

GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO FALL 2022

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 curbside from your green compost cart 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. GreenWaste and the City also provide free compost for Palo Alto residents at Eleanor Pardee Community Garden, located at 851 Center Rd.

Utilizing your compost cart at home 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.

GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS



• NO COLLECTION ON THANKSGIVING:

GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be closed on Thanksgiving. If your regular collection day falls on Thanksgiving, your collection day will be moved to Friday (November 25). Customers with a collection day on Friday will be serviced on Saturday (November 26).

• COMPOSTING TIP:

Compost your pumpkins to reduce waste! Be sure to remove all décor before composting.



UPCOMING EVENTS

• COMPOST BASICS WORKSHOP:

Saturday, October 1, 10am - 12pm
Master Gardeners
Demonstration Garden
851 Center Drive, Palo Alto

• REPAIR CAFE:

Sunday, October 16, 11am - 3pm
Museum of American Heritage
351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

• HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP AND SCARE FAIRE:

Sunday, October 23, 1pm - 3pm
Museum of American Heritage
351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

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 cart. Examples include coffee makers, computer accessories, stereos, vacuum cleaners, printers, and computers. Batteries must be removed and can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station in Palo Alto. Electronics with embedded batteries that cannot be removed, such as smartphones and electric toothbrushes, should also be taken to the HHW Station, as they can pose a fire risk if placed in the recycling.

E-Waste that is NOT accepted includes TVs and computer monitors due to the hazardous heavy metals they contain. These items, along with any other e-waste that will not fit in your recycle cart can be set out on a pre-scheduled Clean Up Day or collected during a special pickup for a fee.

Go to www.greenwasteofpalocalto.com/cleanupday for more information.



SENATE BILL 1383: WASTE SORTING SURVEYS

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

California Senate Bill (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 residential and commercial waste containers to check for compliance with SB 1383.

Under local and state law, residents and businesses are required to separate their waste into the appropriate container—recycle, compost, or landfill.

For more information on SB 1383 visit:
www.cityofpalocalto.org/SB1383regulations



SORTING HIGHLIGHT: RE:SOURCE

Go to www.resource.stopwaste.org for your online reuse, repair, recycling, and composting guide!



Your Online Guide for Reuse, Repair, Recycling, and Safe Disposal

Serving Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and the City of Palo Alto

What do I do with...

Near ZIP code / City:

Palo Alto, CA

Q SEARCH

Automotive	Batteries	Bulky
Construction	Electronics	Food/Plants
Glass	Hazardous	Medical
Metal	Paint	Plastic

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 repair or donate items.