



# GreenWays



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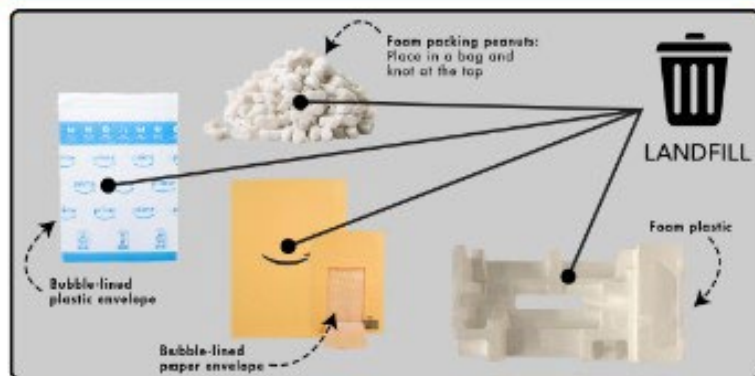


## HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

GreenWaste of Palo Alto is closed on Christmas (Sunday, December 25) and New Year's Day (Sunday, January 1). There are no collection day changes since both holidays fall on Sundays this year. Contact us if you have additional questions at (650) 493-4894 or email [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com)

## WHAT PACKAGING IS RECYCLABLE?

Products ordered online are often delivered with excessive amounts of packaging material especially during the holidays. To ensure packaging waste goes in the correct cart, follow these general guidelines:



To reduce packaging waste from online orders:

- Request that your items are shipped together
- Shop from companies that offer "frustration free" packaging or use only recyclable packaging materials
- Request the company to limit packaging for your order





## WHERE WILL PALO ALTO RECYCLABLES GO?

After a three-month pilot program in which GreenWaste of Palo Alto and the City of Palo Alto sent mixed paper and mixed rigid plastics to domestic recycling markets, the program is being considered by City Council to extend through fiscal year 2023.

Palo Alto's mixed paper will be sent to Louisiana and its mixed rigid plastics will be sent to southern California for recycling.

In 2021, GreenWaste processed 14,000 tons of Palo Alto's recyclable materials, exporting 100% of the mixed paper and 90% of the mixed rigid plastic that was collected from the city, this is standard practice for these material types across the industry. Moving forward, 100% of these recyclables will be processed domestically.



## EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY

Senate Bill 1383 is a state law that sets goals to reduce disposal of organic waste in landfills, including edible food. This law requires 20% of edible food be recovered for human consumption by 2025. This means that surplus edible food from restaurants to grocery stores will now go towards feeding Californians in need rather than placing it in the compost or decomposing in a landfill where it would emit harmful greenhouse gases that accelerate climate change.

By 2024, all commercial edible food generators will be required to recover and donate edible food to food recovery organizations. As of 2022, Tier One Businesses, categorized as businesses that typically have produce, fresh groceries, and shelf-stable foods, are required to recover and donate edible food. In Palo Alto, this applies to all of the grocery stores.



## NEW YEAR, NEW OUTREACH

As a new year begins, it can be difficult to know where to start when working towards Zero Waste goals. GreenWaste Environmental Outreach Coordinators (EOCs) are here to help!

EOCs can provide several free resources to get your year off to a great start on the path to Zero Waste. These resources include comprehensive guides outlining your recycling, composting, and landfill services, Zero Waste best management practices, waste station placement, and purchasing options, and more.

Additionally, our EOCs offer waste sorting trainings and presentations for staff and employees, site audits, building walkthroughs, and event tablings upon request.

Contact GreenWaste Customer Service at (650) 493-4894 or

The shift to domestic markets was a goal for Palo Alto's City Council and will allow GreenWaste and the City to better track the management of its recyclables. Palo Alto hopes this change will lead other cities to take similar steps and spur an increase in U.S. based recycling facilities that would help decrease the cost of processing this material domestically and increase processing capacity throughout the state and country.

Tier Two Businesses categorized as businesses with prepared food that have food safety requirements, are required to donate starting 2024.

The edible food captured by these food donors not only protects the environment but provides edible food to those in need in the community via local food banks, food pantries, and other food recovery organizations and services. For more information check out [reducewaste.sccgov.org/food-recovery](https://reducewaste.sccgov.org/food-recovery).

[pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com) to get in touch with an EOC.