

Waste Management Statement on Removal of Glass from Houston's Curbside Stream

March 18, 2016

Many communities across the country are facing difficulties when it comes to glass as part of a commingled curbside mix. Collecting glass through drop site programs is not unique to the City of Houston; it's a shift cities from New Mexico to Georgia are making in order to control their costs while maintaining the integrity of their broader curbside recycling programs.

Whether or not to include glass in curbside recycling is a decision that differs from city to city. There's certainly no 'one size fits all' approach and factors such as available markets, priorities, goals, economic considerations etc., all factor into a city's decision on whether to include glass in a curbside recycling program.

Glass recycling is not going away in Houston; it's just going to be done differently. Glass will still be collected and recycled – just not in the curbside recycling cart. Some items (e.g. clothes and furniture) are better recycled through other systems and not in curbside carts – glass is one of those items.

Education for consumers is a key element of any successful curbside recycling program and we know the City is aware of that.