

# GreenWays

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

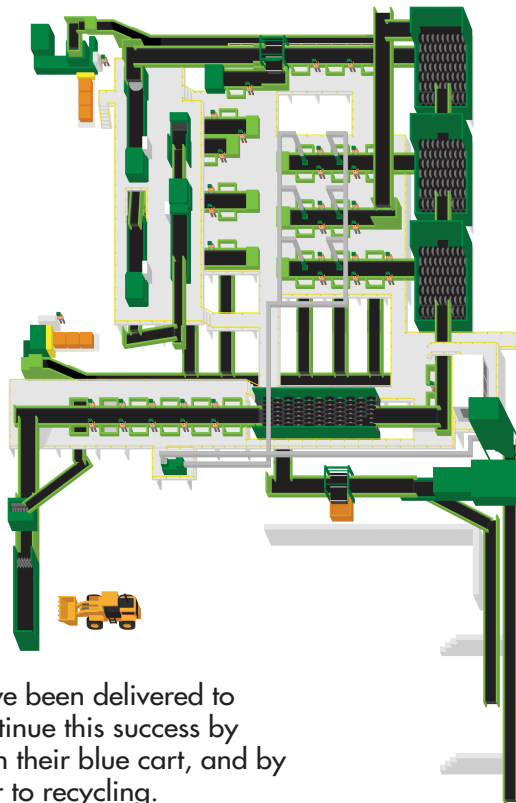
## THE GREENWASTE MRF: A LOOK INSIDE

Have you ever wondered where your recyclables are taken after they are collected? A Materials Recovery Facility, or MRF, is the first stop on the long journey recyclables take. The GreenWaste MRF, which processes all of Palo Alto's recyclables, is located in San Jose.

Collection vehicles empty their truckload of recyclables on the MRF tip-floor where a tractor scoops up the material and loads it onto a conveyor belt. Along this conveyor belt, workers remove bulky items, bagged film plastic and contaminants before the material enters specialized sorting machines. Using a combination of magnets, gravity, infrared lasers, air pressure and spinning discs, these machines sort recyclables by material type or "commodity". Workers act as quality control, removing any contaminants like expanded polystyrene or food.

After sorting, each commodity is stored in a separate bunker and baled. Forklifts load the baled material onto outbound trucks destined for manufacturers where the material will be used to make new metal cans, paper towels, plastic gardening tools and more.

Since the GreenWaste MRF began operation, the facility has been able to successfully recover up to 98% of the materials that have been delivered to it. Palo Alto residents can help continue this success by placing only recyclable materials in their blue cart, and by removing all food and liquids prior to recycling.



## GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS

- **REGULAR COLLECTION SERVICE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY:**  
GreenWaste of Palo Alto drivers will be hard at work on the Fourth of July. Remember to set out your waste containers by 6 am on your regular service day.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
Follow @GreenWastePA on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook for collection updates, recycling tips and a look inside the processing facilities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **DOCUMENT SHREDDING**  
Saturday, July 14, 8am-12pm  
SMaRT Station  
301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale
- **COMPOSTING WORKSHOP:**  
Saturday August 4, 10am-12pm  
Cubberley Community Center, Room H-1  
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto  
\*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, August 19, 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

# GREASY, GRIMY, GOOEY PAPER

**Greasy, grimy, gooey paper is GOOD for your green cart!**

Any paper that comes in contact with dirt, grime, spills, and greasy or gooey food is compostable and should be placed in the COMPOST cart.

This gooey, grimy paper is referred to as "soiled paper" and is a result of any number of everyday activities, such as cooking and eating at home, take-out meals in paper containers, and cleaning with paper towels.

Common soiled paper items include:

- » Paper trays, liners & pizza boxes greasy from food.
- » Napkins, paper towels or paper plates gooey from sauces, melted ice cream, syrup, etc.
- » Paper takeout containers with food remnants.
- » Greasy, gooey napkins used during meals.
- » Paper towels from cleaning grimy ovens, stovetops, windows and counters.

**GREASY  
GRIMY  
GOOEY**  
**PAPER IS GOOD  
for your  
GREEN CART!**



Find additional information, resources and videos at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/soiledpaper](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/soiledpaper) or call (650) 496-5910.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: PIAZZA'S FINE FOODS

**GreenWaste staff has been working with Piazza's Fine Foods to reduce and sort waste!**

In April, GreenWaste entered a comprehensive auditing process with Piazza's as part of the City's Recycling and Composting Ordinance. This process included training all employees on how to properly sort waste, and setting up the color-coded and labeled internal containers. Piazza's is now composting and recycling 80% of their waste, all while saving money on their service costs.

Piazza's has also been working with Second Harvest Food Bank to donate edible food. Since January 2015, Piazza's has donated 77,926 pounds of food. Donations are distributed to people in need at shelters, food pantries, residential programs and more. Thank you, Piazza's Fine Foods, for your community and environmental stewardship efforts!



## GREEN SCHOOLS ZERO WASTE CHAMPIONS

**Zero Waste Champions are on-site Zero Waste experts at PAUSD schools.**

Fourteen PAUSD schools and the District Office have adopted the Zero Waste Champion Program since fall of 2015. Zero Waste Champions are tasked with implementing and promoting Zero Waste at their school, including outreach and special projects.

Zero Waste Champions receive support from GreenWaste of Palo Alto and City staff to help each school facility meet its Zero Waste goals. Over the past year, Zero Waste Champions have reduced the total waste sent to landfill by 80 cubic yards per month.

