New Commercial Recycling Brochure, Color Changes to Curbside Containers, and Senate Bill 1383 Compliance Inspections

The City’s Operations + Environmental Services Division, in coordination with East Bay Sanitary, has developed an updated, comprehensive, guide to Commercial Garbage, Recycling, and Organic Recycling Services in El Cerrito. The digital brochure is available online at [el-cerrito.org/greenbiz](http://el-cerrito.org/greenbiz). The new brochure strives to make it easier for El Cerrito businesses and residents to know how to properly sort materials in the City’s curbside program and divert materials from the landfill. It provides the latest information on what materials are accepted and how businesses can stay in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and the City’s Municipal Code, by subscribing to the City’s three-container program and by properly sorting recycling, organics, and garbage.

The new brochure also alerts customers that the City’s curbside recycling container color will change from gray to blue, and the garbage container will change from blue to black, by Spring/Summer 2023, in compliance with SB 1383.

Additionally, as required by SB 1383, your garbage, recycling, and organics containers will be monitored for contamination. Inspectors will be visiting businesses and multifamily properties throughout the year and may spend several minutes inspecting your containers to ensure materials have been sorted properly. The City is required to conduct these inspections under California State Law. Please refer to our recycling guidelines on our website and in the new brochure to make sure you are sorting your waste properly.

Curious about what items are considered “contamination”? Here are a few common examples for each container type.

**Common “Contamination” Items that are Prohibited in Each Container:**
- **ORGANIC WASTE:** metal, plastic, glass, trash, hazardous waste
- **RECYCLING:** food and landscape waste, trash, hazardous waste
- **GARBAGE:** food and landscape waste, metal, clean paper, hazardous waste

For more information on the new brochure, or answers to questions on how to properly dispose of items, please contact Recycling Center Staff at (510) 215-4350 or by email at [green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).
How to Comply with El Cerrito’s Foodware Ordinance

The City of El Cerrito has adopted an Expanded Foodware Ordinance requiring foodware to be compostable or reusable, and additionally requiring foodware accessories to only be provided upon request.

The Expanded Foodware Ordinance has two components:

1) All Food Providers in the city must use compostable or reusable foodware (e.g., straws, eating utensils, and food containers) with limited exceptions. Compostable is defined as being accepted in the City’s green-waste collection programs and being free of all intentionally added fluorinated chemicals. **Note: Compostable plastics are not allowed.** To make it easy for businesses to understand what kinds of products are compliant, the City produced a Compliant Disposable Foodware product guide, available at el-cerrito.org/foodware.

2) Aligning with State law (Assembly Bill 1276), all Food Facilities must also only distribute single-use foodware accessories (e.g., utensils, straws, stirrers, etc.) and condiment cups or packets upon request by the consumer. This includes through food delivery platforms.

The City will assist businesses by providing training and building public awareness to support a smooth transition. Additionally, the City mailed a resource packet that includes a factsheet, the Compliant Disposable Foodware guide, and sample signage to all impacted businesses in February 2023. Enforcement of the compostable foodware requirements will begin January 1, 2024. To view PDFs of the resources that have been created or to find out more information, please visit el-cerrito.org/foodware.

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Del Norte TOD Complete Streets Project Update

The El Cerrito del Norte Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Complete Streets Improvement Project will improve access, safety and comfort for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and motorists to support transit-oriented development in the Uptown area of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan area and improve connections to the Del Norte BART Station.

Project elements include enhanced and protected crosswalks, context-sensitive bikeways, bus boarding islands, circulation improvements, and streetscape enhancements. The project will implement the multimodal transportation improvements originally identified in the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and Active Transportation Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2014 and 2016, respectively.

The City anticipates beginning construction in Spring/Summer 2023 with completion in Summer 2024 for the public to enjoy the new improvements. For more information regarding this project, please visit el-cerrito.org/transformingdelnorte.

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You Can Assist With Street Sweeping in El Cerrito

Street Sweeping helps to remove pollutants before they drain into storm drains, ditches, and creeks which eventually flow into the San Francisco Bay untreated.

You can help the street sweeping be more effective by following the guidelines below to help us keep your streets clean:
- Remove your curbside collection containers from the street after they have been picked up.
- Park your cars off the street on your scheduled sweeping day.
- If you see someone dumping into a storm drain, call 1-800-NODUMPING.

For more information and to obtain a street sweeping schedule map, visit el-cerrito.org/streetsweeping. The City contracts with East Bay Sanitary (EBS) for street sweeping services in the City of El Cerrito. Please contact EBS at (510) 237-4321 or info@ebsan.com for all street sweeping related inquiries, questions, or complaints.