



Enforcement Methodology of Universal Recycling Ordinance

Zero Waste Advisory Commission
URO Phase 2 Committee
August 13, 2013





Universal Recycling Ordinance

GOALS

- Establish minimum recycling standards for Austin business community
- Make meaningful progress towards Austin's Zero Waste goal
- Ensure recycling is available and convenient for employees and tenants



URO Basic Requirements

Property owners must ensure:

- Annual education
- Completed online Recycling Plan
- Clearly marked receptacles
- Sufficient service capacity
- Collection of 5 materials



URO Implementation Dates

Effective Year (October 1)	Multifamily Properties (# Units)	Commercial Properties (Interior square feet)		
		Offices, Institutions	Retail, Industrial, and Food Service	Compost Programs at Food Service Businesses
2012	>75*	>100,000*		
2013	>50*	>75,000*		
2014	>25*	>50,000*	>50,000	
2015	>10	>25,000*	>25,000	
2016	All	>5,000	>5,000	>5,000
2017		All	All	All



Commitment to the Business Community

For the first year after implementation:

- Focus on education and outreach
- Provide recommendations for improvements
- Enforce if properties not making “Good-Faith Effort”
- Provide technical assistance to properties with unique situations
- Develop processes to support compliance (i.e. educational resources, online forms and enforcement)



Enforcement Methodology

- Education and Outreach in first 12 months after effective date.
- **1st Written Notice** - Written recommendations for improvement (30 day re-inspection)
- **2nd Notice of Violation** – Identify violations and potential fines (30 day re-inspection)
- **3rd Notice of Violation** – referral to Code Compliance including previous ARR actions



Outreach Efforts to Date

URO Outreach to affected properties

- ✓ By ARR Staff – All 875 affected properties x3
- ✓ Through Contractors – 600 Properties

July onsite reviews of 40 affected properties without Recycling Plans found 3 properties (8%) without recycling.



Methods of Outreach

1. **Letters** – Property owners & address
2. **Postcards** – 4 times per year
3. **Email/Phone** - in response to questions or from outreach contractors
4. **Advertising** - in ABJ/Statesman/Online
5. **Online** - educational information and downloads
6. **Onsite** - visits by staff or contractors



Results of 1st Ten Months

1. Approximately 50% of affected properties have completed Recycling Plan forms.
2. All properties have been contacted multiple times by ARR or contract staff.
3. 1600 trash and 1800 recycling 18-inch decals for exterior dumpsters at URO-affected properties



NEXT STEPS

- Continue Education and Outreach
- Make Recycling Plan more user friendly and useful for staff and businesses
- Continue to work with Code Compliance to define enforcement process and costs
- Begin Notices for non-compliant properties starting in Oct./Nov.

