

Sec. 39-37. - Reports.



The Houston Clean City Commission shall, each quarter, during the months of January, April, July and October submit a written report to the mayor and city council summarizing the status of the clean city program.

(Code 1968, § 2-281; Ord. No. 77-2294, § 1, 11-9-77)

2024 Review of the Clean City Program Houston Clean City Commission

Sara Tyler, **Reports Committee** Chair and Commissioner - District G
Jason Smith, **Events Committee** Chair and Commissioner - District AL2



What is the HCCC's Clean City Program?

EVENTS

- Education and public awareness of efforts that support sound waste management, beautification, and litter reduction
- Plan, develop, and implement neighborhood-based litter cleanup programs and activities.
- In partnership with Keep Houston Beautiful and other organizations



REPORTS

The Commission produces quarterly reports which focus on how a specific waste type is generated and managed in greater Houston and notes opportunities for improvement, if identified. The aggregate of opportunities identified is bundled into the Clean City Program.

SINCE 1977 Houston Clean City Commission

QUARTERLY REPORT Q3 2024: CONTAINER GLASS

OVERVIEW

In accordance with the City's Code of Ordinances Chapter 36 Article III, the Houston Clean City Commission is to direct and oversee a comprehensive litter control program for the purpose of reducing and controlling to an acceptable level the concentration of litter in the city and to bring about a long-term improvement in the attitude and trash handling habits of citizens. The ordinance in Section 36-27 further directs the Commission to "each quarter, during the months of January, April, July and October submit a written report to the mayor and city council summarizing the status of the clean city program." Through a study completed in 2022, the Commission determined that the regional trash handling best change which will most greatly impact Houston's ability to effectively compete in a future, more-circular economy is to improve the volume and quality of waste materials flowing directly from waste generators to local facilities engaged in related materials reclamation and to support the development of additional local reclamation capability. With this in mind, each of the Commission's Quarterly reports will focus on how a specific waste type is generated and managed in greater Houston and note opportunities for improvement, if identified. Reports will be kept to two pages, submitted in writing to the City and shared at an upcoming public City Council meeting.

Our Q3 2024 report focuses on **container glass**.

HOUSTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION REPORTS COMMITTEE

- Sara Yule, Reports Committee Chair and Commissioner - District G
- Jason Smith, Events Committee Chair and Commissioner - District A12
- Joe Machado, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 8
- Mark Hittah, Commissioner - Director of Solid Waste Management
- Johana Clark, Commissioner - Director of Public Works design
- Thomas Baslime, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 20
- Razi Alabdullah, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 19
- Drew Hernandez, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 30
- Sheerwah Roberts, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 13
- Jane Lu, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 9

HOUSTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION CHAIR

- Alan Steinberg, Commissioner - Mayor Nominated Position 22

SPECIAL THANKS to these 2024 Q3 report advisors, consultants and industry experts

- Stefano Jose Merchant, Senior Plant Manager, Laura Hennemann, Commercial Director
- City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department (Veronica Lizama, Dep. Director - Administration, David Venegas - Manager, Recycling, Seth Kozal, Manager - City of Houston Reuse Warehouse for Building Materials, Meagan Riche, Administrative Specialist)

Clean City Program Execution (Reports) - 2024

- In a world where support is unlimited, pursue all improvement options.
- In a budget or time-constrained world, pursue the highest priority options at a manageable rate.

2024

Approach: All identified opportunities were ranked:

Complication / Cost

	Low	Some	Moderate	Complicated
High				
Moderate				
Low				

**24 opportunities
identified and ranked:**

	IMPLEMENT
	ASSESS
	DEFER

2024 “Implement” Opportunities	Potential Impact	Complexity / Cost	Progress
Increase public awareness that the yard and tree waste program are separate	HIGH	MODERATE	Some progress made, support requested
Remove barriers to yard waste program participation	HIGH	LOW	ACHIEVED! Ordinance update broadens program access.
Provide manifest requirements consistent with State program to small non-residential scrap tire generators	HIGH	LOW	Support requested
Focus public recycling messaging on properly managing prevalent and problematic contaminants	HIGH	MODERATE	Current focus is drive more yard waste through the yard waste program, support requested
Continue to accept container glass through the single stream recycling program.	HIGH	LOW	ACHIEVED!
Specify “empty glass bottles and jars” as acceptable for recycling in SWD and other City communications, not “glass”	LOW	LOW	In progress, no help needed

- **2024 big win:** Remove barriers to yard waste program participation
- **Priority near-term help needed:** Ordinance change needed to make manifest requirements for small scrap tire generators consistent w/ the State’s program, public education focusing on the proper utilization of the yard waste program.

