

City of Ann Arbor
Public Services/Solid Waste
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

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Help manage your fall street leaves!

Order your \$25 compost cart by July 30, 2010
Free home-delivery in mid-late September

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE

PAID

ANN ARBOR, MI
PERMIT #178

734.99-GREEN (994.7336)
www.a2gov.org/compost



HERE'S HOW TO ORDER YOUR COMPOST CART

One-time \$25* charge for a Compost cart, any size 32-, 64-, 96-gallon.
Pre-order sale ends Friday, July 30, 2010.

Three ways to order:

Online at www.a2gov.org/compost.

The compost cart cost will be added to the next quarterly water bill statement.

In-person or by **phone** –

Purchase your compost cart during business hours via the Customer Service Center, 220 E. Huron, 734.99-GREEN (994.7336 x 0) with payment accepted by credit or debit card, cash, or added to your next water bill statement.



32-gallon MINI cart
19" W x 24" D x 38" H



64-gallon STANDARD cart
24" W x 27" D x 42" H



96-gallon LARGE cart
26" W x 35" D x 46" H

**Additional compost carts pre-ordered for delivery to the same address cost \$50 each.
The \$25 compost cart discount and free delivery applies only to the pre-ordered sale offer.
Compost carts picked up from the Customer Service Center at any time are priced at normal \$50 each.
This special bulk compost cart pricing for factory-direct, truckload pre-order sale ends July 30, 2010.*

Dear Ann Arbor Resident,

June-July 2010

The city is offering residents the opportunity to order a compost cart for a one-time fee of \$25 when ordered by July 30, 2010. The pre-paid carts will be home-delivered starting in mid-September. Residents may select a 32-, 64-, or 96-gallon compost cart for \$25. Additional carts may be pre-ordered to be delivered to the same address for \$50 each. Interested buyers may place their compost cart order online at any time at www.a2gov.org/compost (and add the payment to your next water bill) or place an order in person or by phone to the Customer Service & Payment Center during weekday business at 734.994.7336 x 0 or in person at 220 E. Huron, and pay by cash, credit or debit card, or place the order on your next water bill. The special factory discount rate for compost carts applies only to carts that are bulk-ordered and pre-paid by 5 p.m., Friday, July 30, 2010. Compost carts picked up from the Customer Service Center at any time are priced at the normal cost of \$50 each. The use of a rolling compost cart is a convenient option to the use of paper yard waste bags for collecting and transporting yard debris to the curb for weekly, seasonal pickup.

FALL LEAF PICKUP CHANGES

Ann Arbor's fall leaf management program is transitioning this year from two street leaf pickups each fall to weekly curbside collection through the Compostables program, provided from April through the end of November.

Why is the city transitioning to using the curbside compost program instead of the two fall street leaf pickups?

Despite the tradition of having the leaves picked up from the streets twice each fall, the street leaf collection program has not been satisfying for many residents. The benefits of moving away from the street leaf pickups include:

- Providing weekly curbside leaf pickups throughout the fall season instead of relying on twice/season street collections. Instead of saving leaves for just two street pickups, residents can manage leaves throughout the fall.
- Avoiding problems with vehicles parking over leaves and impeding truck pickup access, resulting in areas of street leaves left behind for a season. Trying to schedule collection trucks to make multiple return trips to locations of previously parked-over leaves is not feasible.
- Preventing leaves from clogging storm drains, leading to neighborhood flooding and resulting in pollution running into the Huron River.
- Increasing the efficiency of leaf collection by using existing compost trucks and not deploying additional trucks to pick up bulk leaves.
- Increasing safety for bicyclists along marked bike lanes and other streets.
- Responding to seasonal weather variations. If warm, dry weather delays the leaf-drop or early snowfall reduces the opportunity for street collection at the end of the season, every resident gets the same weekly access to leaf pickup each year.

In addition...

- The City of Ypsilanti eliminated street leaf pickups in 2009 and managed the leaf pickup program within its existing budget, with little inconvenience to the public. As fuel and labor prices continue to rise, municipalities need to find ways to provide services without increasing costs.

- If the fall leaf-fall is delayed for seasonal variations, the city administrator has the ability to extend the compostable curbside pickup into December, to the benefit of all residents, not just a few neighborhoods tacked onto the end of the collection schedule.
- If residents choose to purchase and use a city-approved compost cart, they may also include grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps for municipal collection and processing. (Paper yard waste bags are not appropriate for holding heavy, wet materials that easily leak and break through paper bags at the curb and can attract unwanted wildlife. Plastic bags are not accepted for Compostable collection because the contents easily go anaerobic and sour and present compost site operation problems. Plastic bags are acceptable for holding refuse in trash carts.)

OTHER OPTIONS FOR HANDLING FALL LEAVES

- **Feed your lawn with leaves by using a mulching mower!** Instead of raking leaves, run a mulching mower across up to six inches of fallen leaves instead of raking. Turf Institute Researchers at MSU find leaf mulch the ideal fall lawn treatment.
- **Use the weekly Compostable pickup.** Use the compost cart to roll around the yard and then to the curb—no bags needed in the cart. Paper yard waste bags are great for leaves, too. The weekly Compostable collection season runs from April through the end of November. The pickups can be extended into December if the weather conditions warrant an extra week or more of leaf pickups. Sign up for online announcements via GovDelivery for the general news releases at www.a2gov.org (click on the red envelop in the right corner of the screen) or more specifically at www.a2gov.org/recycle.
- **Compost at home.** An easy home composting recipe is provided at www.a2gov.org/compost and will be included in the fall Waste-Watcher newsletter, mailed to resident homes in September.
- **Compost drop-off options.** Ann Arbor residents may deliver up to one cubic yard (6 yard waste bags) of compostables—including grass clippings and veggie scraps—per visit, at no charge, to the Compost Center, 4150 Platt Road, Open Mon-Fri, 8-4 p.m. 734.794.6380. \$10/cy additional cubic yards/resident, \$12/cy for nonresidents. Compostables are also accepted at Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, 734.971.7400, open Tues-Sat, 9-5, \$2/bag, \$23/cubic yard.