned into finished compost and renewable energy at the ZWED anaerobic digestion facility in San Jose.

## compost and landfill tonnage collected from palo alto

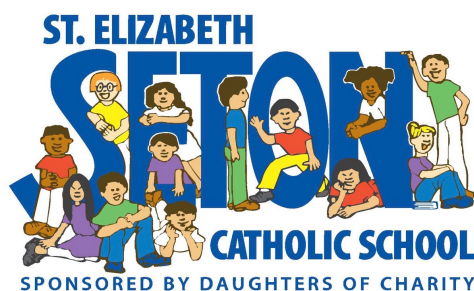


## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT ST. ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL

Saint Elizabeth Seton School, located at 1095 Channing Avenue, has been hard at work implementing Zero Waste best management practices around campus, among staff and students alike.

GreenWaste Environmental Outreach Coordinators teamed up with the school's facilities manager to set up waste stations in lunch areas and classrooms. Because of these changes, the school has increased their diversion rate, or amount of material recycled or composted and therefore diverted from the landfilled, from 67% to 87%. On top of this, these Zero Waste efforts have also resulted in the school saving money on their service fees!

Thank you, Saint Elizabeth Seton School, for leading the way and giving students every opportunity to sort correctly.



## EARTH DAY GAMBLE GARDEN EVENT

Join us for a compost workshop & second annual compost giveaway!

WHEN:

- Saturday, April 14th, 9:30am - 11:30am

WHERE:

- Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St.

WHAT:

- Compost basics workshop
- Compost giveaway
- GreenWaste information table

grub  
to  
gardens

Register!  
visit  
[gamblegarden.org](http://gamblegarden.org)  
or call  
(650) 329-1356