

# GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO FALL 2020

## NEW ALL-ELECTRIC TRUCKS!

GreenWaste of Palo Alto has added 3 new all-electric trucks, for a total of 4 in our fleet!

### FULLY AUTOMATED SIDE LOADER:

Used for residential garbage collection.



### REAR LOADER:

Used for our new residential Clean Up Day program.



### FLATBED:

Used for our new Clean Up Day program and cart deliveries.



### WASH TRUCK:

Used for commercial bin and cart washes.



Over the next few years, the City and GreenWaste plan to incorporate as many electric vehicles as possible into the refuse service fleet to contribute to the City's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan goals. For updates, visit the GreenWaste website at [www.greenwasteofpaloalto.com](http://www.greenwasteofpaloalto.com).

## GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS

- **NO COLLECTION ON THANKSGIVING:** We will be closed on Thanksgiving. If your regular collection day falls on Thanksgiving, your collection day will be moved to Friday (November 27). Customers with a collection day on Friday will be serviced on Saturday (November 28).
- **FREE GARDEN-READY COMPOST:** Pick up up free compost at the new Compost Giveaway Station located at Eleanor Pardee Community Garden. Open to Palo Alto residents, Tuesday – Sunday: 9 AM – 4 PM. 96 gal limit. Must bring your own shovel and container(s).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to COVID-19 these events may be cancelled or adjusted to allow for new safety protocols. Visit the website or call Zero Waste Palo Alto for more information.

- **DOCUMENT SHREDDING:** [www.cityofpaloalto.org/shred](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/shred)
- **COMPOST WORKSHOPS:** [www.cityofpaloalto.org/compost](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/compost)
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE STATION:** [www.cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste) (HHW Station will be closed on Nov 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday)

# PREVENT FOOD WASTE AT HOME

26% of Palo Alto's residential garbage is composed of food that went bad and was thrown away. With simple changes to our shopping, cooking, and storage habits, we can ensure that all of our food gets eaten.

## There are many ways to prevent food waste at home:

- » Create an "Eat This First" box or move food to the front of the refrigerator to ensure food that is perishing soon is eaten with greater priority.
- » Take an inventory of your household eating habits to prevent overbuying. What food are you throwing away? Why did it go bad?
- » Try recipes where you can add a wide variety of ingredients such as soups, frittatas, stir-fry, or themed bowls.
- » Store foods to last. Ex: Wrap your leafy greens in a moist towel and place in an airtight container in the fridge.
- » Find alternative uses for over-ripe produce: freeze fruit for sorbet or smoothies; incorporate produce into breads and pastries; cook fruits to make jams or butters; or roast them to create a tasty glaze.

For more food waste prevention tips, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste.com](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste.com)



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: RICK'S ICE CREAM

At Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream on Middlefield Rd, ice cream is served with a side of zero waste. With the recent city ban on disposable plastic foodware such as utensils and straws, some businesses are seizing this moment to creatively minimize waste. At Rick's Ice Cream (prior to Covid-19), customers sample new flavors from compostable wooden sticks before selecting their scoop. Several spoon options are available: use your sample spoon, try their edible spoon, or bring your own spoon and receive a discount! With food sampling suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic, customers can still receive a discount for bringing their own spoon, limiting waste and encouraging physical distancing.

These actions not only minimize waste generation and waste disposal costs but encourage waste reduction practices by Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream patrons and customers.



## YES, YOU CAN COMPOST THAT!



**NAPKINS AND TISSUES:** Facial tissues and paper towels cannot be recycled. Their fibers are too short to be made into a new item. So whether they are food soiled or just used to dry your hands, please do not place them in your blue recycle bin. However, they can be composted! You can help increase waste diversion by setting up a compost collection container in your bathroom to help catch these compostables at the source.



**MILK CARTONS:** Milk cartons are coated with plastic. While technically recyclable, only a very few paper recycling facilities can separate the plastic from the paper. They can, however, be easily composted. The paper breaks down and the plastic is screened off at the end. Plastic spouts aren't a problem either, leave them on and they too will get screened off at the end.



**PIZZA BOXES** As soon as a pizza is placed inside the box, this would-be recyclable item becomes fit for the compost due to the grease that saturates and soaks into the cardboard.