



# GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO FALL 2025



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

No Collection on Thanksgiving: GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. If your regular collection day falls on Thanksgiving Day, your collection day will be moved to Friday (November 28). Customers with a collection day on Friday will be serviced on Saturday (November 29).

## ZERO WASTE BREAKROOMS!



Breakrooms are the perfect spaces to utilize zero waste strategies and ensure your business is in compliance with the City of Palo Alto's Recycling and Composting Ordinance. Utilize these tools to help improve your breakroom zero waste practices:

- **Utilize reusable foodware**
  - Replace disposable items with reusable metal utensils and straws and ceramic plates and mugs
- **Buy in bulk breakroom supplies**
  - Purchase coffee grounds and snacks in bulk instead of single-use items to reduce packaging
- **Replace paper towel dispensers**
  - Switch to washable cloth rags, offering a

reusable solution for cleaning

- **Establish a conveniently located three stream waste station that is color-coded and labeled:**
  - Compost – green container
  - Recycle – blue container
  - Landfill – black container
  - All containers labeled with detailed signage
- Request free technical assistance and waste sorting resources. Call 650.493.4894 or email [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com)



## KEEP YOUR RECYCLABLES LOOSE

Keeping your recyclables loose in the blue recycle container is crucial for efficient and effective disposal. If items are tightly packed inside, the material is unlikely to fall out when the container is emptied. By keeping materials loose, the material can easily fall into the collection truck. Follow the proper steps to ensure your recyclables are serviced:

- Material is loosely placed into the container and can move freely



## FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

Avoid wasting energy, water, and other resources by practicing food waste reduction methods this holiday season.

- Use a portion planning tool for company events:
  - Try tools such as the [Guest-imator](#) to better estimate how much food to provide during events
- Provide proper storage for food utilized at events
  - Ensure adequate refrigeration is



## DRIVER SPOTLIGHT: KIRK EVANS

Kirk has served the Palo Alto community for over 25 years and is one of our designated drivers that assists with the Truck Showing program, where young students get the chance to interact with a driver and watch a waste truck in action. He finds joy seeing the students' curiosity and excitement as he discusses how his job as a driver and how the truck functions. It's been an incredibly positive impact on Kirk's life to learn from the students and see them grow up

- Cardboard boxes are broken down flat and cut to fit inside the container
  - Failure to breakdown cardboard boxes may result in extra whole box charges
- The lids of the container can easily close and there is no material sticking out of the container
- The container is easily accessible and no material is on the ground or blocking access

If any additional recycle pick-ups are needed to avoid overloaded containers, please contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service. Call 650.493.4894 or email [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com)

refrigeration is available to keep food fresh for longer

- Donate excess food after events
  - Plan ahead and partner with a local organization to donate any excess food from events or encourage employees to bring containers to take home leftovers
- Track food purchasing and food waste after events
  - Identify patterns of food waste to adjust ordering in the future

- Create a designated "Eat this first" section for company-provided snacks that expire sooner

and see them grow up over the years.

When he's not doing Truck Shows for students, Kirk drives a side-loader truck for one of the residential compost routes and is never shy to report that he values every single part of his job. Cultivating relationships with the community and his co-workers means the world to him and they always make his day brighter. He appreciates GreenWaste of Palo Alto's consistent dedication to safety over the years. He has also recently been featured as a high performer during Waste and Recycling Workers Week.

Kirk hopes to encourage a positive environment wherever he goes. His message to Palo Alto is to "Keep the smiles going!" We appreciate Kirk and all that he does for GreenWaste of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto community.