



GreenWays



GREENWASTE 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

DECONSTRUCTION ORDINANCE

44% of Palo Alto's landfilled waste comes from construction and demolition projects. However, nearly all this material is suitable for reuse or recycling. Palo Alto's new Deconstruction Ordinance, effective July 1, 2020, aims to maximize reuse and recycling of building materials. The ordinance affects all residential and commercial projects where structures are being completely removed (formerly known as demolition).



By carefully disassembling buildings piece by piece, materials that are fit for reuse can be salvaged and incorporated into other construction projects. Building materials not suitable for reuse are separated by material type before being processed for recycling. Deconstruction, reuse, and recycling attains a higher end use for building materials, reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserves natural resources, reduces greenhouse gases, and encourages Zero Waste.



RECYCLE-READY PAPER

There is a significant and constant threat to paper recycling: food and liquid. Food and liquid find their way into the recycling when recyclables aren't properly emptied or prepared for recycling. Since all of Palo Alto's recyclables are mixed together, the food and liquid in bottles, cans, and containers can leak and soil the paper products. To ensure your paper products get a second life:

- 1) Remember that clean and dry paper goes in the recycling and soiled paper goes in the compost;
- 2) Empty out recyclable containers by pouring, scraping, and wiping out any residue - no need to rinse.

Visit cityofpaloalto.org/recycleready for more information.



INTERVIEW WITH A PALO ALTO DRIVER

Meet Steve: a GreenWaste residential driver. Steve describes his experiences servicing Palo Alto over the last 13 years:

"My favorite part of being a GreenWaste driver is when the children come outside and watch me dump the carts. The most challenging part of the job is dealing with traffic. I'm always thinking of safety: the traffic, my uniform, my truck's functions, and weather considerations.

I've seen major industry changes including new equipment which makes waste sorting more efficient. I've seen Palo Alto improve at waste sorting, but there's always more to learn. The frequent items that I see in the recycling which do not belong there are plastic foam, wood, and clothes."



FROM CURB TO COMPOST

How do our food scraps, yard trimmings, and other compostables become compost? Once deposited in your green cart or bin, compostables are collected by GreenWaste drivers and taken to the ZWED dry anaerobic digestion facility in San Jose, the largest facility of its kind in the world. Here, the material decomposes in 1 of 16 dry anaerobic digester tunnels for 21 days. Throughout the composting process, bacteria are added to help decompose the material. During decomposition, these bacteria produce biogas that is captured and used to generate electricity that powers the entire facility. Afterward, this partially composted material is trucked to Z-Best composting facility in Gilroy for further processing. After screening, shredding, and a 14-week cure period, the material will be sold as landscape compost.