

GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO SUMMER 2025

SAVE MONEY BY REDUCING WASTE

Reducing the amount of landfill waste you generate and sorting correctly not only helps Palo Alto reach its Zero Waste goals, it can also save you money! Palo Altans are doing this right now – here's how!

Properly sorting waste into your compost, recycle, and landfill carts

- Incorrectly placing items such as pizza boxes and other soiled paper products, food scraps, aluminum foil, and rigid plastics into your black landfill cart means you are throwing away money. By properly sorting, you could be cutting down on the need for a larger landfill cart. Find out What Goes Where at, www.paloalto.gov/wgwtools

Switch to reusable containers

- No need to use single-use plastic bags, cling-wrap, and aluminum foil when there are so many reusable options. Try silicone or fabric snack pouches, silicone stretch lids, or storage containers that can all be washed and reused many times. You can even repurpose glass jars from products such as jams into to-go containers!

Clean with cloth rags

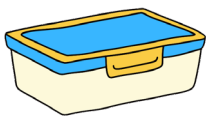
- Paper towels are unnecessary when there are alternatives to help cut out waste in your life. In the U.S., 13 billion pounds of paper towels are used each year, so switch to reusable cloth rags for cleaning and make a BIG difference. You can also repurpose old t-shirts, socks, and other cloth items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

Buy from bulk bins

- Waste generated from food packaging accounts for an alarming percentage of what goes to the landfill – according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, it is more than 23% in the U.S.! Purchasing grains, coffee beans, pasta, and granola from bulk bins and bringing your own reusable containers are simple actions that make a BIG difference.

Purchase bulk-sized products

- Reducing the purchase of single-serving items such as coffee pods, yogurt pouches, and assortment packed snack bags can add up to a lot of waste reduction over time. For example, choose the family-size chip bag with reusable snack pouches instead of those assortment packs of single-serving chip bags.



GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS



• Household Hazardous Waste Station

Drop off your batteries and other Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) at the HHW Station!

2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto
Every Saturday, 9am-11am
First Friday of the month, 3pm-5pm

Bring your HHW to the station for safe and proper disposal. For information on accepted items visit, www.paloalto.gov/hazwaste. Check out the HHW Reuse Zone as well and pick up usable household products such as paints, cleaners, and automotive products.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• WORM COMPOST WORKSHOP:

Saturday July 12th, 10am - 12pm
Gamble Garden
1431 Waverley St, Palo Alto
Register at, www.paloalto.gov/compost

• DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT:

Saturday August 9th, 9am - 12pm
Baylands Athletic Center, Parking Lot
1900 Geng Rd, Palo Alto
www.paloalto.gov/shred

SORTING GUIDANCE: SUMMER DRINKWARE

Stay hydrated this summer and refresh your waste sorting knowledge! Ensure all recyclables are empty, clean, and dry!

COMPOST

- COFFEE GROUNDS
- BOBA PEARLS
- COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC STRAW
- WOODEN STIRRER
- PAPER MILK CARTON
- PAPER CUP
- PAPER STRAW
- COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC CUP

RECYCLE

- PLASTIC DRINK LIDS
- ALUMINUM CAN
- PAPER DRINK SLEEVE
- PLASTIC BOTTLE
- PLASTIC CUP

LANDFILL

- PLASTIC FILM DRINK TOP
- COFFEE PODS
- JUICE POUCH
- JUICE BOX
- PLASTIC STRAWS

CARE FOR YOUR COMPOST CONTAINERS

With your curbside compost service, it's easy to take climate action by rescuing food scraps, soiled paper products, and yard trimmings from the landfill! Here are some helpful tips to ensure composting is clean and easy.

Kitchen Compost Container

- Use a container with a lid that is easy to empty
- Line with a BPI-certified compostable bag, newspaper, or paper bag to reduce mess
- Empty, rinse out, and scrub with soap regularly
- Store in a cool spot to reduce odor, for example in your freezer
- Drain liquids from food scraps before putting them in the container
- Add baking soda or coffee grounds on top of material to reduce odor



A free kitchen compost container can be requested from GreenWaste of Palo Alto customer service. Call 650.493.4894 or email pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com

Green Compost Cart

- Line the bottom with leaves and yard trimmings prior to placing food scraps inside
- Store in the shade and keep the lid closed to reduce odor during high temperatures
- Wash with soap and water regularly or contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto customer service to schedule a cart wash for a fee



PLAN A ZERO WASTE PARTY!

For any type of summer event you are planning, there are many ways to eliminate unnecessary waste. Here are a few options to get you started!

Prioritize food waste reduction. Review the types and quantities of food wasted from past events and adjust your purchases. Try the GUEST-IMATOR tool to help you calculate food portions, www.savethefood.com/guestimator

Set up waste stations with compost, recycle, and landfill containers. Download and print signage at www.paloalto.gov/wgwttools to pair with your containers so guests understand where to dispose their items. Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto for signage, guidance, and other resources at 650.493.4894 or email pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com.

Provide reusable plates, utensils, and cups instead of disposables or skip the need for foodware items by serving finger foods. To borrow reusable foodware, reach out to a Zero Waste Block Leader near you. More details can be found at, www.paloalto.gov/zwb1

Reduce waste by investing in decor pieces you can reuse. Consider reusable or compostable decorations such as string lights, tablecloths, real foliage, and using your food as a centerpiece. Avoid using single-use decor such as balloons and streamers for your gatherings.