



## Memorandum

**TO:** Green Summit Attendees

**FROM:** Mayor Becky Ames

**DATE:** Apr 21, 2009

**RE:** Recycling in Beaumont

Thank you for your recent interest in recycling in our city. I am in agreement with you that recycling is an important issue for all of us. It is not my intent or desire to stop recycling in our city. However, I would like to provide you with a brief background on our recycling efforts to date.

- On June 2, 2008, the City of Beaumont initiated a Single Stream Recycling Pilot Program. The pilot program consisted of the placement of a twenty-five (25) yard container at the Market Basket on the corner of Phelan and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. During the program, the amount of recycled material collected averaged approximately 1.23 tons per day. Additionally, the container was emptied once a day and on occasion twice a day. The initial phase of Pilot Program ran from June 2, 2008 until October 1, 2008, with the City not being charged, and then from October 1, 2008 until the conclusion of the Pilot Program, with the City paying a reduced amount of \$175 dollars per haul.
- Based on the success of the pilot program, City Council authorized the solicitation of competitive bids to provide recycling containers at three additional location in the city. The bids required a private company to provide the containers and haul the recycled materials to the recycling company.
- On February 12, 2009, bids were opened, with only one response, bidding \$575 per haul, or \$69,000 per month to service all four containers. We estimated that this high fee of \$575 per haul was due to the current economic downturn and the low demand for recycled materials, as the value of such materials has plummeted. One other concern was that a substantial amount of the fee (as much as \$200 per haul) was charged for the hauler to simply take and hold the material. The result would be that a good portion of the recyclable material wouldn't be recycled into other products.
- Due to the high cost and since the current economic conditions continue to not be

favorable, a Single Stream Recycling Program was not implemented at this time and the Pilot Program was to be discontinued on April 30, 2009. The City encourages citizens to bring recyclable materials to Gulf Coast Recycling, located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Cedar.

- In order to study this matter further, the City Council, at its April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, will consider appointing an ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of various recycling efforts of other cities that could be relevant to Beaumont.
- Also, please note that the City of Beaumont does have recycling programs in place. The City recycles yard waste through our Composting Program. Approximately 25% of all materials collected at the curb by City trucks is composted and a significant amount of the finished compost is returned to citizens at no cost to them. Compost product is available to citizens between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays at the Landfill located on Lafin Road.