



CITY OF HOUSTON
Solid Waste Management Dept

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Mayor

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Dear Resident,

Great News!

Your neighborhood has been selected to be a part of the City's Automated Recycling Program! This is an excellent way for you to save up to \$450 per year by diverting material from your garbage can by recycling.

You will receive a green, 96-gallon cart (similar to the black automated cart) for recycling collection. These carts will arrive in your neighborhood between March 15 and April 4, 2010.

Your curbside recycling service day will be on your regular garbage day except it will occur every other week. Your recycling day is **TUESDAY B.**

-A week service will begin on April 5, 2010.

-B week service will begin on April 12, 2010.

With the automated recycling carts, you will find it convenient to store recyclables in one container. Also, because the cart has wheels, residents can bring their material to the curb in one easy trip! The City of Houston will take the materials to a private facility where the different types of recyclables are separated and shipped for market reuse.

Your participation and feedback are critical to the success of the program. Your cart has a serial number so it needs to remain at your address. Please find attached more information regarding your new recycling service. Additional information will be coming to you in the mail about your new RecycleBank Rewards Program. Be sure to activate to start earning your rewards immediately.

We thank you for your support in making Houston a cleaner, greener place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry J. Hayes".

Harry J. Hayes, Director

P.S. Attached is the collection schedule and answers to frequently asked questions.

HJH:MAJ

New Automated Recycling Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some common questions regarding this new service. If you do not find an answer to your question here, please contact 3-1-1 or visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org.

Why is this new recycling program being implemented?

Houston residents currently utilize what is commonly referred to as “single-stream” recycling. This type of recycling allows customer to mix recyclable paper, plastic and aluminum cans in one container. Customers will still be able to commingle recyclables, however, collection will change from manual bin collection to an automated cart-based collection. Automated collection reduces costs because collection routes are serviced more efficiently and worker injuries decrease.

How often will recycling be collected?

Collection will be bi-weekly, just like the current 18-gallon green bin system.

What do I have to do?

You will be provided with a 96-gallon green automated cart for your recyclables. We are requesting that you use these carts to recycle. These carts are much larger than the previous recycling bins and will allow residents to dispose of five times more recycling material than the 18-gallon bins. Also, the carts roll easily to the curb and have a lid to contain items and keep from getting wet.

What items can go in the cart?

- * Newspaper
- * Magazines
- * Catalogs
- * Phonebooks
- * Plastic containers 1 through 5 and 7 (rinsed and drained)
- * Aluminum and tin cans (rinsed and drained)
- * Cardboard (flattened)
- * Glass bottles, jugs and jars (rinsed and drained)

A list of the items that can go in the cart is printed on the cart lid for your convenience. This new service will allow you to recycle glass, which was not previously collected curbside.

What about used motor oil?

Used oil will be collected; however, it must be placed outside the recycling cart in a screw top, non-chemical container. The container can be five gallons maximum. Due to the limited space on the collection vehicle, please limit your quantities to no more than three containers per household.

What items cannot go in the cart?

Please remember this is NOT a trash can. No garbage, yard trimmings, trash, food or hazardous waste should be placed in the cart. No paper plates, paper cups, plastic bags, meat trays, pizza boxes, Styrofoam, window plate or ceramic glass can be accepted because of contamination. Only those items indicated on the cart lid are acceptable.

Why can't I place plastic bags in the cart for collection?

Plastic bags jam the automated machinery at the processing facility. Residents can take their plastic bags to some grocery stores or other local stores and place them in their containers for recycling. The Westpark Consumer Recycling Center located at 5900 Westpark also accepts clean, litter free plastic, grocery and film bags.

What if my paper gets wet since it's commingled with other items?

We do ask that you empty and rinse all your containers to keep food contamination out of your bin. A minimum amount of moisture will not ruin the paper. Quality control audits will be conducted to keep down levels of contamination. Those found to place large amounts of unacceptable material in their individual carts run the risk of having the carts removed.

Can I get more than one cart?

Only one cart will be issued per household. Please note each cart will have a serial number to determine participation rates of individual neighborhoods.

