



# GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO WINTER 2025

## GreenWaste Highlights

GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be closed on Christmas (December 25<sup>th</sup>) and New Years Day (January 1<sup>st</sup>). If your regular service day falls on or after one of these holidays, collection will be moved to the following day for that week. Regular collection schedules will resume the following week. Call GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service at 650.493.4894, or email [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com) if you have any questions.



## BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED!

Batteries should be sorted separately as hazardous waste and never placed into your compost, recycle, or landfill containers. Batteries, especially lithium, lithium-ion, and small electronics with embedded batteries are hazardous and can ignite fires when crushed. Safe battery disposal isn't optional - it's critical!



If batteries mistakenly make their way into the waste trucks, they can get crushed and overheat – leading to fires inside of the waste truck while servicing the community or at the material processing facility. Battery-caused fires are becoming increasingly frequent, putting the safety of the drivers, facility workers, community, and environment at risk.

For proper and safe disposal of batteries year-round, businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month can participate in Palo Alto's Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) Program. Please contact the City of Palo Alto's hazardous waste contractor, Clean Harbors, at 800.433.5060 or send an email request to [VSQG@cleanharbors.com](mailto:VSQG@cleanharbors.com) for more information and to schedule an appointment. If your business does not qualify as a VSQG, please contact a hazardous waste company for proper disposal.

## Hazardous Waste Information

## REDUCE AND REUSE RESOLUTIONS

Your business plays a crucial role in determining how Palo Alto stands up to climate change. Incorporate these waste reduction practices in your business model to lower greenhouse gas emissions and grow a more sustainable future.



**Buy in Bulk:** Buying in bulk can reduce packaging and need for reorders, which can save you money and reduce waste.

**Invest in Reusables:** Replace single-use breakroom items such as plastic utensils and straws, paper plates, and coffee pods with reusable utensils and straws, ceramic plates, and bulk coffee grounds. Provide a water filling station to promote reusable water bottles.

**Establish a Zero Waste Team:** Encourage employees to create a Zero Waste Team and become a Zero Waste Champion to lead waste reduction efforts and answer waste sorting questions. They can work with GreenWaste of Palo Alto to receive free signage and training for your staff.

## EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! PICK UP SERVICES



During the holiday season, there is significantly more waste produced causing refuse containers to overflow. Overflow material is a safety hazard as it restricts safe access to the bins and increases risk of material falling onto the truck, the driver, pedestrians and cars passing by during service. To reduce this safety hazard, please be sure that all material fits loosely inside your refuse containers with the lids completely closed. Do not place material on top of or next to any refuse container.

If your business needs additional service to avoid overflow, please contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto to schedule an extra pickup service for an additional fee.

[Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto](#)

## GIFT WRAPPING GUIDANCE

When the festivities have finished and the gifts are opened, save reusable wrappings for future uses and sort the single-use wrappings into the right container! If you are the one gifting, consider no wrapping or reusable options to cut down on waste!



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### Help us Spread the Word!

Know someone who should be receiving our newsletter for up-to-date waste reduction tips and collection updates?

- ☒ Forward this email to your **facilities manager, sustainability lead, or office coordinator.**
- ☒ New to our newsletter? Sign up to stay informed on local waste reduction tips, compliance updates, and free resources from GreenWaste of Palo Alto.

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