



## **SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**APRIL 14, 2010, 6:30 pm**

**CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**301 WEST 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

### **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:**

Gerry Acuna, Chair  
Brent Perdue

Rick Cofer, Co-Chair  
Bob Schafer

J.D. Porter  
Maydelle Fason

Fayez Kazi

## **AGENDA**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

The first four speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February and March**

#### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Discussion – Recycling Ordinance Sub-Committee Update**
- b. **Discussion – Hauler License Fee Sub-Committee Update**

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Discussion and Action-Waste Management Inc. Landfill Expansion Appeal Process Resolution**
- b. **Discussion and Action-Resolution for the City of Austin to Recommend a Presidential Executive Order Establishing a National 75% Recycling Rate**

#### **5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. **Director's Report**
  - **Department Update: Performance Measures**
  - **MRF Bid Review Timetable**
  - **Future Planning for FY11: Brief Overview**
  - **Zero Waste Summit Report**
- b. **Discussion – Zero Waste Progress Report**
  - **Green30 Challenge (Composting Incentive)**
  - **Office Stream Update**

#### **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Annette Moreno at Solid Waste Services Department, at (512) 974-1987, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Solid Waste Advisory Commission, please contact Annette Moreno at (512) 974-1987.

**CITY OF AUSTIN  
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATION  
FOR THE CITY OF AUSTIN'S RECYCLING MATERIALS**

**MARCH 10, 2010  
VOTE: 5-0-2**

Motion made by: Rick Cofer

Seconded by: JD Porter

Commissioners Consenting: Maydelle Fason, Brent Perdue and Fayez Kazi

Commissioners Dissenting: None

Commissioners Abstaining: None

Commissioners Absent: None

Commissioners Recusal: Gerry Acuna and Bob Schafer

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC) requests that City Council direct the City Manager to report to Council during an executive session, what options are available to the City for a short term contract.

If other options are available, SWAC requests that City Council direct the City Manager to issue a request for proposal (RFP) or an invitation for bid for a short term recycling contract.

**CITY OF AUSTIN**

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**GREENSTAR CONTRACT EXTENSION**

**MARCH 10, 2010**

**VOTE: 5-0-2**

Motion made by: JD Porter

Seconded by: Maydelle Fason

Commissioners Consenting: Rick Cofer, Brent Perdue and Faye Kazi

Commissioners Dissenting: None

Commissioners Abstaining: None

Commissioners Absent: None

Commissioners Recusal: Gerry Acuna and Bob Schafer

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission recommends that the Greenstar Contract Extension not be approved by Council.

CITY OF AUSTIN

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Waste Management, Inc. Landfill Expansion Appeal Process Resolution

April 14, 2010

Whereas, the recent approval by the TCEQ of Waste Management, Inc.'s request for expansion of their landfill in northeast Austin will materially impact solid waste management and land use compatibility in Austin for the foreseeable future, and

Whereas, the City has a responsibility to participate in discussions, decisions, and actions that affect its citizens and neighbors,

Be it hereby resolved, that;

SWAC requests Council to be a party in any appeal process that may be ongoing or upcoming regarding this expansion approval.

CITY OF AUSTIN  
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF AUSTIN TO RECOMMEND A PRESIDENTIAL  
EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL 75% RECYCLING RATE

APRIL 14, 2010  
VOTE: 6-0-0

Motion made by: Maydelle Fason

Seconded by: JD Porter

Commissioners Consenting: Bob Schafer, Rick Cofer, Brent Perdue and Gerry Acuna

Commissioners Dissenting: None

Commissioners Abstaining: None

Commissioners Absent: Fayez Kazi

Commissioners Recusal: None

WHEREAS, investments in resource recovery infrastructure can help stimulate the national economy by creating tens of thousands of new family-supporting, recycling-related jobs across the country;

WHEREAS, recycling sustains 10 times more jobs per ton of materials than incineration or landfilling;

WHEREAS, working-class communities and communities of color disproportionately play host to incinerators and landfills, which have significant negative health and economic impacts on these communities;

WHEREAS, practices such as recycling and composting are some of the fastest and most cost-effective strategies for communities to protect the climate, conserve energy, reduce public health hazards and strengthen local economies;

