

A Greener El Cerrito

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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www.ecenvironment.org | 510-215-4350

Changes to Your Garbage, Recycling & Organics Service & Proposed Expanded Foodware Ordinance **Public Meeting: September 14**

Mandatory Organics Recycling

In 2016, California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 was signed into law by Governor Brown and establishes state-wide targets to reduce the disposal of organic waste and edible food. The regulations become effective on January 1, 2022, and apply to all businesses and households that generate organic waste. As a part of this new law, all businesses and residents must be enrolled in organic waste or “green waste” collection services.



What is Organic Waste?

- Food scraps
- Food soiled paper, including:
 - Coffee filters
 - Pizza boxes
 - Soiled paper plates
- Yard clippings
- Vegetative matter

In addition, all businesses and residents will be required to sort materials for disposal properly, placing organics in the green waste cart, recyclables in the recycling cart, and only garbage in the cart intended for the landfill. Later this year, the City will adopt a new ordinance requiring organic waste collection service for all customers, with some exceptions. The City is mandated by the state to both establish and enforce this ordinance.

For more information on the new requirements, please visit: el-cerrito.org/MandatoryOrganicsRecycling or contact the City’s Waste Prevention Specialist, Laureteen Brazil at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 559-7686.

Proposed Expanded Foodware Ordinance

In support of the City’s goal to keep more materials out of the landfill, the City of El Cerrito is also proposing changes to the 2013 Foodware Ordinance. That ordinance prohibited Expanded Polystyrene Foam (“Styrofoam”) containers and has required foodware to be packaged for takeout in reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers. The proposed changes would phase out single-use plastic foodware items within the City of El Cerrito.

Single-use foodware includes all containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, utensils, forks, spoons, knives, straws, and other items that are designed for one-time use and disposal. If approved, all food providers in the City would be required to procure and use reusable or compostable foodware. The City will assist *(Continued on Page 2)*

Want to Learn More?

The City invites residents and the business community to take part in a virtual meeting where we will detail the proposed changes to the City’s foodware ordinance and the state-required changes to the City’s municipal code mandating organics recycling. Community members will be able to ask questions and provide feedback to Staff.

Join the meeting via Zoom on September 14, 2021, at 7pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/91563415388?pwd=YmMvaTFaTXd1ekUrekpVdGNyQ3Bwdz09>

Meeting ID: 915 6341 5388 / **Password:** 2154350 / **Dial in:** 1-408-638-0968



(Cont.) Proposed Expanded Foodware Ordinance



food providers by providing training, technical support, and will continue to build public awareness to support a smooth transition.

Changes to the Foodware Ordinance were planned for 2020 but were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the impact of the pandemic on local businesses, the City is planning to phase implementation of the proposed ordinance, and is seeking input on the implementation steps and timeline. For more information about the proposed Expanded Foodware Ordinance, please visit: <https://el-cerrito.org/foodware>. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Will Provost at: wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 559-7684.

Proposed Timeline for Ordinance



Environmental Activities Calendar

Recycling Center Hours: The Recycling Center is open from 8:30am - 4pm Tuesday - Friday, and 9am - 4:45pm Saturdays. The Exchange Zone, Office, and Public Restrooms are now open to the public. The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program occurs every Tuesday from 9am to 4pm, closed for lunch from 12pm to 12:30pm. Expanded polystyrene (“Styrofoam”) collection occurs every Thursday for El Cerrito residents only. Proof of residency is required for HHW collection and Styrofoam collection. For more information, visit www.el-cerrito.org/RecyclingCenter.

Compost Giveaway: Free compost for El Cerrito residents and businesses only at a new pilot location. Compost will be available at the Upper Cerrito Vista Parking Lot adjacent to the tennis courts, (entrance off of Avis Drive) beginning Saturday, September 25th through Sunday, October 3rd. Available while supplies last. Limit of 5 cubic feet per household or business (approximately seven 5-gallon buckets).

Baxter Creek Volunteer Work Days - September 12, October 3, November 7, December 5: Help remove litter and invasive plants from this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. Work days will take place from 10 am—12 pm on the first Sunday of each month, except during major holiday weekends. RSVP to (510) 215-4350 or cbennett@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Fall Citywide Garage Sale: Shop the Citywide Sale on Saturday, October 9th from 9am-3pm. If interested in being a host, registration forms must be turned in by **September 10th** to be included on the map. Maps will be available online one week prior to the event. To download the map or for more info, visit www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale.

Holiday Schedule:

- ♦ **Veterans’ Day Holiday:** The Recycling Center and East Bay Sanitary offices will be closed Thursday, November 11 in observance of Veterans’ Day. Curbside collection of recycling, green waste and garbage will occur as normally scheduled.
- ♦ **Thanksgiving Holiday:** The Recycling Center and East Bay Sanitary offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 25 and November 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. Curbside collection will occur as normally scheduled.
- ♦ **Christmas and New Year’s Holidays:** The Recycling Center will be closed on December 24, 25, and 31 (beginning at noon), and January 1. The East Bay Sanitary office will be closed on December 24 and 31. Curbside collection will occur as normally scheduled Monday through Friday.