



## New and improved recycling service begins in 2012

*What are the impacts?*

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q. What is changing?**

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors recently selected an option for future waste and recycling collection with service scheduled to begin in 2012. A new solid waste contract with Waste Management is expected to take effect at that time. The new option provides significantly improved recycling services with the least cost and least impact to residents, while taking into account that waste disposal costs will increase over the long-term.

#### **Here are the changes:**

- **Recycling** – The existing 18-gallon recycling container will be replaced with a green 96-gallon container with an embossed yellow lid, a handle and wheels. This is the same size as the current trash cart.
- **Yardwaste** – After February 1, 2012, plastic bags will no longer be accepted. Green waste can still be bundled or placed in resident-provided containers. If bags are used, they must be compostable bags, available at local stores.

#### **Q. What is staying the same?**

**Garbage service**, using your current trash cart, remains the same. There will also be no changes to the bulky waste pick-up, extra trash tags, or the Township's Recycling Center. (If you are unfamiliar with the current services, please visit [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov). Click *Residents*, then *Trash Collection*, for details.)

#### **Q. What are the benefits?**

There are a number of benefits, the main one being that new cart accommodates an increasing number of items that can be recycled curbside, including large cardboard. The wheels make the cart easier to maneuver, and the lid keeps recyclables dry and prevents littering. The ability to recycle more means less refuse goes to the landfill, which results in lower costs for the future.

### **Q.What is the cost?**

There is no additional cost to you. The service fee is included in your annual Township tax bill. Many communities charge an additional service fee for garbage and recycling pickup, but The Woodlands does not.

### **Q.What is the timing?**

The transition to the carts will begin in late 2011 and be completed by February 1, 2012. Information will be posted on the Township Web site and published in *The Woodlands Community Magazine* in the months preceding the new service. Exact schedules and routes are still underconsideration.

### **Q.What are the rules?**

All trash, refuse and recyclables (except bundled limbs and branches) must be placed in containers as noted above. All trash, refuse or recycling containers may be placed near the street edge no earlier than one day prior to waste collection. Emptied containers must be removed from the street, front yard or driveway by the end of the collection day. Containers must be stored on the owner's property at all times. Containers must be stored out of public view at ground level from the street or alley or adjacent and surrounding properties at all times except during waste collection.

### **Q.What if I have a concern about storage and screening?**

If you do not want to store the carts in your garage, please call The Woodlands Township Covenant Administration Department at 281-210-3800 for suggestions on how best to store and screen the carts at your property. Options may include fencing, lattice or landscape screening using plants.

### **Q. Does it matter how the carts are placed on pickup day?**

Yes! Place both wheeled carts at the curb or street-end of your driveway, with the opening side facing the street, and the wheels and handle facing the house. Remember to keep at least four feet between the carts so that the automated arm of the trash and recycling truck can pick up each cart.

### **Q.What if I don't want the new recycling cart?**

The Woodlands Township hopes that you will enjoy the mobility and size of the new cart and find more things to conveniently recycle, however, if after 90 days (after May 1), you still do not want the cart, please call Waste Management at 800-800-5804, and the cart can be removed from your home at no charge. If, at a later date, you should decide that you want to re-order the cart, a fee will apply.

### **Q.What can be recycled in the new cart?**

Full recycling information is available at the Township's Web site. Current items accepted curbside are:

- Aluminum cans, such as those for carbonated drinks.
- Aseptic containers (coated cardboard) such as those for juice, soup and milk cartons, ice cream cartons.
- Cardboard, flattened.
- Glass: brown, green and clear jars and bottles.
- Paper: office, school, junk mail, newspaper, magazines, catalogs.
- Paperboard: cereal, cracker, toothpaste boxes; tubes and paper rolls.
- Phonebooks.
- Plastic: rigid bottles, cups and containers #1 through #7. (Look for the recycling symbol on the product.)
- Steel and tin cans, such as those for canned meats and vegetables.

*Please remember to rinse any food or drink containers before recycling.*

**Q. What is not accepted curbside?**

- No plastic bags of any type.
- No ceramics, pyrex, windows or mirrors.
- No foil or pie pans.
- No plastic sleeves.
- No Styrofoam™ containers.

**Q. How can I recycle what is not accepted curbside?**

The Woodlands Township is always working to have more items accepted curbside. Over-sized items can continue to be scheduled for a bulk pickup directly with Waste Management at no additional charge. In addition, many charitable organizations provide pick-up and drop-off for items that are still serviceable. For other items not on the curbside recycling list, check with Precinct 3 Recycling Complex and Southwest Recycling for scrap metal and many other bulky items for recycling. Precinct 3 Recycling Complex accepts clean Styrofoam™ and other expanded Polystyrene and household products. The Township's Recycling Center is also open two days per week. Please check the Township's Web site for additional information and options on recycling items that are not accepted curbside.

**Q. What do I need to do?**

No changes right now. During the fall, watch for articles in *The Woodlands Community Magazine*, the Township's Web site, [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov), and local papers for updates and information. At some point in December 2011 or January 2012, you will receive the new recycling cart at your home, and then you may begin using The Woodlands Township's new and improved recycling service!

*For more information on The Woodlands Township government, please call 281-210-3800 or visit [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov).*