



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department

Date: May 8, 2013

Subject: Director's Report

Texas Commission on Environment Quality Texas Clean Fleet Program Grant Award

Fleet Services is receiving \$2,292,1160 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Texas Clean Fleet Program. ARR will be receiving this grant funding pending Council approval of acceptance of the grant funds. This money will help to offset costs to purchase 13 new semi-automated collection trucks powered by clean burning compressed natural gas. These trucks will replace older diesel trucks that were already scheduled to be replaced in FY '13. These additional 13 trucks will give the department a total of 47 compressed natural gas vehicles. Accepting the grant funds will bring the City closer to its objective of obtaining carbon neutrality by 2020. The projected reduction in Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) in using the cleaner, CNG vehicles is 6.78 tons annually.

What is Zero Waste?

There is a significant effort around the country to dilute the definition of Zero Waste, in support of alternative disposal methods, using the diversion label in an inappropriate manner. In some corners of the US, the term "Resource Recovery" is applied to incinerators to declare, by its title, that it is a Zero Waste diversion activity. In the essence of the definition of "resource recovery" is the recovery of resources for secondary use. Energy recovery from waste is not a secondary use of the feedstock material – it simply is a destruction of the feedstock material to gain energy. Energy output does not equal waste diversion. If the material feedstock is destroyed, and not capable of being reformed, remanufactured, or reused from its original material composition, it is disposal.

To avoid this dilution of our diversion efforts, we must stay true to the Austin City Council endorsed definition of Zero Waste. As a reminder, we embrace the Zero Waste International Alliance definition, which is peer-reviewed throughout the world and refined as a true definition of Zero Waste.

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 wasted 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.

In this Master Plan, the term Zero Waste will mean reducing the generation of wasted materials at the source and maximizing diversion methods to avoid landfills and incinerators. The overall goal is to strive for no waste burned or buried.

Source: ARR Master Plan, page 35

Can we really reach Zero Waste?

The simple answer is “yes – we can reach zero waste”, however it is a long journey. There are many who approach me with the thought that “zero waste cannot be achieved – lets act rational – maybe we can reach 75% or 90%, but not zero waste.” I simply disagree. Given the composition of our waste stream, 90% can be either recycled or composted – with today’s technology. The issue is capturing this 90% of our waste stream before it reaches a disposal facility. Prevention of sending it to the landfill is the first effort toward Zero Waste.

If we capture 90% for diversion, what about the remaining 10%? That’s the tough part of the waste stream that cannot be recycled or composted. Composite materials like electronics, toxic or hazardous components such as mercury and lead, and plastics that cannot be reconstituted such as Styrofoam are part of this 10%... and yes, plastic disposable diapers are in this category as well. To reach Zero Waste requires going beyond recycling and composting. It requires the redesign of consumer products. It requires the elimination of toxicity of materials.

How can we deal with this 10%? Through the power of consumer choice – the conscious choice to avoid the use of these products - and the requirement of manufacturers to take responsibility for the end-of-life management of the products they produce. Our local Zero Waste efforts must support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), product bans, and product redesign.

Yet, we must not let the tail wag the dog – our main concentration should be the effort to reach 50% diversion by 2015, and 75% diversion by 2020. It does not take an optimist to believe we can reach Zero Waste. It takes a community effort with the desire to reach for Zero Waste. We are on the journey to Zero Waste, and doubting the goal turns our eyes away from the path toward Zero Waste.

If you still doubt, they how much waste are you for? I am for “0% waste”.

The City’s ultimate Zero Waste vision is to move beyond Zero Waste systems to an economy based on maximizing the value of goods and services while reducing the impact of our ecological footprint on the environment.

Source: ARR Master Plan, page 39

Staff Hires and Promotions Update

New employee	Promotions	Title
Christopher Calabrese		Austin Resource Recovery Operator
Abel Trevino		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Michael Pinson		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Samuel Quinonez		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Nicholes Arevalo		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Keman Caldwell		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Arthur Guzman		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Anthony Barnes		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Mitchell Brown		Temporary, Austin Resource Recovery Associate
Teresa Nusbaum		Administrative Specialist

Current and Upcoming Job Postings

Position	Contact Manager	Posting Status
Public Information & Marketing Program Manager	Tammie Williamson	Top candidate starts 5-6-13
Planner II or III	Jessica King	Position to be posted week of 4-28-13
Temporary, Recycle Right Auditor	Jessica King	Position to be posted week of 4-28-13
Temporary, Administrative Support (Public Event Leader-Strategic Initiatives) 2 Positions	Jessica King	Interviews being scheduled
Temporary, Waste Diversion Planner or Waste Diversion Planner Senior	Jessica King	Position posted to close 5-1-13
Strategic Initiatives Intern (Research Analyst and Marketing Interns)	Jessica King	Position to be posted to local universities
Temporary, Business Process Consultant – Finance	Chad Presley	Top candidate identified
Financial Consultant	Sue Cooper	Reviewing applications
Accounting Manager	Sue Cooper	Top candidate to start 5-20-13
Human Resources Advisor (Employee Relations)	Blanche Quarterman	Reviewing applications
Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator	Dodd Day	Interviews to be scheduled
Temporary, Administrative Specialist –QA	Nancy Chan	Position to close 5-8-13
Business Process Consultant	Nancy Chan	Reviewing applications
Temporary, Administrative Specialist –LA	Vidal Maldonado	Position to close 5-8-13
GIS Supervisor	Nancy Chan	Position to be posted
Solid Waste Operator	Vidal Maldonado	Top candidates identified
Solid Waste Associate	Vidal Maldonado	Position to be posted
Crew Leader-Collections	Ron Romero	Top candidate identified
Solid Waste Operator	Ron Romero	Position to be posted

Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report
FY 2012-13 through March, 2013
Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources Inc (BRI)

Month, Year, Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments			Net Value to City	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
		Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Amount Due/(Owed)	\$ per ton value	Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2012 - TDS	1,992.62	\$107,483	\$182,325	(\$74,842)	(\$37.56)	\$21.14	\$42,124
October 2012 - BRI	2,522.20	\$156,614	\$201,074	(\$44,460)	(\$17.63)	\$21.14	\$53,319
<i>Total</i>	4,514.82	\$264,097	\$383,399	(\$119,302)			\$95,443
November 2012 - TDS	1,676.28	\$92,488	\$153,380	(\$60,891)	(\$36.33)	\$21.14	\$35,437
November 2012 - BRI	2,864.82	\$188,214	\$227,301	(\$39,087)	(\$13.64)	\$21.14	\$60,562
<i>Total</i>	4,541.10	\$280,702	\$380,681	(\$99,978)			\$95,999
December 2012 - TDS	2,584.16	\$144,257	\$236,451	(\$92,194)	(\$35.68)	\$21.14	\$54,629
December 2012 - BRI	2,010.51	\$135,238	\$161,904	(\$26,666)	(\$13.26)	\$21.14	\$42,502
<i>Total</i>	4,594.67	\$279,495	\$398,355	(\$118,860)			\$97,131
January 2013 - TDS	2,014.55	\$117,385	\$184,331	(\$66,946)	(\$33.23)	\$21.14	\$42,588
January 2013 - BRI	3,059.87	\$201,932	\$242,233	(\$40,301)	(\$13.17)	\$21.14	\$64,686
<i>Total</i>	5,074.42	\$319,317	\$426,564	(\$107,247)			\$107,273
February 2013 - TDS	1,588.12	\$95,632	\$145,313	(\$49,681)	(\$31.28)	\$21.14	\$33,573
February 2013 - BRI	2,370.66	\$159,074	\$189,474	(\$30,400)	(\$12.82)	\$21.14	\$50,116
<i>Total</i>	3,958.78	\$254,706	\$334,787	(\$80,081)			\$83,689
March 2013 - TDS	1,639.78	\$103,588	\$150,039	(\$46,451)	(\$28.33)	\$21.14	\$34,665
March 2013 - BRI	2,625.14	\$185,599	\$208,953	(\$23,354)	(\$8.90)	\$21.14	\$55,495
<i>Total</i>	4,264.92	\$289,187	\$358,992	(\$69,805)			\$90,160
FY 2012-13 Totals	26,948.71	\$1,687,504	\$2,282,777	(\$595,273)			\$569,696

Material Composition Percentages				
	TDS	BRI	TDS	BRI
Material	10/27/2012	10/22/2012	2/9/2013	1/26/2013
ONP	13.80%	27.89%	22.54%	25.01%
OCC	7.58%	11.15%	9.19%	12.80%
Mixed Paper	19.76%	12.31%	18.23%	13.13%
Tin	2.04%	2.28%	1.66%	2.17%
UBC	1.32%	1.45%	1.09%	0.98%
NHDPE	1.34%	0.90%	1.05%	1.08%
CHDPE	1.11%	0.64%	0.87%	0.91%
PETE	3.13%	3.58%	2.44%	3.05%
Glass	30.61%	26.59%	26.89%	27.66%
Residual	15.45%	10.33%	12.11%	10.76%
Plastics 3-7	3.17%	2.53%	3.38%	2.02%
Scrap Metals	0.69%	0.35%	0.55%	0.43%
Other	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
		FY 2012	FY 2012 Goal	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	FY12 YTD (Oct '11 - Mar '12)	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	FY13 YTD (Oct '12 - Mar '13)	FY 2013 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Garbage	129,653	123,000	10,229	11,479	66,517	9,193	9,927	61,823	127,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	7,611	7,500	694	504	3,694	814	309	3,474	6,600
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	434	400	33	44	207	30	42	177	400
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	137,698	130,900	10,956	12,027	70,418	10,037	10,278	65,474	134,000
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	54,009	60,000	4,243	4,625	27,564	3,936	4,260	26,837	63,000
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	208	150	16	12	90	18	23	103	150
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	21,712	25,000	1,518	3,857	12,037	2,037	4,301	14,297	27,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	233	200	18	10	129	12	8	86	800
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	7,720	7,500	427	632	3,000	518	730	3,512	6,400
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	83,882	92,850	6,222	9,136	42,820	6,521	9,322	44,835	97,350
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations		221,580	223,750	17,178	21,163	113,238	16,558	19,600	110,309	231,350
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations		37.86%	41.50%	36.22%	43.17%	37.81%	39.38%	47.56%	40.64%	42.08%
Pounds of Garbage collected per customer per pickup		27.05	25.06	25.57	28.74	n/a	22.87	24.46	n/a	26.03
Number of Garbage customers		184,316	188,807	184,760	184,035	n/a	185,626	187,064	n/a	187,676
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)		22.71	24.44	21.37	23.33	n/a	19.74	21.15	n/a	25.82
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week		4.56	5.09	3.82	9.73	n/a	5.11	10.68	n/a	5.53
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers		182,971	188,807	183,395	182,684	n/a	184,205	185,665	n/a	187,676

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

