

# GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO WINTER 2018

## ARE YOU RECYCLE READY?

New recycling standards mean that the way we recycle is changing. The market is requiring high-quality materials. Paper needs to be clean and dry. Bottles and containers need to be empty of food and liquid. Only then are they in good enough condition to be recycled into new materials. The rest are sent to landfill. Make sure your blue cart is "Recycle-Ready:"



Together we can make Palo Alto Recycle Ready!

Please follow these guidelines to ensure your materials are recycled:

- » Put only accepted items into your blue cart
- » Empty all cans, bottles, and containers
  - » Pour out liquids
  - » Scrape out foods
  - » Wipe out oily, sticky residue
- » Put only clean, dry paper in the recycling cart. Greasy, gooey, and grimy paper goes in the compost cart.

If you are unsure about what goes where, visit [cityofpaloalto.org/wgwtools](http://cityofpaloalto.org/wgwtools) or contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service.

## GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS

- **COMPOST CHRISTMAS TREES:**  
For the four weeks following Christmas day, Christmas trees will be collected curbside. Trees must be undecorated, unflocked, cut to four-foot lengths with stands removed, and placed curbside next to your green compost cart.
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Gelataio, Kirk's Steakburgers, New York Pizza, Palo Alto Baking Co., and Sprout Café for completing the ReThink Disposable certification process! Other businesses on their way to certification include The Counter, The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, and Teaspoon Café. These businesses were recognized by the City of Palo Alto and mayor Liz Kniss for their commitment to waste reduction and environmental stewardship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) Drop Off:**  
Every Saturday 9am-11pm  
First Friday of each month 3pm-5pm  
2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto
- **HHW HOLIDAY CLOSURES:**
  - » December 22, 2018 for Christmas
  - » December 29, 2018 for New Year's Eve
- **REPAIR CAFE**  
Sunday, January 27, 11am-3pm  
Museum of American Heritage  
351 Homer Ave, Palo Alto

# ZERO WASTE HOLIDAY SEASON

## 'Tis the season for giving, not the season for wasting!

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), during the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, American household waste increases by 25%!

In the spirit of the holidays, we often buy more this time of year, and while our intentions are good, this can result in a lot of extra waste that ends up being landfilled.

If you are ordering your gifts from an online retailer, consider the amount of packaging that is required for shipping. Some retailers like Amazon offer "frustration free" packaging on certain products, which reduces the amount of packaging used, and ensures each component is recyclable.

If purchasing gifts in a store, you can look for retailers that offer package free products.

## Additional Waste Reduction Tips:

- » The EPA estimates 1 million tons of wrapping paper end up in the landfill each year! Look for wrapping paper made of recycled content, or better yet, forgo it for newspaper, paper bags, or scarves.
- » Opt for homemade gifts, or give experiences instead of material objects. Examples include: classes, museum passes or concert tickets. For more waste-free gift ideas, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwholiday](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwholiday)
- » Air pillows and bubble wrap can be recycled. Remove the air from the air pillows, bag with other film plastics, and place in your blue recycle cart.



## COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES: HOLIDAY SERVICE DAYS



### Mark your calendars for the holiday service schedule!

GreenWaste of Palo Alto is closed on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1). If your regular collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, your collection day will be moved to the following day for the rest of the week.

Remember to set out your carts by 6am on the date illustrated below. Happy Holidays!

### DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### DECEMBER/JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Regular collection schedules will resume the following week. Contact GreenWaste Customer Service if you have any questions.

## SINGLE USE PLASTIC ON REQUEST ONLY

On September 20th Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 1884, making California the first state to pass legislation restricting the use of single-use plastic straws. Plastic straws have become increasingly unpopular due to the harm they cause marine life.

A recent marketing study from the consulting company Technomic estimates that Americans use 172 million plastic straws per day, making it no surprise straws have been found to be the seventh most common item polluting beaches worldwide.

For those who relish a straw in their drinks, this bill still allows an exemption for compostable or reusable straws, while requiring that the plastic variation be served on-request only in full-service restaurants. This will reduce the number of plastic straws given out to customers who didn't want or need them and help curtail the negative impacts straws have on the environment.

