




GreenWays

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INSIDE THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY:

Ever wonder how your recyclables get processed after collection? It is truly remarkable! Our drivers take your material to GreenWaste's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), located in San Jose. This facility processes all of Palo Alto's residential and commercial recyclables, along with materials from other local cities.



2023 GREENWASTE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

GreenWaste released their 2023 Sustainability Report detailing their sustainability goals and progress. The report identifies technological advancements, new programs, partnerships, and employee initiatives. Check out the full report at www.greenwaste.com/sustainability/esg-reporting/

Upon arrival at the MRF, the truck full of recyclables is weighed at the scale house. Then the action begins – the truck unloads the material onto the tipping floor to be picked up and fed onto a metering bin which controls the flow of the material. The material falls onto the conveyor belt passing through 8 pre-sort stations where staff sort some materials by hand before it is reintroduced back to the conveyor belt. The material continues along through a variety of state-of-the-art mechanisms and processes including sorting stations, screens, separators, bag breakers, magnets, and an eddy current separator. These mechanisms and processes separate the materials into individual categories including cardboard, paper, glass, aluminum, and a variety of plastics. Throughout the whole process, there are quality control stations with sorting staff to remove any contaminants. At the end of the sorting line, the separated commodities are baled and sent to processors to be made into new

products.

This systematic process and high-tech equipment allow the MRF to consistently demonstrate unrivaled recovery rates of more than 85% for recyclable materials! GreenWaste is always working on installing new processing methods to increase capacity and improve the sorting of materials. However, it is essential for residents and businesses to properly empty their recyclables and correctly sort them so they are recycle ready. You can feel confident that placing clean recyclables into the blue recycle cart means we are going to get them sorted and sent to be recycled.

To find out more about the MRF watch a virtual tour or check out www.greenwaste.com/about-us/processing-facility/.



PLAN A ZERO WASTE EVENTS!

For any type event or gathering you are planning – potluck, birthday, etc. find ways you can incorporate zero waste practices.

Make food waste reduction a priority in planning. Look back on past events to think about how much food was thrown out. Review the types and quantities of food wasted and adjust your purchasing this time. Try the GUEST-IMATOR tool to help you plan portions at, www.savethefood.com/guestimator.

Set up waste stations with compost,



SORTING GUIDANCE: CLEAN VS. SOILED PAPER

Clean and dry paper products are perfect for your blue recycle cart or bin. Any paper that is dry, clean, and hasn't touched food or liquid should be placed into the recycling. This includes materials such as broken down and flattened cardboard, catalogs, books, envelopes, newspaper,



ZERO WASTE CHECKLIST

Reaching compliance with City of Palo Alto's ordinances means your business is working with the city to achieve zero waste together. Use the City's Zero Waste Multi-Ordinance Checklist to ensure your business meets the City's Zero Waste requirements.

Checklist includes the following requirements:

- Waste Station
- Waste Container
- Signage
- Waste Sorting

recycle, and landfill bins to help everyone sort properly. Provide guidance and explain the sorting system so everyone understand where to place their soiled items. Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto to assist with planning for waste stations, corresponding signage, and guidance and resources on waste sorting. 650-493-4894
pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com

Provide reusable foodware at your gathering instead of disposable or skip utensils and plates entirely and serve finger food. For reusable foodware, utilize or create a party pack – a designated box containing sets of reusable foodware and cloth napkins for an amount that best suits your business.

Avoid single use decor for your gathering, such as disposable decorations, balloons and streamers. Instead, consider reusable or compostable decorations such as candles, string lights, decorative table cloths, real foliage, or use food as a centerpiece. Reduce your waste and invest in decor pieces you can utilize for many years to come.

Help our community reach its Zero Waste goal – utilize these practices at your next gathering. For more information go to
www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwparty.

etc. Shredded paper is also acceptable if is bagged in a clear plastic bag and tied shut and placed into the blue recycle containers.

Greasy, grimy, gooey, or wet paper, referred to as “soiled paper” is perfect for your green compost cart or bin. Any paper product involved in cooking, eating, wiping your face, or blowing your nose cannot be recycled and needs to be placed into the compost. This includes materials such as pizza boxes, paper take out boxes, paper coffee cups, paper plates, paper towels, napkins, tissues, etc. Any paper product that has touched food or liquid should be placed into the green compost containers so it can be diverted from the landfill and composted instead.

- Recycle Ready
- Training Requirements
- Disposable Foodware
- Produce Bag
- Edible Food Recovery

For more resources and zero waste assistance reach out to the Zero Waste Palo Alto team or the GreenWaste of Palo Alto outreach team.

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