

GreenWays

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE

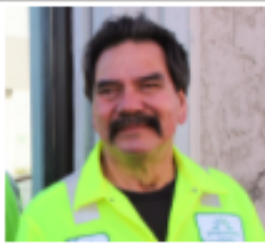
Contact the GreenWaste of Palo Alto Outreach Team for waste sorting trainings, presentations, and tabling events! Call (650) 493-4894 or email pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com

IS IT RECYCLABLE?

Can you identify which items are recyclable and which aren't? Answers are listed at the bottom of the page.



1) No, it's landfill. 2) Yes! Recyclable (Place inside a clear plastic bag with other film plastic and knot the top of the bag). 3) Yes! Recyclable. 4) No, paper milk cartons should be composted. 5) No, pizza boxes should be composted. 6) Yes! Recyclable (must be empty).



FILO "JR" ALCONTAR: 45 YEARS SERVING AS A PALO ALTO GARBAGE MAN!

JR first rode in a Palo Alto garbage truck as a child, son of the then residential route supervisor for the City's former waste management contractor, Palo Alto Sanitation Company (PASCO). In 1976, at age 19, JR began working as a garbage man himself, riding on the back of a PASCO collection truck and jumping off at every household to unload material from backyard garbage cans. He was later promoted to driver and throughout his career has worked almost every driver position there is in Palo Alto. Now, 45 years later, JR will be retiring at the end of 2021. The departure is bitter-sweet. After a lifetime developing relationships with the Palo Alto community, JR says, "It has been a pleasure, but am I ready to call it quits? This is all I've ever known." Like all of us at GreenWaste of Palo Alto, JR values the relationships that he has cultivated with community members and folks he has seen along his route for years. JR enjoys many aspects of the job itself but acknowledges that interacting with residents and developing lasting relationships with his fellow drivers "are what make it great." He will be sorely missed, but we cannot wait to see what the next chapter holds for him! JR's parting message to the community: "Respect each other."



THE MANY BENEFITS OF COMPOST

Creating compost from organic materials – such as food scraps, soiled paper, and yard trimmings – has many positive environmental benefits. By placing your business's compostables into the compost container, you help our local and global community reap the many benefits of composting, including:

- Combatting climate change by reducing methane emissions (a potent greenhouse gas) from landfilling processes.
- Diverting waste from the landfill.
- Generating renewable electricity.
- Supporting local composting industries.
- Creating a soil amendment that enriches the soil, conserves water, and sequesters carbon.



SAVE MONEY BY REDUCING WASTE

Reducing your business's overall waste generation and sorting waste correctly not only helps Palo Alto reach its zero waste goals, but it also saves your business money! In Palo Alto, recycling service is offered at no additional charge and compost service is offered at a 20% lower rate than landfill service. Palo Alto businesses – many with the help of the GreenWaste Outreach Team and the Palo Alto Zero Waste Team – are improving waste sorting and reducing waste generation, contributing to long-term landfill service reductions. Some notable examples include:

- **Trader Joe's:** Reduced landfill service by 2 cubic yards (CY) per week resulting in over \$300 per month in savings.
- **Palo Alto Café:** Reduced landfill service by 3 CY per week and increased recycling by 3 CY per week resulting in over \$400 per month in savings.
- **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman:** Reduced landfill service by 4 CY per week resulting in almost \$600 per month in savings.
- **Terman Apartments:** Reduced landfill service by 20 CY and doubled both recycle and compost service resulting in over \$3,000 per month in savings.

Sites around Palo Alto are effectively adopting zero waste practices through actions including waste sorting training, improved signage, reviewing service levels, and increasing compost and recycle service. To reduce *your* business's waste generation and monthly waste bill, reach out to our customer service team.