



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Mark Cozart, Field Operations Supervisor,
734.794.6350 / mcozart@a2gov.org
or Nancy Stone, Public Services Communications Liaison,
734.794-6000 ext 43112 / nstone@a2gov.org

ANN ARBOR EXTENDS CURBSIDE COMPOST PICKUPS FOR ONE ADDITIONAL WEEK, ENDING DEC. 4, 2009

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – November 23, 2009 – In order to provide Ann Arbor residents with one full week of compost pickups following the Thanksgiving holiday week, Ann Arbor's weekly curbside Compostable collection program is extended through Friday, December 4. Residents may place leaves, weeds, brush into paper yard waste bags or into their optional Compost cart and set the materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on their normal curbside solid waste collection day. Bundled brush is also accepted at the curb when tied into bundles up to 18 inches in diameter and four feet in length. Individual branches may be up to six inches in diameter. Plastic bags are not accepted for yard waste. Residents who have purchased and use the optional compost carts may also include grass clippings and uncooked fruit and vegetable scraps in their compost carts for municipal collection. The seasonal curbside compost pickups will resume with the return of the growing season in April 2010. Additional details of the city's compostable program are posted online at www.a2gov.org/compost.

The city's annual street leaf pickups are scheduled to conclude the week of November 30 in the final neighborhood sections posted on the Web at www.a2gov.org/leaves.

Ann Arbor residents may also deliver up to one cubic yard (approximately six paper yard waste bags of materials) at no charge per visit, to Ann Arbor's municipal Compost Center. Drivers must first check in at the MRF Scalehouse, 4150 Platt Road, (734) 794-6380, open weekdays all year, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ann Arbor residents bringing more than one cubic yard per visit will be charged \$10/cubic yard; non-residents and commercial entities are charged \$15/cubic yard. Compostables may also be taken to the Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, (734) 971-7400 www.recycleannarbor.org and are charged \$14/cubic yard or \$2 per each paper yard waste bag.

The easiest leaf management option is to mow the leaves into the lawn with a mulching mower. According to experts at the Michigan State University Turf Management Institute, simply run a mulching mower a few times over up to six inches of dry leaves and allow the tiny pieces to sift into the turf, releasing the nutrients back into the soil. Recent research at MSU has successfully mulched and incorporated up to 18 inches of dried leaves per year and maintained healthy turf. Another alternative is to compost leaves into rich humus. A home composting recipe is posted at www.a2gov.org/compost.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve. #####