What if my cart is lost or stolen?

A police report must be filed in order to obtain a replacement cart.

Is there a fee to participate in the program?

There is no fee to participate, however, audits will be conducted to determine participation rates of individual neighborhoods.

What are some of the anticipated advantages of this new recycling program?

- * The program makes it easier for residents to recycle; thereby increasing recycling and helping the City divert waste from landfills.
- * Collection costs are reduced because collection is automated.
- * Collection routes are serviced more efficiently.
- * Worker injuries are expected to decrease because of automated collection.
- * Glass will be collected.

What are some of the anticipated disadvantages of this new program?

The larger bin may encourage residents to put everything that *seems* recyclable in it. This is why we need your help in remembering that this is not a trash can. Customers must be conscientious recyclers to make the program a success.

Where can I go for more info?

You can call 3-1-1 or visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Automated Recycling Program

Schedule A
Programa A

Bi-Weekly Collection Schedule
Programa de Reciclaje Automatizado
Programada de Recolección Bi-Semanal

Schedule B
Programa B

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
APRIL ABRIL 2010						
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MAY MAYO 2010						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JUNE JUNIO 2010						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JULY JULIO 2010						
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
AUGUST AGOSTO 2010						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
SEPTEMBER SEPTIEMBRE 2010						
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
OCTOBER OCTUBRE 2010						
	1	2				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

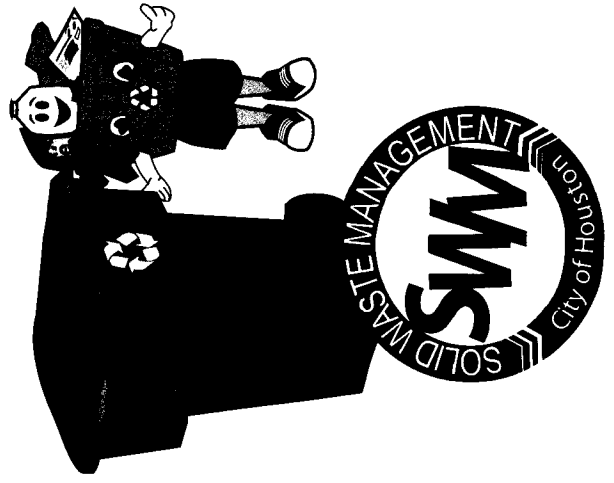
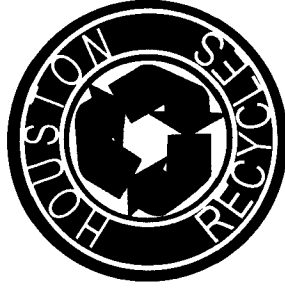
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
NOVEMBER NOVIEMBRE 2010						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
DECEMBER DICIEMBRE 2010						
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JANUARY ENERO 2011						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FEBRUARY FEBRERO 2011						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MARCH MARZO 2011						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



If your collection day is during the "A Week" then follow the schedule for the shaded week.
Ex: Friday A service days in August 2010: August 13th & 27th.

If your collection day is during the "B Week", you will follow the unshaded week's schedule.
Ex: Friday B service days in August 2010: August 6th and 20th.

Si el día de recolección de reciclaje automatizado está en el "Programa A", entonces los días de recolección están trazados por una línea de color verde en el calendario.
Ejemplo: en el calendario del mes de agosto de 2010, si su día de recolección es el viernes entonces los días de servicio son: viernes 13, y viernes 27.

Si el día de recolección está en el "Programa B", entonces los días de recolección NO están trazados por ningún color en el calendario.
Ejemplo: en el calendario del mes de agosto de 2010 si su día de recolección es el viernes entonces los días de servicio son: viernes 6, y viernes 20.

Holiday Schedule (No Collection) - SWMD holiday schedule, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org.

En días feriados no hay recolección. Para saber los días feriados del Departamento para el Municipio de Desaparición de Sólidos de la Ciudad de Houston, por favor visite www.houstonsolidwaste.org.