



GreenWays



re:source

Confused about how to dispose of an item? Go to resource.stopwaste.org. An online guide for Palo Alto residents and businesses on how to reuse, repair, recycle, and safely dispose of a wide variety of materials.

ZERO WASTE EARTH DAY TIPS

Earth Day began in 1970 from the birth of the modern environmental movement as a response to the vast amounts of leaded gas, industrial pollution, and sludge that were being produced.

Held every year on April 22, the world comes together for this international holiday to celebrate the earth, the environment, and ways we can protect it. This year's theme is "Invest in Our Planet". Here are some Zero Waste centered ways you can invest in our planet:



- Refresh yourself and your staff on essential zero waste practices and City requirements such as how to sort your waste properly, ensuring your business is using the proper custodial bags, and breaking down your cardboard boxes. Check out the [Zero Waste Toolkit](#) for more information.
- Have a GreenWaste Environmental Outreach Coordinator provide a "What Goes Where" waste sorting training with your staff. Commercial customers are required to provide training within 14 days to new staff, janitors, custodians, and contractors. As well as annual training to occupant tenants, and contractors. Contact

GreenWaste of Palo Alto [Customer Service](#) to schedule.

- Ditch disposables! Switch out single-use items like utensils, straws, cups, and plates with reusable alternatives.
- Participate in local Earth Day events!



SB 1383: REMINDER

California Senate Bill 1383, which took effect January 1, 2022, created state-wide goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by limiting organic waste, such as food, 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.

SB 1383 aims to decrease the amount of organic waste going to the landfill and increase the recovery of edible food to not only fight the production of greenhouse gases, but feed people and save money! Be sure your business is working on continued and increased usage of the green compost carts/bins



NEW FOODWARE REQUIREMENTS

The City of Palo Alto is amending its existing Disposable Foodware Ordinance, Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 5.30, to better meet California Assembly Bill 1276 requirements for single-use disposable foodware. These requirements help reduce unnecessary waste and litter, protect local watersheds and oceans, and encourage Zero Waste.

Currently required in Palo Alto:

- All disposable utensils, straws, stirrers, drink plugs, and other small foodware provided must be reusable or compostable.
- Single-use disposable foodware accessories must be provided upon request or via a self-serve station.

Beginning June 1, 2022:

- Foodware or condiments cannot be bundled or packaged together. This eliminates the extra waste created when providing



SPRING CLEANING TIPS

Spring is the perfect season to organize and clear out the clutter throughout your business or organization. Consider the following tips while spring cleaning:

- Create a designated area for supplies. Empty out your junk drawers and gather the extra office supplies in one location for staff to have access to to avoid over purchasing supplies.
- Shred old documents and be sure to recycle them! Place your shredded paper in a clear plastic bag so it's contained and then place that bag in your blue recycle bin.
- Donate reusable items! Explore options such as FreeCycle, Nextdoor, Craigslist,

green compost containers and if you are a food generating business you, are following the new food recovery regulations.

For more information and resources, visit the City of Palo Alto's SB 1383 informational webpage [HERE](#).

For food generating businesses, visit the County's Food Recovery program [HERE](#).

created when providing customers with a spoon and a knife when they only needed a fork.

- Third-party delivery platforms and restaurants must list individual foodware items and condiments in their menu for customers to "opt-in" for online orders.
- Condiments must only be provided upon request or via a self-serve station or refillable dispenser, except at drive-thru windows where employees may ask the customers' preferences.

For more information on Palo Alto's Disposable Foodware Ordinance, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware

or Habitat for Humanity to donate old reusable items in your office, such as furniture.

- Schedule your annual Clean Up Day with GreenWaste to remove up to four bulky items with a weight limit of 200 pounds each. Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto [Customer Service](#) at least a week in advance to schedule.