

GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO **WINTER 2023**

ZERO WASTE HOLIDAY TIPS

In the spirit of the Holidays, we often buy more this time of year. While our intentions are good, this can result in a lot of extra waste.

When planning your Holiday festivities, consider some of these zero waste tips:



If you are ordering your gifts online, consider the amount of packaging that is required for shipping. When ordering multiple items, request that items are packaged together to reduce the amount of packaging used. If purchasing gifts in a store, look for retailers that offer package free products. Consider gifting activities instead of items such as movie tickets, a museum tour, or a day trip to make memories that last a lifetime.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates 1 million tons of wrapping paper end up in the landfill each year! First consider wrapping gifts with repurposed newspaper, magazines, paper bags, or scarves which can make gifts look equally festive. When purchasing wrapping paper, make sure it doesn't have other materials like glitter, metallic tinsel, or plastic ribbon because these wrapping papers cannot be recycled. Look for wrapping paper made from recycled paper and keep intact gift wrap, ribbons, and decorations for use again next year!



Reduce the amount of food you waste by properly storing leftovers, composting food scraps, donating extra food, and planning your meals in advance with a portion planner. Try the handy "Guest-imator" tool at www.savethefood.com to help bring your portion planning to the next level! Don't forget to check out the Freestyle Cooking video at www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste to get tips on how to whip up something tasty with whatever you have leftover.

HOLIDAY DECORATION HIGHLIGHTS

• CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION:

For the four weeks following Christmas Day, Christmas trees will be collected curbside. Christmas trees must be undecorated, unflocked, cut to four-foot lengths with the stands removed and placed curbside next to your green compost cart. Wreaths, garland, and other greenery must be undecorated, unflocked, removed of wiring and support systems, cut into small pieces, and placed in your compost cart.

Be mindful when choosing an artificial tree versus a real tree. Artificial trees are not recyclable or compostable and must be landfilled at the end of their useful life. Reuse your artificial tree for several years and be sure to donate it if you plan to replace it.



UPCOMING EVENTS

• HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:

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

• HHW STATION CLOSURES:

December 23, 2023 for Christmas
December 30, 2023 for New Year's Eve

ARE YOU RECYCLE READY?

After the Holiday cooking and feasting is finished, will your blue recycle cart be "Recycle-Ready"?

Food and liquids can ruin the recycling. The recycle market requires high-quality materials to ensure they can be utilized and repurposed. Paper needs to be clean and dry. Bottles and containers need to be empty of food and liquid. Only then are they in good enough condition to be recycled into new materials. The rest are sent to landfill. Make sure your blue recycle cart is "Recycle-Ready."

Still unsure of how to get Recycle Ready? Visit, www.cityofpaltoalto.org/RecycleReady or contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service. Together we can make Palo Alto Recycle-Ready!



FIND OUT WHAT GOES WHERE

Only put accepted items in the cart. For waste sorting guides, visit www.cityofpaltoalto.org/wgwtools



EMPTY BOTTLES, CANS, & CONTAINERS



Pour out liquids. Scrape out food. Wipe out oily or sticky residue.

COMPOST FOOD & SOILED PAPER

Greasy, grimy, gooey, or wet paper goes in the green compost cart.



COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES: HOLIDAY SERVICE DAYS



Mark your calendars for the holiday service schedule!

GreenWaste of Palo Alto is closed on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1). All regular collection days are affected by the Holidays this year and will be moved to the following day.

Remember to set out your carts by 6am on the date illustrated below. Happy Holidays!

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER/JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Regular collection schedules will resume the following week. Contact GreenWaste Customer Service if you have any questions.

SLOW DOWN TO GET AROUND

GreenWaste of Palo Alto drivers have a dangerous job.



They simultaneously monitor several safety hazards including handling waste material, maneuvering refuse containers, navigating traffic, and being attentive to bicyclists and pedestrians. Our drivers are trained on these safety procedures and precautions, but we need your help to keep them and the Palo Alto community safe.

Please remember to Slow Down To Get Around as you would for a school bus, bicyclist, or construction zone. First, look for our drivers around the truck before you try to pass. Next, check for oncoming traffic and bicycles before continuing around the truck. If visibility is low and it seems unsafe to pass, please wait for the next stop the truck makes and re-assess passing. Always make sure the truck in front of you is stopped and you have enough room before attempting to pass. When following behind,



leave enough space to make sure they can see your car in their mirrors. Let's work together to keep the roads safe for everyone!