



# GreenWays



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## GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS

### NO COLLECTION ON THANKSGIVING:

GreenWaste will be closed on Thanksgiving. If your regular collection day falls on Thanksgiving, your collection day will be moved to Friday (November 25).

## WHERE DO PALO ALTO'S COMPOSTABLES GO?

With the passing of California's landmark Senate Bill 1383, even more compostable materials from Palo Alto are being diverted from the landfill, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, produce clean renewable energy, and create rich compost.

Compostables, such as food scraps, soiled paper, and yard trimmings are collected from your green compost cart or bin and taken to the Zero Waste Energy Development Company (ZWED) facility in San Jose. ZWED is the largest dry fermentation anaerobic digestion facility in the world and processes over 90,000 tons of compostable material from the peninsula per year, roughly 250 tons per day.



Once at the facility, the material is placed into 1 of 16 composting tunnels for 21 days where it undergoes the anaerobic digestion process. Anaerobic digestion is the process in which bacteria break down organic matter without oxygen. The material inside the tunnels then decomposes and produces biogas. This biogas is captured and used to generate 1.7 megawatts of renewable electricity per day, which powers the entire facility.

After the 21 days, the partially composted material is transported to the Z-Best composting facility in Gilroy for additional processing and curing. The finished compost is sold to farmers, landscapers, and construction sites. Utilizing your compost containers properly and free of contaminants, not only saves precious space in our landfills, but also produces valuable compost, reduces methane emissions, and slows climate change.





## **SORTING GUIDANCE: E-WASTE**

E-Waste describes any discarded electronic devices that are at the end of their useful life. When repair and donation are no longer options, most e-waste can be placed in your blue recycle container.

Examples include coffee makers, computer accessories, stereos, vacuum cleaners, printers, and computers. Batteries must be removed and disposed as household hazardous waste. Electronics with embedded batteries that cannot be removed, such as smart phones and electric toothbrushes, must be disposed as household hazardous waste as well, as they can pose a fire risk if placed in the recycling.

Businesses and non-profit organizations in Palo Alto, that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month can participate in Palo Alto's Very Small Quantity Generator Program with the [Household Hazardous Waste \(HHW\) Station](#).

A registration and disposal fee is required based on the type and quantity of waste being disposed. Appointments are on Saturdays following the residential HHW drop-off hours. To register for an appointment call the City's hazardous waste contractor (Clean Harbors) at (800)



## **SENATE BILL 1383: WASTE SORTING SURVEYS**

The City of Palo Alto and GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be performing random waste sorting surveys to provide businesses with feedback on their waste sorting under California Senate Bill (SB) 1383.

SB 1383 set statewide goals to limit organic waste, such as food, yard trimmings, and soiled paper from being disposed of in landfills. Landfills are the third largest producers of methane in California, responsible for 20% of the state's methane emissions. Decreasing the amount of organic waste going to landfills and greenhouse gases emissions also helps slow climate change.

The waste sorting surveys will consist of City and GreenWaste staff performing visual inspections of commercial waste containers to check for compliance with SB 1383.

Requirements for all businesses under SB 1383:

- Separate your waste into the appropriate container—recycle, compost, or landfill
- Have color-coded containers and signage
- Provide information and training to employees and tenants
- Inspect waste containers for contamination



## **SORTING HIGHLIGHT: RE:SOURCE**

Go to [www.resource.stopwaste.org](http://www.resource.stopwaste.org) for your online reuse, repair, recycling, and composting guide!

This online tool will guide you on how to reuse, repair, recycle, compost, and safely dispose of a wide variety of materials.

RE:Source also details whether an item may contain hazardous materials and would need to be taken to Palo Alto's [Household Hazardous Waste \(HHW\) Station](#) as well as vendors in the Bay Area where you can take items for repair or donation.

433-5060 or send an email request to [VSQG@cleanharbors.com](mailto:VSQG@cleanharbors.com).

E-Waste that is NOT accepted includes TVs and computer monitors due to the hazardous heavy metals they contain. These items can be picked up for free during a Clean Up Day or collected during as a special pickup for a fee. Go to [www.greenwasteofpaloalto.com/cleanupday](http://www.greenwasteofpaloalto.com/cleanupday) for more Clean Up Day information.

Requirements for food generating businesses:

- Follow requirements list for all businesses above.
- Grocery stores, large restaurants, and hotels— recover and donate surplus edible food
- Have a written contract with food recovery organizations/services
- Maintain records
- For more details, visit the Santa Clara County Food Recovery program: [reducewaste.sccgov.org/food-recovery](http://reducewaste.sccgov.org/food-recovery)

For more information on SB 1383 visit:

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/SB1383regulations](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/SB1383regulations)