



CITY OF HOUSTON
Department of Solid Waste Management

Bill White

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Dear City of Houston Recycling Customer:

The City of Houston is studying the efficiency of its curbside recycling to ensure taxpayers are getting maximum return on investment in the program. This means the Solid Waste Management Department is studying the cost-effectiveness of collections from neighborhoods where few residents recycle at the curbside. The most recent study of the current 162,000 participating households revealed that there were 43 neighborhoods (involving over 23,000 homes) which have a less than 10% set out rate for curbside recycling services. (The national average for recycling set out is about 25%) In too many cases, the department's trucks must drive through entire neighborhoods to collect only a few bins. Obviously, with the price of diesel fuel, equipment and staffing, such minimal collections are not cost-effective.

We are providing this information to all customers in hopes of improving participation rates, particularly in those 43 neighborhoods. **Those neighborhoods that do not improve their set out rates will be dropped from the program at the end of this calendar year.** As neighborhoods are dropped, others will be added to replace them. I encourage you to recycle and help the city protect valuable landfill space.

To see your neighborhood's participation rate, visit www.gogreenhouston.org and click on "Participation Rates."

Sincerely,


Harry J. Hayes
Director of Solid Waste Management

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