



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: (20131113-004a): Ecology Action Relocation

WHEREAS, Ecology Action has provided recycling service to citizens and small businesses of Austin for over 40 years, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action established Austin's first public recycling center on Earth Day in 1970, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action developed a curbside recycling program in conjunction with the City of Austin in 1982, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action developed and implemented the first drive-through recycling drop-off center in Texas in 1995, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action assisted in the development of the Austin Resource Recovery Zero Waste Master Plan and Universal Recycling Ordinance in 2010, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action offers free public drop-off to Austin citizens and small businesses of all single stream recycling commodities, in addition to a number of hard-to-recycle and reusable items, including glass jars and bottles, scrap metal, tin cans, aluminum cans, rigid plastics #1-7, plastic film, mixed paper, cardboard, expanded polystyrene foam, used electronics, used cooking oil, reusable furniture, textiles, and any other reusable items, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action has established vendor relationships with premiere Central Texas recyclers to find highest and best use homes for materials, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action diverts over 1,500 tons of recyclable materials from area landfills a year, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action provides over 15,000 hours (time equivalent of 7 full-time employees) in community service restitution and volunteer hours, including green-collar job training in the resource recovery field, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action has provided recycling education and consultation to thousands of students, citizens, and small businesses, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action is an important community organization that assists in the development and pursuit of zero waste goals, and,

WHEREAS, there is not another centrally located public recycling drop-off facility in Austin to serve citizens and small businesses without access to recycling, or citizens with recyclable items not compatible with the ARR Single Stream Program, or small businesses attempting to recycle in compliance with the Universal Recycling Ordinance, and,

WHEREAS, Ecology Action's downtown location lease ends December 31st, 2013, with a potential 6 month extension, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council support the relocation of Ecology Action, possibly on City owned land, as a means to further diversion through public recycling opportunities in support of our zero waste goals.

Date of Approval: November 13, 2013

Record of the vote: Unanimously approved by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission on a 5-0 vote with Commissioner Paine being absent.

Attest: _____

