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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New recycling programs target unwanted clothing *Small housewares also eligible for free pickup or drop-off*

LITTLE ELM (March 9, 2016) Little Elm's active recycling program recently added a pair of programs aimed at easing the strain on area landfills by diverting and recycling textiles and housewares, says Public Works Director Kevin Mattingly.

"We're committed to actively encouraging our residents to recycle where possible," he said. "The programs run by Simple Recycling and Recycle 2 Support allow us to offer yet two more ways for residents to accomplish that."

The Simple Recycling program offers residents the opportunity to place their unwanted clothing and small housewares in the green plastic bags provided, and perhaps extend the useful lives of these items.

"Clothing that residents outgrow, or no longer use, can be placed in the green bags and placed curbside on their regular pickup day," said Mattingly. "Simple Recycling trucks will pick them up and divert the items into other purposes and prevent them from being added to landfill waste."

At the same time, Recycle 2 Support is gathering those same items in collection bins at the Town's Clean & Green Recycling events put on by Public Works. Recycle 2 Support will participate in both the spring and fall events.

The clothing, fashion accessories, shoes and other small housewares are evaluated for their usefulness and a percentage of them are sold to thrift stores for resale at discounted prices. The remaining portion is either exported overseas for wear, or broken down for other uses.

Some of the unusable textiles are converted into home insulation, carpet padding and other materials designed for industrial uses.

There is no charge for either service and every Little Elm household can participate in the two programs.

The Simple Recycling and Recycle 2 Support programs join Little Elm's twice-yearly Clean & Green Recycling Events that invite residents to bring their bulky items for disposal or recycling to the Public Works Service Center. In addition, the Town has installed solar powered recycling bins in parks to collect recyclables. These bins are equipped with compactors as well as a signaling system that sends a message to Public Works when they become filled and are ready for servicing.

Little Elm also has an active Keep Little Elm Beautiful program that is an affiliate of the Keep Texas Beautiful organization in maintaining the Town clean and litter-free.

Several local and area sustainability organizations have recognized Little Elm for its collection of active recycling and litter control programs, presenting a number of awards to the Town for its efforts. "Our community is a Tree City community and has been positively cited by several national organizations for its commitment to cleanliness, beautification, recycling and environmental stewardship," he said.

More information on the Simple Recycling program, including an online request for more recycling bags, is available at www.simplerecycling.com. To find out more about Recycle 2 Support, visit www.recycle2support.org.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.