



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2012

CONTACT: Gene F. McGee, Mayor

601.856.7113

## **RIDGELAND EXPANDS RECYCLING TO MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING**

(Ridgeland, Miss.) - Recycling services are now being offered on site for apartment residents by the City of Ridgeland. The first multi-family development to participate in the city's recycling program is Pear Orchard Apartments.

Mike McCollum, Director of Public Works, said, "The City of Ridgeland is expanding its recycling program to include multi-family housing residents. The City's recycling collection program currently serves single-family homes. For renters and small business, we have recycling drop-off centers at two of Ridgeland's fire stations. We anticipate that the City will increase its recyclable material from 50 to 75 tons per month with the addition of recycling at multi-family developments."

Courtney Wilkerson, Property Manager of Pear Orchard Apartments, said, "Pear Orchard is committed to being an environmentally-conscious part of the Ridgeland community. Our residents value the options provided by the City's new addition to their recycling program and Mid America Apartment Community's Greener Living Initiative. We are very excited about being the first apartment community to be able to offer this great service to our residents."

Ridgeland is unique among cities in the state because the City of Ridgeland is the first to initiate a multi-family housing recycling program. Mark Williams, Manager in Solid Waste and Recycling Programs, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), said, "**This is the first time that I am aware of a city-sponsored recycling program for multi-family housing in Mississippi.**"

mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158  
street address: 304 highway 51 • ridgeland, ms 39157  
ph: 601.856.7113 • [www.ridgelandms.org](http://www.ridgelandms.org)

Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • David W. Overby, cpa - director of finance & administration, city clerk

board of aldermen: Gerald Steen - at - large • Ken Heard, cmo - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier - ward 2 • Kevin Holder - ward 3  
Brian P. Ramsey - ward 4 • Scott Jones, mayor pro tempore - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin - ward 6



The City of Ridgeland seeks to be an environmental steward and set an example for other cities in the state. Ridgeland was accepted into the MDEQ enHance program in January, 2011. As stated in an MDEQ release, "Enhance is a voluntary stewardship program that recognizes committed environmental leaders who accomplish goals beyond their legal requirements."

As of January, 2012, residents of Pear Orchard Apartments may drop off their recyclables in a new dumpster inside a wooden enclosure designed and built by the City of Ridgeland specifically for their recycling program. Recycling bins have been provided to each renter. There are 389 units in Pear Orchard Apartments.

McCollum explains, "The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality administers a solid waste grant program that enabled the City of Ridgeland to build some necessary infrastructure for the recycling dumpster and to provide recycling containers for the residents."

(Caption: The recycling dumpster for Pear Orchard Apartments is placed within an enclosure built by the City of Ridgeland through a MDEQ grant. Residents now have the convenience of recycling on site. Recycling bins are available for each of the 389 units.)

In order to educate residents, information has been delivered to residents with the bins. A flyer outlining what items may be recycled as well as a letter explaining why it is important to recycle and requesting their voluntary participation are included, to help make the program a success.

"We are encouraged that Pear Orchard Apartments is leading the way in this effort, and we are confident that others will participate in the program once the benefits of recycling are realized."

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(see attached file: recycling IMG\_5708.jpg)

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