



Enforcement Methodology of Universal Recycling Ordinance

Zero Waste Advisory Commission
September 11, 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

WASTE: AN EXPENSE **EVERY BUSINESS**
CAN REDUCE

FREE
ZERO WASTE
SERVICES





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



Properties Affected by Date

Year	Number of Properties affected Oct. 1	Initiatives related to URO
2012	875	Rules process and approval by ZWAC/Council
2013	980	Improve online forms and enforcement processes
2014	1,725	Develop tools for smaller properties
2015	3,100	Measure community-wide diversion rates
2016	6,950	Implement compost standards
2017	12,500	Establish ongoing processes and procedures

- ARR staff working with PDRD to ensure LDC includes recycling requirements.



Chapter 15-6, Article 5

Administrative Rules 8.15.3

8.15.3 Implementation Period

Twelve months following the Effective Date, City staff will not enforce fines, **unless the property fails to make a good faith effort**, as determined by the Director, to comply.



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 for 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 (3 mailings)
- ✓ Through Contractors – 600 Properties
- ✓ 72 Multifamily properties, 1 without recycling program

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

Examples of Outreach



**FREE WASTE ASSESSMENT
TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES**

**Palmer
Events Center**
Thursday,
March 21, 2013
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Learn how to decrease operational costs by assessing and reducing business-generated waste.

Details and Registration at
austintexas.gov/commercialrecycling



**WASTE:
AN EXPENSE
EVERY BUSINESS
CAN REDUCE**

Austin Resource Recovery's free **Zero Waste** Business Services can help your company divert more materials from the landfill and save money.

Learn more at
austintexas.gov/zerowastebusiness



**ZERO:
A NUMBER
EVERY BUSINESS
CAN WORK WITH**

Austin Resource Recovery's free **Zero Waste** Business Services can help your business eliminate waste, recycle more and reduce operational costs.

Learn more at
austintexas.gov/zerowastebusiness



**REDUCE:
A STRATEGY
EVERY BUSINESS
CAN EMPLOY**

Austin Resource Recovery's free **Zero Waste** Business Services can help you start or improve your company's recycling program and reduce operational costs.

Learn more at
austintexas.gov/zerowastebusiness



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/Radio
5. **Online** - educational information and downloads
6. **Onsite** – proactive 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 containers at URO properties
4. Austin 3-1-1 answering calls/complaints and forwarding service requests to ARR



Code Compliance & Enforcement

- **ARR staff and CCD staff continue to cooperate:**
 - ☐ Cross-training staff
 - ☐ Developing processes
 - ☐ Enforcement methodologies
- **Letter of Understanding between ARR and CCD**
- **ARR staff trained on right-of-entry process**
- **ARR pays for hours worked by CCD staff**
- **Budget available for enforcement**



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 implement enforcement, as needed
- Begin Notices for non-compliant properties starting in Oct./Nov.



Notice a Property Without Recycling?

Reporting non-compliant property...

Call 3-1-1, and reference the
Universal Recycling Ordinance

or

Email Austin Resource Recovery staff at:
commercialrecycling@austinrecycles.com



AUSTIN
SOURCE
RECOVERY
A CITY OF AUSTIN SERVICE