WHEREAS, in this time of economic recession, municipalities need to prioritize investment in employment strategies that provide clean, healthy and durable pathways to prosperity and long-term stability for families;

WHEREAS, one third of municipal solid waste is recycled nationally and nearly 90% of what is currently disposed in landfills and incinerators is readily recyclable and compostable, including paper and paperboard, food scraps and yard waste, plastics, metals, glass and wood;

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest of the United States to promote and enhance recycling and composting activities to conserve energy and reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions across many industry sectors;

WHEREAS, studies support that up to 75 percent of people in the United States believe that recycling is an important action that can positively impact climate change; and in a recent poll 88 percent of Americans agreed that it is important to recycle;

WHEREAS, incinerators emit more CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt-hour than coal-fired power plants, and landfills are leading sources of human produced methane emissions – a greenhouse gas that is 72 times more climate destructive than CO<sub>2</sub>;

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency concludes that 42% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from the materials management during production, consumption and waste disposal, and that reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting waste greatly reduce these emissions;

WHEREAS, the amount of energy currently wasted in the U.S. by not recycling aluminum and steel cans, paper, printed materials, glass, and plastic is equal to the annual output of 15 medium-sized power plants;

WHEREAS, avoiding one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions through recycling costs 30% less than doing so through energy efficiency, and 90% less than wind power;

WHEREAS, waste incinerators are one of the leading industrial source of dioxin emissions in the U.S. and incinerators emit a host of other toxic pollutants such as furans, halogenated hydrocarbons, acid gases, particulate matter and heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and mercury;

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Austin that:

1. Austin recommends that the office of the President issue an Executive Order announcing a national recycling rate goal of 75 percent of all municipal solid waste by 2015, and a national manufacturing reuse goal of 30 percent by 2020, in order to create a U.S. based market for recycled goods and materials.
2. Austin recommends that all national waste, climate, energy and jobs policy initiatives from Congress include provisions for increasing federal support for state and municipal resource recovery programs and infrastructure development.
3. Austin recommends that all subsidies, tax credits and other federal support for landfills and incinerators be ended to create a level playing field for the support and growth of recycling and composting markets.
4. Austin recommends that such federal provisions for resource recovery programs and infrastructure support include safeguards for all applicable labor laws and the fair treatment of employees.





## Making recycling at the office as easy at it is at home

The City of Austin's Solid Waste Services Department (SWS) wants to make recycling as convenient as possible. That's why we've launched the **Office Stream Recycling Program** in all City buildings.

### How does Office Stream Recycling differ from Single Stream Recycling?

Because office buildings sometimes store collected recyclables for longer periods of time to minimize transportation, fuel consumption and staff time, Office Stream encourages separation of dry recyclables like paper and cardboard from wet recyclables like food and beverage containers to minimize mess and odor. The types of recyclable items are the same as those in Single Stream.

### How does Office Stream Recycling work?

- Kitchen/Break Room recycling containers accept food and beverage containers and other recyclable items. Containers

should be rinsed to minimize odor and pests.

- Common area recycling containers such as those in copy/fax rooms, mailrooms, and conference rooms accept paper, cardboard, boxboard, and other dry paper materials (things that tear).
- Recyclable materials are collected and sent to the recycling transfer station for further processing.

### What materials are accepted in Office Stream Recycling?

- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans
- Plastic containers including cartons, jars, jugs and bottles identified with ♻️ symbol followed by numbers 1-7.
- All types of paper, cardboard and boxboard (anything that tears, except paper towels).

### Can I still recycle at my desk?

Yes, but please recycle **dry items only** at your desk. Recycle food/beverage containers in kitchen or break areas. Custodial staff

Over

## WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE AT WORK:

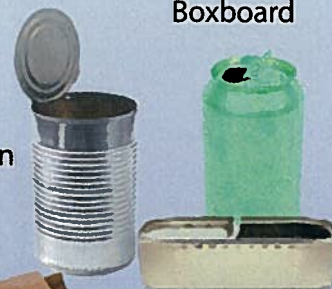
- ✓ Glass Bottles and Jars



- ✓ Newspaper, Junk mail, Boxboard



- ✓ Clean Metal Cans



- ✓ Cardboard



- ✓ Clean Plastics #1-7





will empty desk side and common area recycling containers.

