



CITY OF HOUSTON

Solid Waste Management Department

Annise D. Parker

Mayor

Harry J. Hayes
Director
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Dear City of Houston Customer:

The City of Houston has joined other municipalities across the state and country in diverting valuable yard material from landfills. In an effort to keep costs as low as possible, save valuable landfill space and expand Automated Curbside Recycling with RecycleBank Rewards Points, effective **April 5, 2010**, the City will change the manner in which yard material is collected. City collectors will only pick up bagged yard trimmings placed at the curb in **city-approved** compostable bags. Yard trimmings placed in the garbage cart, or in any other type of container or bag will not be collected. Remember, recycling your yard trimmings:

- Preserves valuable landfill space.
- Reduces solid waste service costs by up to \$1.5 million per year.
- Allows for the expansion of automated curbside recycling to more city garbage customers.
- Recycles valuable organic material for mulch, compost or other products.

Approved compostable bags are available at numerous retailers, with more being added weekly. These bags can be identified by a logo on the box specifying "City Approved", and "City of Houston Biodegradable/Compostable Bag". Please go to the Solid Waste Management Department web site at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call the 3-1-1 Service Help Line to find a current list of retailers and more information regarding the Compostable Bag Program.

Although compostable bags cost a bit more than regular plastic bags, customers have options. Instead of bagging leaves, grass and yard trimmings, the City of Houston encourages customers to adopt free alternatives, such as grasscycling, which is using a mulching lawnmower, and backyard composting. An excellent resource explaining the grasscycling and composting alternatives can be found on our web site at www.houstonsolidwaste.org.

The City of Houston is proud to be a leader in diverting, reusing and recycling yard trimmings and tree waste. By doing so, your Solid Waste Management Department is able to expand the Automated Curbside Recycling Program which further diverts, recycles and saves more useful materials from area landfills. Of course, this saves even more of your tax dollars. Thank you for doing your part to help us take care of our community.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Harry J. Hayes in black ink.

Harry J. Hayes, Director
Solid Waste Management Department