2024 "Assess" Opportunities	Potential Impact	Complexity / Cost
Review the City's Yard Waste Contracting Strategy	HIGH	COMPLICATED
Develop, Implement, Execute and Monitor a Soil Health Plan for City Parks, City-managed Greenspace or Other Space	HIGH	COMPLICATED
Use higher-resolution recycling access metrics	HIGH	COMPLICATED
Encourage and/or champion and/or promote the establishment and operation of privately-managed source-separated container glass waste programs with a focus on bars and restaurants	HIGH	COMPLICATED
Additional City-led e-waste collection	MODERATE	MODERATE
Publish the list of licensed scrap tire generators so that it is publicly searchable	MODERATE	SOME
Proper scrap tire sorting at Collection Facilities	LOW	SOME
Scrap Tire Drop-Off Option for Non-Profits and Clean Up Contractors	MODERATE	SOME
Acknowledge the pros and cons of becoming a leader in plastic recycling to remain in line with public sentiment	MODERATE	SOME
Ensure glass dropped off at the neighborhood depositories is source-separated and flows to the Houston-based glass recycling facility.	MODERATE	SOME

Progress:

Some high-impact opportunities are not proceeding because they require further evaluation or additional resources. The need for a designated focal point to monitor and support progress towards Commission recommendations has been included in all 2024 reports. This focal point is still needed.*

*Skills required would be analysis, reporting, and communications / interpersonal relations.

2024 "Defer" Opportunities	Potential Impact	Complexity / Cost
Additional promotion of third party options for computer and TV recycling	LOW	MODERATE
Explore enhanced citizen service: help residents utilize third party options for computer and TV recycling	LOW	COMPLICATED
State-level advocacy: advocate for required manufacturer recycling of additional e-products	LOW	COMPLICATED
Promote packaging efficiency	LOW	SOME
Develop supplemental scrap tire disposal options for small non-residential generators	LOW	MODERATE
Incentivize landscaping contractors to deliver yard waste to an appropriate reclamation facility	MODERATE	COMPLICATED
Additional enforcement of illegal dumping of scrap tires	MODERATE	COMPLICATED

“Defer” doesn’t mean these opportunities aren’t valid or realistic. Some make sense to defer because simply because another action should come first and some make sense to defer because they are more effort for a smaller reward compared to other options. These opportunities will continue to be tracked and as higher-priority opportunities are realized, these options may be promoted.

Most Recent Report: Container Glass

Destinations:

Landfill	Mixed Recycling	Source-Separated Recycling
<p>+ Glass is non-toxic and glass in a landfill is relatively benign</p> <p>- Landfilling glass uses landfill space and the benefits of recycling are lost</p>	<p>+ Multiple Houston area MRFs are capable of recovering glass from a mixed stream of recyclables</p> <p>- Most costly option due to glass being heavy (>10% of recycled tonnage w/ ~60% recycled)</p>	<p>+ One operational facility with additional capacity City limits and over 90% of material accepted is recycled.</p> <p>- Requires very clean input stream, this facility cannot accept MRF-separated glass</p>

Recommendations:

- **Applaud the establishment of any privately-managed source-separated container glass waste programs with a focus on bars and restaurants.**
- **Ensure the glass dropped off at the neighborhood depositories remains source-separated and flows to the Houston-based glass recycling facility.**
- **Houston's recycling program should continue to accept container glass.**

Clean City Program Events - 2024

CLEAN UPS

- Two city wide campaigns with two dozen community clean ups
- Numerous independent large (100+) clean ups



Planned Q1 2025 Clean City Commission Report

Houston Area Clean Up Coordination: How various organizations such as Solid Waste, 311, Keep Houston Beautiful, Houston ToolBank, Volunteer Houston, TX DOT, and others help facilitate and support community clean ups and how the process can be more efficient and effective to best maximize these collective resources.



Clean City Program Events - 2024

MAYOR'S PROUD PARTNER AWARDS LUNCHEON

- Recognized 4 community organizations/leaders
- 150 attendees, raised money for future clean up efforts



PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Solid Waste - HISD Recycle Day
- Industry - Coca-Cola, National Pickleball Association, Cyclyx, Plastics Industry Association...
- Keep Houston Beautiful, Houston Toolbank, Volunteer Houston

COMMISSION VISITS

- CompuCycle, Nature's Way, Waste Management, SMI/Sibelco...



Looking ahead: 2025

- April 1-30 (all month): April Spring Clean Up
 - April 5 - KHB Day
 - April 22 - Earth Day
 - April 25 - Arbor Day
- September 11 – November 23: Fall Sweep
 - September 20 - World Clean Up Day
 - September 28 - Plant a Tree Day
 - November 15 - America Recycles Day
- November TBD (11:30-1:00 pm): Mayor’s Proud Partnership Award Luncheon

2025 Key dates



2025 Report topics

- Q1 - Community Clean-ups
- Q2 - Cardboard
- Q3 - TBD
- Q4 - Year-end lookback

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