



Thank you for your interest in setting up a cooking oil recycling program! This document provides guidance to ensure proper disposal and collection of used cooking oil.

### **Why Participate in the Program**

In Houston, sewer overflows are most often caused by people pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain. A sewer overflow is a backup of raw wastewater that can contaminate our water, causing property damage, resulting in fines, and threatening the health of our community. The best way to prevent sewage overflows is to ensure residents are properly disposing of grease, oils, and fats. This program encourages residents to save their cooking oil to be recycled into products such as cosmetics or biofuel, keeping it out of our drains!

### **Program Logistics**

Participants will bring filled grease containers (old glass jars, sealed tin cans, etc.) to a designated drop-off place. A volunteer or staff member will regularly take the oil and grease to one of Houston's Environmental Service Centers (locations listed below) on a regular basis.

Houston Public Works will provide information on the importance of this campaign, along with information to include in a letter or email explaining the program. Houston Public Works will also provide ongoing support and assistance throughout the program.

### **What to dispose of in the collection station**

It is important that the oil and grease is "pure" and only includes the following items:

- Used, leftover fats, oils and grease. This will smell "good", is generally white, clear, or light brown and is free from sediment or excess liquids.

### **What Does NOT go into the collection station**

- Food, milk, or other perishable products can cause mold and should be tossed in the trash.
- Motor Oil (black in color) and Paint **CANNOT** go into the collection station.

*There is a fine of approximately \$1 per gallon for contaminated grease in the collection station*

### **Where to drop off cooking oil and grease**

Drop off the used cooking oil and grease at one of Houston's Environmental Service Centers.

**\*Environmental Service Center South**  
11500 S Post Oak Road,  
Tuesday & Wednesday, 9AM to 3PM  
2nd Saturday of each month, 9AM to 1PM

**\*Environmental Service Center North**  
5614 Neches Street,  
2nd Thursday of each month, 9AM to 3PM

### **How To Get Started**

Email Houston Public Works at [ProtectOurPipes@houstontx.gov](mailto:ProtectOurPipes@houstontx.gov) to become an official partner today!