



# GreenWays

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## REGULAR COLLECTION SERVICE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY:

GreenWaste of Palo Alto drivers will be hard at work on the 4th of July. Remember to set your waste containers out by 6am or the day before on your regular service day.

## CREATE SAVINGS FOR BOTH YOUR WALLET AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

Making small changes to your daily habits can lead to big savings in business costs and greenhouse gases. Here are some tips to decrease waste, reduce monthly bills, and help the environment:

### Reduce

- Purchase items with little to no packaging, refillable, or bulk items.
- Visit the Zero Waste Living page for waste reduction tips. [www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwliving](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwliving)
- Optimize food storage, meal planning, and purchasing lists. [www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste)

### Reuse

- Give, donate, or sell reusable items utilizing local reuse organizations and internet resources. Pro tip: repair items to give them a renewed life.
- Visit the Re:Source tool to find donation or repair vendors. [www.resource.stopwaste.org](http://www.resource.stopwaste.org)

### Recycle

- Get to know your recyclables better with the Detailed Material Guide and other GreenWaste waste sorting resources. [www.greenwaste.com/palo-alto/support/what-goes-where](http://www.greenwaste.com/palo-alto/support/what-goes-where)
- Learn how to ensure your recyclables are "Recycle Ready" for collection. [www.cityofpaloalto.org/recycleready](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/recycleready)

## Compost

- Place food scraps and food soiled paper (e.g., pizza boxes, napkins) into your green curbside compost container.
- Collect compostable items throughout your business including your bathroom. Tissues and paper towels are compostable!
- Replace wasteful lawns with native plants.



### INTERVIEW WITH A DRIVER: JOSE RUIZ

Jose has served the Palo Alto Community for almost 30 years and has the unique experience of driving GreenWaste's all electric fully automated side loader and he enjoys showing it off throughout the community.

Jose's fellow GreenWaste drivers are the favorite part of his job. They make the day go by quickly and he can always count on them. The most challenging part of his job is consistently dealing with the day to day traffic.



### ZERO WASTE BREAKROOMS

Breakrooms are a major area where zero waste strategies come into view and are a key factor in your business' compliance with the City of Palo Alto's Recycling and Composting Ordinance. Utilize this checklist to ensure compliance and improve your business' zero waste practices.

- Refuse containers are conveniently located as a waste station consisting of three color-coded and labeled containers.
  - Compost - green container
  - Recycle - blue container
  - Landfill - black/grey container



### IS THAT ITEM COMPOSTABLE?

When purchasing compostable products such as utensils, straws, and bags for your business, look for items that are labeled "BPI certified" (Biodegradable Products Institute).



These labels mean the product has been tested and meets compostability standards for a commercial composting facility. Items with labels such as "Biodegradable", "Green", "Plant-Based", or "Natural" are NOT accepted in the City's compost

Like all of us at GreenWaste of Palo Alto, Jose has been impressed with the industry advancements to collection vehicles and is excited for the future. He enjoys driving the electric truck especially because it's quieter and does not produce the smell of diesel fumes. Jose's truck saves around 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year and reduces emissions by around 78 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually. The mechanical and technological improvements to vehicles have assisted him with improving his overall efficiency and safety.

As an electric truck driver, Jose gets the opportunity to showcase his vehicle at schools throughout the year. It is always a special experience for him to witness the students' excitement and reaction to the truck in action. He greatly appreciates his job and is thankful to GreenWaste of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto community for his time as a driver and looks forward to more years to come.

- All containers labeled with detailed signage
- [www.greenwaste.com/palo-alto/support/what-goes-where/](http://www.greenwaste.com/palo-alto/support/what-goes-where/)
- If bags are used to line refuse containers:
  - Compost - green, transparent, BPI certified compostable bag
  - Recycle - blue, transparent bag
  - Landfill - clear bag
- Train and educate employees, contractors, and janitors how to properly sort waste to ensure compliance is met.
- Connect with GreenWaste of Palo Alto for free technical assistance and waste sorting resources.
  - [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com)
  - 650-493-4894
- Encourage waste reduction practices.
  - Provide reusable foodware items such as metal utensils, ceramic mugs, and plates
  - Borrow a party pack full of reusable foodware items for a work event
  - Provide bulk coffee, tea, and condiments

accepted in the city's compost collection program. These items must be avoided because they do not break down fast enough in the composting process, and may not even be made of organic material at all!

Learn more about accepted compostable foodware items and more at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware)