

Dear Leawood Homes Association Leader,

This letter is intended to provide you with information about the upcoming changes to curbside collection of waste in Johnson County. As you may be aware, the County has adopted new regulations that affect all residential waste haulers beginning January 1, 2012. Haulers will be required to provide curbside recycling to all single family homes and use volume-based pricing. In addition, any yard waste picked up by haulers must go to composting or mulching facilities rather than landfills. These changes were preceded by extensive outreach to haulers, cities and the general public, and are needed in order to extend the life of existing landfills and to promote a more sustainable solid waste management system for Johnson Countians.

If your Homes Association contracts for waste services on behalf of its members, here are some of your options and things to consider as you negotiate new contracts with your hauler.

- Haulers must provide trash and recycling to each customer as a bundled service.
- Haulers must provide volume-based pricing, but there is a lot of flexibility in the County regulations for each HOA to tailor their own program. The maximum weekly volume in the base rate is 96 gallons. Some haulers are offering lesser volumes (e.g. 65 gallons or 32 gallons) at a lower rate. Additional waste in excess of the base volume will cost extra to the individual customer in the form of bags, stickers or tags.
- Most trash haulers will still offer curbside collection of yard waste, but must collect it separately for composting and/or mulching. The charge for this additional service (if any) is set by the hauler and not governed by the County regulations. Some HOAs are choosing to include yard waste collection in their contracts and some are expecting their households to arrange individually for this service independent of the HOA contract.
- At their discretion, residents may choose to manage yard waste with backyard composting, mulching mowers, or by using a drop off composting facility rather than subscribing to a curbside collection service.
- County regulations do not restrict the amount of yard waste that can be placed at the curb for pick up. However, haulers may impose weekly bag limits to manage their costs. These limits will vary among haulers.
- There are many yard waste collection programs being offered by haulers. Some are seasonal; some are year-round. The County does not regulate these variables, and instead leaves the details up to each hauler and HOA to decide in order to best meet each HOA's needs.

There are many tools available to help you spread the message about these changes to the members of your Homes Association. I have attached a newsletter article that you can personalize and share with homeowners. Also attached is a one page flier on yard waste that explains the options for residents. We also have a short video on yard waste options for residents as well as a short video that follows the trail of our recyclables.

The entire Code of Regulations for Solid Waste Management can be found on our website, www.JoCoRecycles.org. Our website is also a great resource for recycling and composting information. If you have specific questions about the new requirements, feel free to contact me, Julie Coon, 913-715-6938 or julie.coon@jocogov.org.

Many cities and Homes Associations in Johnson County have already successfully made the transition to the new requirements ahead of the 2012 deadline. While change is sometimes difficult, we know that with your leadership, the transition will be manageable. And we are available to assist you with any difficulties you may encounter.

Thank you for your commitment to serving your community.
Julie Coon, Solid Waste Specialist
Johnson County Environmental Department
913-715-6938