



# Recycling in Houston: Where Are We?

Department of Solid Waste Management Harry J. Hayes, Director March 22, 2012























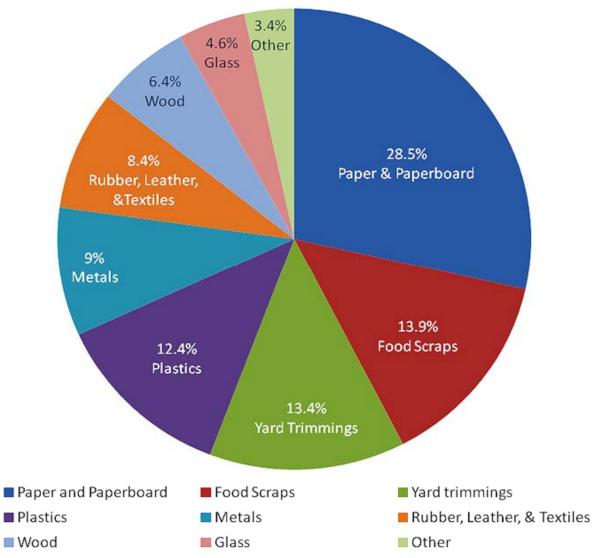








2010 Total MSW Generation (by Material) 250 Million Tons (Before Recycling)







## Solid Waste Task Force

"SWMD, in general, is functioning well and is quite efficient due to good management, hard-working personnel,...."

Task Force Recommendations
March 2007

Restructure Heavy Trash

Open More Depositories

2 New Depositories Opened

More Recycling

Single Stream Recycling Expanded

Re-Start Composting Program

Compostable Bag Program



## Recycling Programs and Partnerships



Curbside recycling program

- Reuse Warehouse
- Neighborhood recycling centers
- Go Green Community

E-scrap recycling

- Recycling in City buildings
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)
  - Pilot opportunity for small businesses











We Recycle at Work







## Recycling in City Buildings

- Moved from a patchwork program of paper recycling to a comprehensive program in all City buildings and facilities.
- New program began 2009

 Average over 100 tons a month from over 300 buildings and facilities







- Launched a partnership with the Houston Apartment Association November 2011
- Go Green Community recognition is awarded to apartment residences offering recycling to their residents
- Piloting a recycling program for small businesses with the Montrose Management District





http://www.haaonline.org/recycling/ http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/gogreencommunity.html



## Curbside Recycling: History



October 1988 Scrap metal recycling at depositories August 1990 Began curbside recycling pilot

March 2007 Solid Waste Task Force recommends a move to single stream recycling

August 2009 Added 10K homes to single stream

2010 DOE grant funds allow largest expansion of single stream, 50K homes added

January





















**April 1989** Westpark Recycling Center opens

Summer 2006 Go Green Recycling Campaign

March 2009 Began single stream program with 10K Homes

November 2009 Recyclebank Rewards added

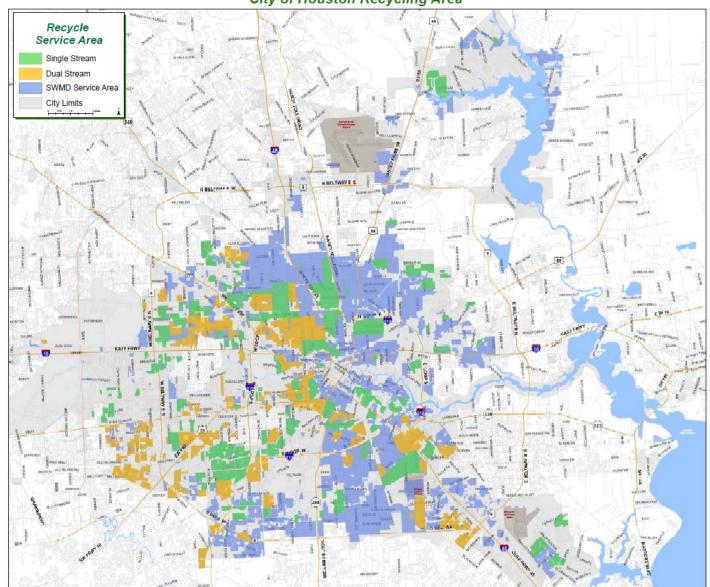
December 2010 30K homes added to single stream



#### Current Distribution of Curbside Recycling





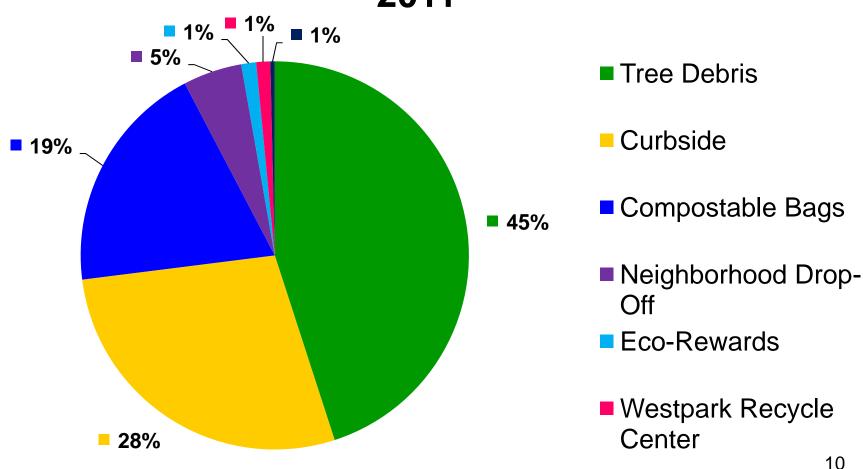






## Diversion by Category 2011

#### **Tons Diverted from Landfill Disposal** 2011



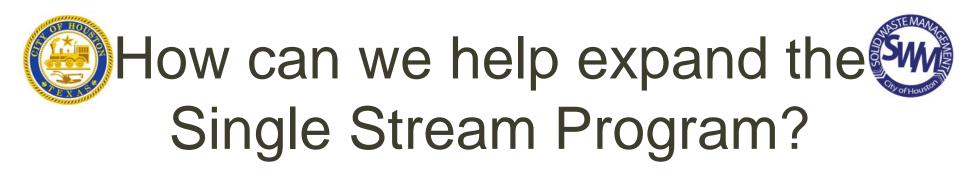




### Recycling: Is it worth it?

YES IT IS!

Recycling + Trash < Trash alone



- Utilize your curbside bin if you have one.
- Take material to one of the 13 drop-offs.
- Divert as much recycling from your trash stream as you can.

- Every time you recycle the City saves money on landfill costs and gains revenue from the sale of commodities.
- The more money we save the more infrastructure we can purchase to expand the program.





### Thank you!

#### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

