

GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO FALL 2023

ZERO WASTE LIVING!

Waste is created one choice at a time. Each choice to reduce waste makes a difference. Using LESS is doing MORE, so choose wisely. From the garden to the store, there are so many simple practices to reduce waste in your life. Find tips to help launch yourself into a zero waste lifestyle at www.cityofpalocalto.org/zwliving

AROUND THE HOUSE:

Clean with cloth towels - Paper towels are unnecessary when there are alternatives to help cut out waste in your life. In the U.S., 13 billion pounds of paper towels are used each year, so switch to reusable cloth rags for cleaning and make a BIG difference. You can also repurpose old t-shirts, socks, and other cloth items to be used as cleaning cloths or mop pads!



WHEN YOU SHOP:

Buy from bulk bins - Waste generated from food packaging accounts for an alarming percentage of what goes to the landfill - according to the EPA, it is more than 23% in the U.S. Purchasing grains, coffee beans, pasta, and legumes from bulk bins and bringing your own reusable containers is one simple action that makes a BIG difference.



AT WORK:

Reusable travel mug - Make the switch from using disposable coffee and tea cups to reusable travel mugs. In the U.S., it's estimated that we use 50 billion disposable coffee cups each year. Your acts do make a difference!



IN THE GARDEN:

Apply compost in your garden - Applying compost to your soil can improve water retention, soil structure, provide vital plant nutrients, and more. If you choose compost that is made from yard trimmings and food scraps, you are going one step further to put the carbon that was diverted from the landfill back into the ground! Palo Alto residents can pick up FREE garden-ready compost at Eleanor Pardee Community Garden.



GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS



• NO COLLECTION ON THANKSGIVING DAY:

GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. If your regular collection day falls on that Thursday, your collection day will be moved to Friday (November 24). Customers with a collection day on Friday will be serviced on Saturday (November 25).

• COMPOSTING TIP:

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

• HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP AND SCARE FAIRE:

Sunday, Oct 22nd
1pm - 3pm
Museum of American Heritage
351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

• COMPOST BASICS WORKSHOP:

Saturday, Nov 4th
10am-12pm
Master Gardeners
Demonstration Garden
851 Center Dr, Palo Alto

YES, YOU CAN COMPOST THAT!

NAPKINS, TISSUES, AND PAPER TOWELS:

Once soiled these items can't be recycled, but they are perfect for composting. They help provide carbon to the compost mixture, so whether they are food soiled or used to dry your hands, be sure to place them into your green compost cart.



PAPER CARTON CONTAINERS:

Paper milk or juice cartons with a triangular top found in the refrigerated section of the grocery store can be collected in your green compost cart. The paper cartons are coated with a thin layer of plastic and are processed so the paper breaks down to add to the compost material and the plastic is screened off at the end. Plastic spouts aren't a problem, you can leave them on and they will be screened off at the end with the rest of the plastic material as well.

PIZZA BOXES:

The moment a pizza is placed inside the pizza box, it is no longer suitable for recycling and needs to be placed into the green compost cart. The oil and grease from the pizza saturate the cardboard making it into a food soiled paper perfect for composting.



SCHOOL REUSABLE FOODWARE UPDATE

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) continues its efforts to reach Zero Waste goals by expanding the reusable foodware program during meals.

Reusable food trays and stainless steel sporks are now utilized at seven of the elementary schools throughout the district. Addison Elementary is even piloting the use of a milk dispenser with stainless steel tumblers to replace single-use milk cartons and stainless steel portion cups for the salad bar to replace plastic cups.

Alva Spence, the PAUSD Student Nutrition Director, reports that the students are extremely excited to use the reusable foodware. She's witnessed a significant decrease in the schools' single-use items, which means less waste being produced and students can better focus on properly sorting the remaining items.

PAUSD Nutrition Services is proud of its efforts to lessen its environmental impact and establish positive practices with the

students. It will continue to work on implementing the reusable foodware program throughout the whole district and look forward to applying more zero waste practices.

GreenWaste of Palo Alto and Zero Waste Palo Alto commend PAUSD for its efforts in helping the community reach its Zero Waste goals.



DEAD BATTERIES: WHERE DO THEY GO?



Batteries are Household Hazardous Waste.

They contain heavy metals, corrosive materials, and are highly combustible and flammable. Proper and safe disposal of batteries is incredibly important, and they can NEVER be placed into any curbside waste container. Improper disposal can result in fires and severely hazardous conditions for our drivers and waste disposal workers.

GreenWaste of Palo Alto can only collect and dispose of certain batteries on your pre-scheduled Clean Up Days. Place them in a sealed, clear, and tear resistant bag, on top of your blue recycle cart. Check out which batteries are accepted on your Clean Up Day here: www.greenwaste.com/palo-alto/cleanupday

Single-use and rechargeable batteries, small electronics with non-removeable batteries (cell phones, tablets, etc.), and auto batteries can all be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station. For more information about the HHW Station, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste

