



Bellaire Recycling Newsletter

April 2012

Improvements made to Solid Waste City Ordinance

On December 5, 2011 the Bellaire City Council approved changes to the City's Solid Waste Ordinance. These changes impact all Bellaire Residents and Commercial Customers. These changes went into effect on March 1, 2012.

The City's goal is to provide the most efficient service possible to residents while protecting the safety and welfare of City employees. An extensive evaluation of the City's solid waste/recycling collection services was undertaken in 2011 to ensure that the cost of solid waste/recycling collection could be maintained at a reasonable level for all City residents.

Collection days and frequency of pick up remain the same. The City did not increase the cost of either the solid waste charge of \$17.17 plus tax or the recycling charge of \$2.50 plus tax.

Opt-Out Provisions for curbside recycling. There is now only an opt-out provision for the disabled for the City's curbside recycling program (as of March 19th council meeting)

Pay as you throw. For every bag over the four (4) allotted bags per designated pick up day, the City requires residents to purchase a sticker for \$1.00 for each additional bag over the four (4) allotted bags. These stickers can be purchased at City Hall at 7008 S. Rice Avenue between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. (Monday – Friday) in the Utility Billing Department located upstairs at City Hall.

We encourage all residents to go online to the City's website at <http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us/solidwaste> to read the ordinance in its entirety. If you do not have access to a computer; copies of the City's Solid Waste Ordinance can be obtained at the following locations:

City Hall – 7008 S. Rice Avenue
Bellaire City Library – 5111 Jessamine
Public Works – 4337 Edith

If you have concerns or questions please call 713-662-8150



Summary of Solid Waste/Recycling Service

- Garbage must be set out for collection by 7 AM
- Garbage cannot be set out prior to 6 PM the day before collection or on City holidays
- Only four (4) garbage bags will be collected per home on each designated collection day
- Residents may purchase a sticker for \$ 1 for each bag in excess of the allowed four (4) bags. Stickers are available for purchase at City Hall located at 7008 S. Rice Avenue in the Utility Billing Department M-F 8:30 am – 4 pm
- Each bag should not contain more than 25 pounds of garbage (total of 100 pounds)
- Not more than 200 pounds of brush will be allowed per pick up
- Cardboard or aluminum cans should be included with recycling for curbside pick up on Wednesday not in trash bags
- The weight of each recycling container when placed out for pick up cannot exceed 25 pounds
 - chemicals, swimming pool or other;
 - automotive fluids (oil or other);
 - automotive parts;
 - carpet;
 - building materials;
 - large appliances;
 - oil based paint;
 - electronic goodsResidents are asked to find other means, such as recycling and proper hazardous waste disposal methods, to dispose of these items.

RECYCLING REMINDERS:

- There is no limit to the number of recycling bins that can be placed out on Wednesdays
- Additional recycling bins may be purchased for \$10/piece at City Hall located at 7008 S. Rice Avenue in the Utility Billing Department M-F 8:30 am – 4 pm

Residents are reminded that garbage generated by commercial lawn maintenance companies, tree-trimming companies, handy-men or anyone else not considered the occupant must be hauled away by the service provider. It is up to residents to notify service providers of this requirement and ensure it is met. See Solid Waste Ordinance 16-7. Look for a note you can give your provider (in English & Spanish) on the Public Works website in the near future.



Bellaire Recycles Fest 2012

Mark your calendars—Bellaire Recycles Fest 2012 will be held on November 3rd. We need sponsors for the event in order to make it a reality. If you or a company you know of is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Brenda Cauthen at bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us.



Spring Fling Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 14th, the Nature Discovery Center will host their Spring Fling Earth Day celebration from 10 am to 3 pm. This FREE family event has something for everyone: children's crafts and activities, nature walks, environmental exhibitors, music on the front porch, a spring gift market, and The Bellaire Garden Club's annual Spring Plant Sale (from 8am – 3pm). The Bellaire Recycling Committee will be onsite

with a booth to support the event. We will provide information, and answer questions about all kinds of recycling and waste disposal including the Don't Bag 'em, Leave 'em campaign and the improvements to Bellaire's solid waste ordinance. You can see more about the event and the Nature Discovery Center at www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

City Wide Garage Sale

The Bellaire city-wide garage sale day is April 28th. Any Bellaire resident wishing to hold a garage sale that day may do so with no city issued permit required. It's a great way to recycle some of those things you are no longer using.



Do YOU want to be on the Bellaire Recycling Committee??

