

Harris County MUD 127

News, Tips & Updates

November 2018

Be 'WaterSmart' Year Round

With all the recent rain and flooding in Texas and elsewhere, it's easy to allow thoughts of water conservation to escape our awareness. However, the amount of water on our planet is finite, and we all need to take responsibility in managing its use wisely.

You might wonder what impact you as an individual can have, and the answer is plenty! Only a small portion of our daily usage in the U.S. is for drinking water. The rest goes for lawns, washing machines, down toilets and drains, etc.

Being mindful of practices associated with running your household could help a great deal. One expert has suggested that if everyone in the U.S. flushed the toilet just one less time each day, we could save the amount of water it would take to fill a lake a mile long, a mile wide and four feet deep!

Join the *Save Water Texas Coalition*, and learn more about how your family's actions can make a difference. Visit <http://savewatertexas.org/>.

2018 Tax Rate

After a call for public comment yielded no objections, the MUD 127 Board voted at the October monthly meeting to approve the proposed 2018 tax rate. The total rate of \$0.66 per hundred dollars of value represents a two-cent decrease in the rate compared to 2017 and continues the downward trend in rates in recent years.

For 2018, the average residence homestead value in the District has been estimated at \$145,928, a 4.6% increase over the 2017 average residence homestead value of \$139,532. The new rate means that 2018 taxes for the average residence homestead will only increase approximately 1.5% instead of 4.6%.

Recycling Program Update: Avoid Contamination!

Although experts estimate that 80-90% of household trash could be recycled, there are a number of items that are considered taboo when it comes to what goes into our recycle bins. Entire lots of otherwise recyclable items have been rejected by buyers due to a *lack of attention to what we place in the bins*. Over the last year significant shifts in worldwide markets, partly attributable to "contaminated" items, have caused cost increases for our single-stream residential recycling program.

As a result, the guidelines for the program have been updated by WCA, MUD 127's solid waste services provider. For example, pizza boxes and other paper to-go containers with any food residue are considered contaminated and should *not* be placed in the bins. Likewise, at present, any item made from *Styrofoam* — even when it's marked with a number in a triangle — should *not* be placed in the bins. This prohibition also goes for lids and caps for plastic containers marked number 1-7.

However, based on the new WCA guidelines, there is no need to remove staples, labels, paper clips, and rubber bands from paper items. On the flip side of this newsletter, you'll find revised rules for recycling. Please read, share with your household, and follow them carefully so the effort we all put into reducing the waste that goes into landfills is worth it. The guidelines are also viewable at www.HCMUD127.com/solid-waste-disposal-recycling/.

The MUD Board will continue to monitor markets and providers so the most effective and cost-efficient program is available to residents.

Updated Recycling Rules =====>



Single-Stream Recycling Guide

Save and Post!

You can now place all recyclables in one bin!



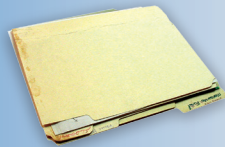
Opened mail & greeting cards



Paper egg cartons



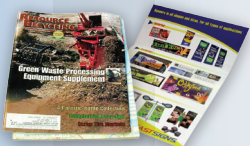
Paperboard boxes



File folders



Blueprints



Magazines, brochures & catalogs



White or pastel office paper



Newspapers & inserts
(no bags)



Phone books



flatten
Corrugated cardboard & paper bags



Paperback books



#1-7 Plastic tubs & screw-top jars
(no lids, no #7 PLA compostables, do not flatten)



#1-7 Plastic bottles & jugs
(no lids, no #7 PLA compostables, do not flatten)



Cans (do not crush or flatten)



Clean, balled aluminum foil (2" or larger) and pie pans



Loose metal jar lids & steel bottle caps



Paper milk/ juice cartons
(no foil pouches, do not flatten)



Empty aerosol cans
(no caps)

No need to remove: paper clips, stamps, address labels, staples, tape, wire, metal fasteners, rubber bands, spiral bindings, plastic tabs.

Please flatten all cardboard boxes.

Empty and rinse all containers. Do not flatten containers.

Please follow these guidelines carefully.

NO

- plastic bags
- plastic lids & caps
- windows
- glass
 - scrap metal
- Tyvek® envelopes
- plastic 6-pack holders
 - needles or syringes
 - paper ream wrappers
 - plastic microwave trays
 - frozen food, ice cream or frozen juice containers
 - mirrors, ceramics or Pyrex®
 - light bulbs, plates or vases
 - drinking glasses, window glass
- hazardous or bio-hazardous waste
 - plastics other than those listed
 - tissues, paper towels, napkins
 - waxed paper or waxed cardboard
 - Styrofoam® or paper to-go containers



plastic bags



NO GLASS



Styrofoam® & paper to-go boxes & cups



plastic caps



www.wcawaste.com

aim for zero waste

Single-Stream Recycling