



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salt Lake City Expands Glass and Yard Waste Recycling Programs

Changes Aim for 50 Percent Landfill Diversion by 2015

SALT LAKE CITY – Mayor Ralph Becker will announce the expansion of Salt Lake City’s yard waste and glass recycling programs tomorrow at Fresh Market on 370 East 200 South at 9:00 a.m. The City aims to divert 50 percent of its waste stream away from the landfill by 2015. Increasing glass recycling drop-off sites from three locations to 21 will give most residents in Utah’s capital city the opportunity to recycle glass within one mile of their homes. The City’s goal is to recycle over 6 million pounds of glass each year using the new bins. Most of the brown, clear and green glass will be fed into local fiberglass companies to be made into home insulation products.

Salt Lake City residents will also receive a brown yard waste bin by the end of the month to be used for all compostable yard waste including leaves, tree branches, Christmas trees, and fruit and vegetable scraps. The goal of the yard waste program is to recycle over 10,000 tons of yard waste annually into compost, rather than just sending this valuable material to the landfill. The yard waste program will also divert 24 tons of plastic leaf bag waste from the landfills each year.

Committed to extending the life of the existing city landfill and contributing to positive long term environmental impacts, Mayor Becker and the City Council set the landfill diversion goal last year. Implementing use of yard waste bins and increasing glass recycling drop-off sites are necessary changes to meet the 50 percent goal, extend the life of the landfill and delay the expensive process of purchasing a new landfill site.

“Although we have a proactive community in Salt Lake City, we are currently only recycling at a 19% rate. We must be more dedicated if we wish to expand the life of our landfill and better manage our waste,” said Mayor Ralph Becker. “These daily efforts to recycle glass, yard waste, and other materials will provide greater stewardship over our natural resources, and add up to big savings down the road as we better manage the waste our growing city produces.”

“In response to the regular requests of very active Salt Lake City residents, we are excited to expand our waste disposal options adding seven times the glass recycling drop-off sites around town,” said

Recycling Manager for Salt Lake City Debbie Lyons. “We believe the City’s waste and recycling services will be supported by households, businesses and everyone who contributes to waste production in Salt Lake City as we realize our daily efforts can make a tremendous difference.”

Garbage collection, recycling, yard waste, neighborhood clean-up and glass drop-off sites will all be funded through a flat fee for homeowners, based on the size of their garbage cans. City residents interested in submitting comments or learning more about the garbage and recycling program can email the Mayor at mayor@slcgov.com, go to the SLC Green website at www.slcgov.com/slcgreen, or send an email to Salt Lake City Recycling Program Manager Debbie Lyons at debbie.lyons@slcgov.com.

About Salt Lake City Green

Salt Lake City Green is comprised of award-winning environmental programs that continue to help conserve resources, reduce pollution, slow climate change and ensure a healthy, sustainable future for Salt Lake City. For more information, visit www.slcgreen.com, the Salt Lake City Green Facebook page, or follow SLCgreen on Twitter.

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