FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lindsay Marshall
University Services Communications Coordinator
832.842.4722
lmarshall@uh.edu

UH GOES GREEN WITH NEW TRASH BINS

Houston, December 2, 2010 – It is out with the old and in with the new for trash containers at the University Center and Philip Guthrie Hoffman Hall. UH has recently installed Big Belly Solar trash compactors, an intelligent waste collection system that will replace several regular trash bins and support green initiatives on campus.

Four total Big Belly Solar units were put in place, two at the UC and two at PGH, in mid November as part of a pilot program to see how the units would work on our campus. Big Belly Solar is said to be the first system in the world that uses renewable power and information technology in order to lower operating costs, fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the waste collection process. It is completely powered by the sun and can hold five times the volume of ordinary trash receptacles. Approximately 160 gallons of trash can be contained in the 32-gallon inner bin.

“Since placing the compactor, we have been able to remove 3-4 trash receptacles around the area,” said James Ballowe, UH Central Facilities Manager. “We currently pick up containers daily, sometimes twice per day. This should eliminate the number of pickups per day.”

The more trash the receptacle can hold, the less man-power is needed to empty the bins. This means reduced fuel consumption and carbon emissions, not to mention a reduction in costs to maintain the vehicles.

Alongside each of the trash bins is a companion recycling bin. The side-by-side kiosk design is meant to divert recyclables from ending up in landfills by providing a convenient proximity. Big Belly Solar reported that their customers inform them of reduced litter, increased recycling rates and low incidence of cross-contamination with the use of the recycling kiosks.
Big Belly Solar is made in the United States using post consumer recycled car bumpers for the side panels and front cover. The systems are currently being used in popular sites across the country including Boston’s Fenway Park, San Antonio’s Alamo and Chicago’s Millennium Park.

So far, Ballowe said the units have received positive feedback from students. The Big Belly Solar waste collection system is yet another example of UH’s sustainability efforts. For more information on Green UH, visit [http://www.uh.edu/af/greenUH/](http://www.uh.edu/af/greenUH/).

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 38,500 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.