Please continue to recycle paper at your desk and in common areas. If you choose to recycle your food and beverage containers, please rinse them out first and deposit them in the containers located in your kitchen or break room areas **only**. Placing food and beverage containers in common office area recycling containers which are only intended for paper and dry materials could result in creating unpleasant odors in your office.

### Want to know more?

For more information on the Office Stream recycling program, contact:

Jill Maness at 974-3962 or  
jill.maness@ci.austin.tx.us

Jessica Kingpetcharat-Bittner  
at 974.7678 or jessica.king@  
ci.austin.tx.us

The following materials are **not** currently part of the recycling program:

- Garbage, including napkins, wax-coated paper cups, fast food wrappers
- Plastic bags
- Food and unrinsed food containers
- Yard trimmings
- Styrofoam®, including Styrofoam containers marked with the #6 recycling symbol
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels
- Broken glass
- Wire hangers
- Chemicals or hazardous materials
- “Compostable” items such as cups, plates, or utensils made of corn or bamboo.



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**CITY OF AUSTIN**  
**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Solid Waste Management Districts Subcommittee**  
**Final Report Format and Table of Contents**  
**4.14.10**

This DVD represents the Final Report to the Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC) from SWAC's Solid Waste Management Districts Subcommittee (SWMDS). This report is comprised of a series of files which are described and listed in order below. The "Recommendations to SWAC" were presented to and approved by SWAC on March 10, 2010. Solid Waste Services Director Bob Gedert offered the "Staff Recommendation" to SWAC at that same March meeting. At that time, Mr. Gedert informed SWAC that the recommendations from the SWMDS would be forwarded to HDR to include in the City of Austin Master Plan and that implementation of the SWMDS recommendations would be coordinated with that Master Plan.

**Table of Contents**

**1.0 Intro and Overview**

- 1.1 This is the document you are now reading – Word document – "SWMD Final Report Contents.docx"
- 1.2 This resolution created the SWMDS – Word document – "SWAC SWMDS Resolution – 1.14.09.docx"
- 1.3 Minutes from the September 25, 2009 SWMDS meeting – Word document – "SWMD Subcommittee Minutes 9.25.09.doc"

**2.0 Findings**

- 2.1 Informal discussions and interviews generated this summary of the legal basis for SWMDs and other legal constructs to accomplish regional solid waste management – Word document – "Legal Formats for SWMDs – 11.20.09.docx"
- 2.2 Example #1 of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA), this one in the form of a MOA, is the preferred model and Chapter 4 is the relevant section – pdf - "Sample ILA – Austin-RoundRock8-HourOzoneFlexFinal.pdf"
- 2.3 Example #2 of an ILA in MOA format begins on Page 1 of this document – pdf – "Sample ILA – Austin-Round Rock EAC.pdf"
- 2.4 Clippings from around the country citing worst-case scenarios for solid waste authorities and/or districts were assembled and presented by stakeholders (TDS staff) – pdf – "Clippings – Solid Waste Management Authorities and-or Disctr.pdf"

### **3.0 Conference calls**

- 3.1 SWS staff, Brian Block, set up a series of conference calls with existing SWMDs for the Subcommittee to interview and assembled this summary of the Districts in the process – Word document – “SWMD Conference Call Overview and Background.doc”
- 3.2 Conference call “talking points” used to interview the representatives of the various districts and notes from the calls are summarized in this document – Word document – “SWMD conference call notes from CD.docx”
- 3.3 This file contains the recorded conference calls in their entirety – Audio File – “Conf\_Call.mp3”

### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 On 2.26.10, the SWMDS voted out these recommendations to SWAC – Word document – “SWMD Subcommittee Recommendations to SWAC – 2.26.10.doc”
- 4.2 At the March 10, 2010 SWAC meeting, staff presented these recommendations and comments prior to SWAC’s vote to approve all recommendations and pass them to Council – Word document – “SWMD Staff Recommendations.doc”