

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	13739	Agenda Number	39.
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Meeting Date:	4/5/2012	Department:	Solid Waste Services
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Subject

Approve a resolution authorizing the application and acceptance of \$12,500 in grant funding from the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) 2012 Solid Waste Implementation Grant Program.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$12,500 is available from CAPCOG and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under the 2012 Solid Waste Implementation Grant Program and will be available during fiscal year 2013. Austin Resource Recovery will include the funding amount in the FY2013 proposed budget and provide both cash and in kind match of grant funds.

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Bob Gedert, (512) 974-1926; Tammie Williamson, (512) 974-1997; or Jessica King (512) 974-7678
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

This action seeks Council authorization to apply for and accept \$12,500 in grant funding from CAPCOG for Austin Resource Recovery's Zero Waste Events Program.

Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) distributes funds to manage various solid waste projects within the CAPCOG jurisdiction, through the Solid Waste Implementation Grant Program. Grant funds would pay for the equipment used to provide expanded event recycling and composting collection of material generated at City-sponsored, co-sponsored, and non-sponsored public and private events held in the City of Austin.

Approximately 50% of all materials generated from events in Austin are recyclable and 34% are compostable. Currently, through a partnership between Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) and Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) event recycling containers are offered to event organizers on a loan period at no charge, along with related supplies, pre-event planning, volunteer and vendor support and training. Austin is home to hundreds of special events every year, often multiple events on the same day. The current program does not have the capacity to meet both City sponsored events as well as the increasing demand of other events wishing to recycle.

Using CAPCOG funding to develop a Zero Waste Events Program, which expands event recycling collection availability and incorporates composting initiatives, along with a matching City funded public education and outreach program is consistent with the Department's Master Plan, the City's Zero Waste Strategic Plan, and the City's Climate Protection Plan in the following ways:

1. ARR would be able to repurpose existing KAB event containers to salvage and utilize as composting containers, as well as dramatically expand total inventory;
2. Increase event diversion rates at participating events potentially 30-90% due to increased capacity for collecting recyclables and implementing composting;
3. ARR and KAB would be well equipped to assist more events with diversion, which facilitates the concept of Zero Waste Events.

The grant funding will also give ARR the ability to assess the feasibility of expanding the Zero Waste Events guidelines to all event organizers, providing event recycling and composting collection containers in preparation for the development of an event recycling ordinance.