



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MORE COMPOST CART SIZES AVAILABLE FOR ANN ARBOR RESIDENTS

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — May 9, 2008 — In response to requests from the public, the City of Ann Arbor is selling three sizes of compost carts: 96, 64, and 35-gallons to residents with seasonal curbside compostable collection. All three carts are priced the same: \$25 for the first cart at each address, and \$50 for any additional carts. Ann Arbor residents who previously ordered a 96 gallon cart will be receiving a confirmation in the mail the week of May 19th and will have the ability to change their preordered cart size by using the enclosed postage-paid return card.

The optional compost carts may be purchased online at www.a2gov.org/carts with the cost added to the resident's water utility bill statement. Carts may also be pre-ordered and purchased by contacting the city's Customer Service Center, 220 E. Huron during business hours in person or by phone at (734) 994-2807 and paying by credit card, check, or cash. The pre-order option completed by May 31 includes home delivery of the carts in June. Residents interested in purchasing additional carts for use at the same address may pre-order and purchase the second cart at a one-time charge at the city's cost of \$50 each. Compost carts purchased after May 30 will be available for a one-time charge of \$50 each, payable by any of the above online or Customer Service Center methods, and may be picked up from the city's Wheeler Service Center, 4251 Stone School Road near East Ellsworth Road.

Friday, June 30 is the last day the City of Ann Arbor will collect yard waste that is set out in resident-provided 30-35 gallon labeled trash cans. Yard waste placed in paper bags and bundles of brush will continue to be collected. Optional 96-gallon special compost carts are being sold by the city as an optional compost container. The city will provide a special collection of unwanted 30-35 gallon trash cans during the week of July 7-11. Efforts will be made to reuse or recycle, as possible, the collected cans.

Starting July, 2008 the compost collection program will accept yard waste in the semi-automated carts as well as continue to accept materials in large paper yard waste bags or twigs tied with natural twine into

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bundles. Bundled branches may be up to six-inches in diameter, four feet in length, with the overall bundle measuring up to 18-inches in diameter and up to 50 pounds. The compost program accepts yard trimmings, such as leaves, plants, garden debris (including crabapples), and twigs. Plastic bags, trash, stones, dirt, sod, grass clippings, animal waste, or food waste are not accepted in the compost program.

Grass clippings will naturally decompose and grasscycle back into the lawn. In addition, Ann Arbor residents may deliver up to one cubic yard per visit of yard debris, including grass clippings, at no charge to the municipal Compost Center, 4150 Platt Road, (734) 971-8600. The city's collected yard waste materials are processed in to a nutrient-rich product at the municipal Compost Center.

Residents with curbside solid waste collection will be notified of the changes in the compost collection program by a variety of methods. Field operations drivers are applying labels to all compost cans alerting residents to the pending program changes. The spring *WasteWatcher* newsletter will include prominent announcements of the compost program changes, followed by a direct-mail postcard to residential addresses with curbside solid waste collection service. The city's Web site main page and link to www.a2gov.org/carts will offer 24-hour information and online ordering options, as well as dimensions and photos of the available compost carts. The change is also being advertised in local publications. ###