If you want to help educate Bellaire residents on how to recycle and live greener, then check the Bellaire city web site at <http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us/forms.aspx?FID=56> for an application to fill upcoming openings on the Recycling Committee beginning

July 1. Applications are due mid-May.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of Bellaire collected Christmas trees outside of the Public Works building in early January and donated them to The Save Our Beach Association which is a non-profit organization (www.sobatx.org) that was founded to help protect our beaches along the Surfside Beach coast line. Bellaire residents left hundreds of trees for the program. Thank you to all who brought trees for reuse! Christmas trees help catch the sand; and in return builds the sand dunes. The sand dunes are the first line of protection against a hurricane.



It's Grass Growing Season

With Spring's arrival, our grass starts growing and we start the annual mowing and fertilizing ritual. We are continuing the "Don't Bag 'em, Leave 'em" campaign in the City of Bellaire in an effort to reduce the amount of grass clippings we are hauling to the landfill. With your participation, we can greatly reduce the

impact that taking grass clippings to the landfill has on our city and the environment. See an archived copy of the April 2011 Water Bill insert on the subject at <http://ci.bellaire.tx.us/DocumentCenterii.aspx?>

Reduce Waste with Freecycle!

Reusing products is one the most effective things you can do to reduce your impact. Freecycle is an online community of folks nationwide who share unwanted products with others, diverting tons of waste from landfills. The only rule - everything has to be free. Visit their site to find a local Freecycling group! www.freecycle.org

Ideas for how to get Recycle Bins to the curb

- Ask a neighbor or family member for help
- Tie a rope to the handle and drag
- Purchase multiple bins so each bin is not too heavy
- Get a dolly from a local home improvement store/attach wheels to roll it to the curb
- Purchase a recycle bin cart—google “recycle carts” for many options



Changes that Make a Difference

- Favor products with a high recycled content, even if they cost a little more.
- Reduce the volume of packaging you buy, reuse what you can, and recycle the rest.
- Tell the clerk "I don't need a bag".
- Use your own reusable canvas bag or backpack at the store.
- Buy quality products and keep them for a lifetime.

From the Consumer Recycling Guide,
www.obviously.com/recycle.



Give the Bottle the Boot

In the 1970's nobody drank water out of single use bottles. Today single use bottles predominate water delivered in large plastic bottles by trucks. Yet pipe delivered water faces much stronger safety standards, and is far less environmentally intense. Purchase a stainless steel water bottle for your personal use. Encourage shops and business districts to make taps available for refilling personal bottles.

When you are enjoying the great outdoors in Bellaire this spring, look for the recycling bins for your bottles and cans at area parks. The Little League park at Jessamine has a recycling bin to collect recyclables. If you are at an event or outing and there is no recycling bin or it is full please consider taking your recyclable container back home with you so that it can be recycled.





EASY RECYCLING TIPS

1. Find a convenient place to collect recyclable items. Most things come from the kitchen, making it a good spot to set up a recycling center.
2. Take reusable bags with you to the grocery stores.
3. Recycle junk mail or reuse it as scratch paper. To opt-out of certain junk-mailing lists, go to opt-out.cdt.org.
4. Newspapers, magazines, and white paper can all be recycled. Plastic wrap, stickers, or rubber bands should be removed, but staples and plastic window envelopes are OK.
5. Recycle worn-out rechargeable batteries like those used in cell phones, computers, or power tools. Many of these are taken at local hardware stores (and Batteries Plus) or go to <http://www.call2recycle.org> to find a drop-off location in your area.
6. Household toxics- Individuals tend to be very sloppy when it comes to handling toxic materials in the home. Individuals often handle toxic chemicals in ways businesses would be fined for. The heaviest application of agricultural chemicals in the USA comes not from agribusiness, but rather from home gardeners. Items such as poisons, paints, oil, solvents, automotive fluids, cleaners, herbicides and many others must not be dumped into the regular garbage. Water seeps through landfills and toxics end up in the water table. Chemicals must never be dumped in storm drains; such drains typically flow "untreated" into rivers, lakes or oceans. (These items should be taken to Hazardous Waste Disposal locations—see <http://www.earth911.com>)
8. Computer Printers- Most printer cartridges are easily recycled, refilled or re-built. But printer vendors sell the printer cheap, and make their real money selling supplies. They don't want you be environmental. Sometimes you can find free envelopes for donating cartridges to a refiller. (Many places such as Best Buy, Cartridge World or Office Max take used printer cartridges). To make a difference, buy recycled paper for your printer (because of the fine grain, it can look better than regular sliced trees). Grab piles of "blank on one side" paper from work, and use the other side.

Source: <http://www.obviously.com/recycle/guides/common.html>T