



**City of Austin  
Solid Waste Services Department  
Master Plan**

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**Public Planning Process**

Zero Waste Strategic Plan adopted January 2009



Zero Waste Services Plan Scoping Workshops August 2009



Workshop 1- Preliminary Research Report August 2010



Workshop 2 – Needs Assessment Charrette November 2010



Workshop 3 – Zero Waste Services Plan Elements March 2011



**Solid Waste Services Department Master Plan Summer 2011**

## Components of the SWS Master Plan

- Importance of the Solid Waste Services Master Plan
  - Guiding principle for providing future services
  - Requires community input and buy-in
- Zero Waste Services Component
  - Policies
  - Programs
  - Future infrastructure
- Operational Component
  - Operational efficiencies
  - Inter-departmental infrastructure synergies
  - Long-term program commitments



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## Zero Waste Services: Background

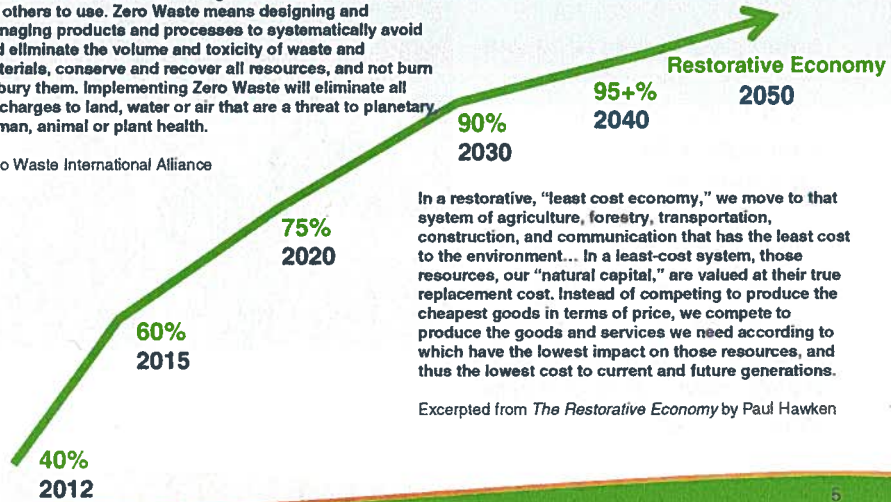


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## Zero Waste Diversion Goals

Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary human, animal or plant health.

Zero Waste International Alliance



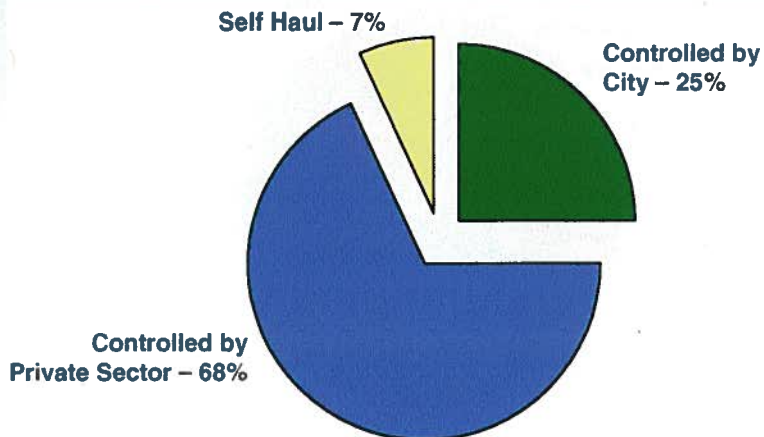
In a restorative, "least cost economy," we move to that system of agriculture, forestry, transportation, construction, and communication that has the least cost to the environment... In a least-cost system, those resources, our "natural capital," are valued at their true replacement cost. Instead of competing to produce the cheapest goods in terms of price, we compete to produce the goods and services we need according to which have the lowest impact on those resources, and thus the lowest cost to current and future generations.

Excerpted from *The Restorative Economy* by Paul Hawken

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## Distribution of Control

Based on an estimated 1 million tons disposed in Austin annually



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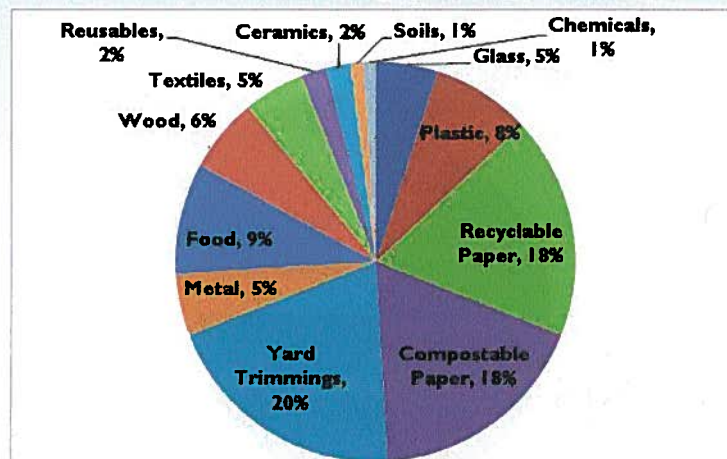
## Benefits of the Plan

