



# Transition to Compostable Bags

## No Traditional Plastic Bags

Solid Waste & Recycling Division

2/14/2012

# Why Ban Plastic Bags?

- State Law
- Problem to Process – Added Cost



- Consistent with Current Yard Waste Processing RFP

# New Yard Waste Setout Rules



## Bags/Containers

- Kraft Paper
- Compostable Plastic
- Reusable Container with Sturdy Handles
- 33 Gallons or Less

## Guidelines

- 40 Pound Weight Limit
- Bundle Brush up to 3 Feet Long and 3 Inches in Diameter, with Twine or Rope

# Certified Compostable Bags



- Clear or Translucent Color
- Certification Label

# Educating our Customers



**Changes to Yard  
Waste Collection**  
for the 2012 Yard Waste Season



- Direct Mailing
- Bilingual Hand Delivered Cart Hanger
- Educational Tags
- Email Blasts
- Website
- News Release
- Social Media



## Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling

### CURRENT NEWS:

Yard Waste Collection changes for the 2012 Yard Waste Season.  
All bagged yard waste must be in compostable bags.

## News & Events



# Timeline 2012

March 12

Education:  
Direct mailing to residents will announce the change in yard waste setout policy.

March 19 - March 23

Education:  
Crew will leave an education tag at the collection point announcing the change in yard waste setout policy.

April 9 to May 4

**Yard Waste Season Begins**

Policy:  
Yard Waste crews will collect yard waste in compostable bags, traditional plastic bags and reusable containers. Yard waste in traditional plastic bags will be debagged by the crew at the back of the truck.

Education:  
Crew will leave an education tag at the collection point of properties with yard waste in traditional plastic bags.

May 7, 2012 and ongoing

Policy:  
Yard Waste crews will only collect yard waste in compostable bags or reusable containers. Yard waste in traditional plastic bags will be tagged and will not be collected. Solid Waste and Recycling customers that have yard waste in traditional plastic bags at their collection point will follow the Dirty Collection Point process.

Education:  
Customers will receive an educational tag at their collection point followed with a warning letter by mail.

# Conclusion

Implementing the plastic bag ban ahead of schedule has benefits:

- Reduce yard waste processing costs
- Receive the best possible yard waste processing contract
- Come in line with other Cities in the 7-county metro area which implemented the ban Jan 1, 2010
- Improve the quality of finished compost