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Living Earth Announces Contract with the City Of Houston for Green Material Recycling Services

On Wednesday, May 14, 2008, Houston's City Council approved an ordinance awarding a contract to Living Earth Technology Company ("Living Earth") on its bid for green material recycling services for the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department.

Under this contract, the City of Houston will deliver green material (which consists of tree limbs, branches, stumps and yard trimmings) to Living Earth locations, where it will be processed into environmentally beneficial mulch and compost.

Mark Rose, President of Living Earth, remarked, "We are absolutely thrilled that Houston is dedicated to recycling and proud to be selected as a trusted green partner. For over 16 years, we've partnered with Houston on various initiatives, including the Christmas Tree Recycling Program and the testing of biodegradable bags. In 2007, we began working with the City to launch this green material recycling pilot program. We are pleased Living Earth could help with such a successful pilot program and now look forward to launching the broader recycling program throughout the city."

In addition Rose said, "Green material is a large portion of the municipal waste stream in Houston. More and more people understand that recycling this material makes good environmental and economical sense. By diverting and recycling tree trimmings and brush, communities like Houston can save landfill space, reduce green house gas emissions and save money while returning the material to environmentally friendly uses. Compost and mulch promote vegetative growth, re-introduce valuable nutrients into the soil, reduce erosion and promote water retention. We look forward to working closely with the Solid Waste Management Department to help grow the program."

Solid Waste Management Department Director Harry J. Hayes said, "In the six-month period of the pilot program, we have saved \$131,200 in tax dollars from avoiding landfill disposal costs. We are extremely pleased at the results of the pilot program and we thank the residents in the pilot area for helping us develop a successful tree waste recycling system that can be expanded to all of Houston." Living Earth donated the disposal costs for the pilot program with the City.

Mayor Bill White stated, "By passing this tree waste removal ordinance, a monumental decision has been made to preserve our natural resources and save tax dollars by diverting materials from area landfills. I am encouraged by the strong support we continue to receive from Houstonians who want to do more for the environment." White added, "As a result we will begin a Tree Waste Recycling Program citywide, which will help us divert at least 20% from area landfills. This is one of the green efforts we will pursue to ensure we leave our children and grandchildren a clean, healthy place to live."

Living Earth (www.livingearth.net 713-466-7360) is the largest commercial manufacturer and provider of mulch, compost and other landscaping materials in Texas. In addition, the Company is the largest recycler of green material in Texas, operating 15 locations in Houston, Dallas, Ft. Worth and Pineland. Living Earth's product offering includes a variety of mulches, composts, blended soils, soil amendments and convenience items for its customers such as stone, gravel and river rock.