- Estimated to generate about 1,000 to 5,000 new local green jobs in recycling and organics collection and processing, materials reuse and repair and remanufacturing
- Estimated to reduce Austin's annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 800,000 to 3.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent



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## Composition of Discarded Materials



Based on information from CAPCOG, Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2002-2022, February 9, 2005, pg. 10, and Austin Zero Waste Strategic Plan, December 4, 2008, pgs. 5-6 (partitioned "other" category into textiles, reusables, ceramics, soils & chemicals). Paper & Compostable Paper split into 2 separate categories

## Zero Waste Initiatives



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## Zero Waste Policies

- **Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance**
  - Phase 1 multifamily complexes, office buildings
  - Phase 2 retail, restaurants and industrial
  - Phase 3 single family residential
- **Event Recycling Ordinance**
- **Construction, Demolition, and Deconstruction Ordinance** in partnership with the Planning & Development Review Department and Austin Energy Green Building Program
- **Rate Structure Incentives**

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## Zero Waste Policies (cont.)

- Policies to reduce single use and non-recyclable products and packaging
  - Single-use bags
  - Take-out packaging
  - Refilling stations
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Regional Cooperation
- City Purchasing



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## Zero Waste Programs

- Recycling Collection
  - Adding more materials
  - Providing a choice in the size of the containers
  - Expanding recycling collection to all City customers



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## Zero Waste Programs (cont.)

- **Organics Collection**
  - Collecting yard trimmings in carts
  - Providing a choice in the size of the containers
  - Adding food scraps and compostable paper



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## Zero Waste Programs (cont.)

- **Litter Abatement, Bulk Items and Brush**
  - On-call collection brush and bulk options
  - Increasing reuse and recycling of bulk items
  - Providing recycling containers adjacent to public litter containers

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## Zero Waste Programs (cont.)

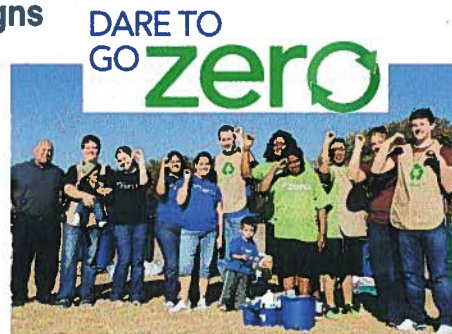


- **Household Hazardous Waste**
  - Expanding the retail take-back program
  - Expanding door-to-door collection
  - Providing rechargeable battery collection sites
  - Establishing Pharmaceutical Take-back program
  - Entering into service agreements with non-profits for electronics collection
  - Integrating electronics collection with bulk item pickup

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## Zero Waste Programs (cont.)

- **Community-Based Marketing**
  - Marketing to support Collection Services, Litter Abatement and Recycling Services
  - Social Marketing Campaigns
  - School Education
  - Visitor Awareness
- **Incentive Programs**
  - Composting Challenge
  - Event Recycling

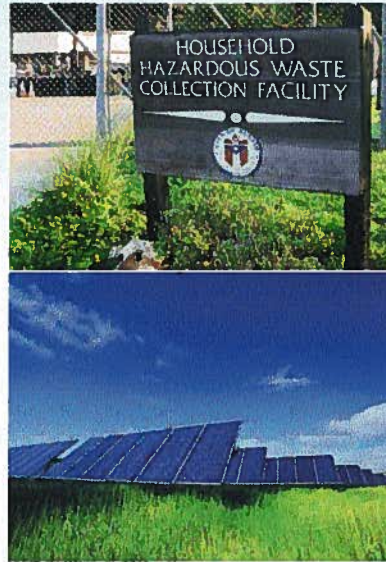


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## Zero Waste Infrastructure

- 8 Eco-Depots
- Resource Recovery Center (FM812)
  - Solar Farm
  - Bulk Collection, C&D collection
- HHW Facility
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> HHW facility
  - Expanded Saturday hours
  - Door to Door



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## Next Steps

- Provide input via Solid Waste Services Department website at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/zerowaste.htm>.
- Staff will respond to comments online and by email
- Draft Department Master Plan
  - Public meeting to be decided
  - Council presentation expected in July 2011

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## **Feedback, Questions, & Answers**

**Submit feedback by visiting:**

**[www.austinrecycles.com](http://www.austinrecycles.com)**

**For more information about Austin's  
Zero Waste efforts, visit:**

**[www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/zerowaste.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/zerowaste.htm)**