



MEMORANDUM

To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Cathy Gattuso, ZWAC URO Phase 2 Committee Chair

Subject: Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 Committee 2013 Annual Report

Date: December 13, 2013

The purpose of this memo is to summarize actions of the Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 Committee of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) for calendar year 2013.

Background

On April 25, 2013 Council amended the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) as part of Austin's Zero Waste goal to achieve a 90% reduction in landfill waste disposal by 2040. The URO was expanded to require all non-single family properties to develop a recycling program to:

- Collect at least five materials (paper, plastic resins PETE and HDPE, aluminum, cardboard, and glass),
- Educate employees and tenants, and
- Submit an annual Recycling Plan to Austin Resource Recovery ("the Department").

Additionally, properties considered to be a food enterprise with a food permit are required to divert compostable materials. Staff has been gathering input through a collaborative stakeholder process to shape amendments to the Administrative Rules. This process includes providing quarterly updates to the Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 Committee.

During 2013, the ZWAC URO Committee and staff conducted three formal committee meetings. Staff presented key findings and emerging trends as a result of the stakeholder process.

Summary of Meetings and Discussion Items

Three formal URO Phase 2 Committee meetings took place and are summarized below:

June 13, 2013. The Committee took action supporting the URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules stakeholder process and schedule.

August 13, 2013. Staff provided a presentation regarding the trends that emerged (aka “emerging trends”) during the stakeholder process. Committee members, stakeholders and ARR staff discussed:

- Responsible Party
- Baled and backhauled materials
- Exterior container space issues
- Interior container collection
- Data source to identify responsible party

In addition, staff presented additional URO topics such as ordinance enforcement and mobile food industry recycling and composting. As a result, a recommendation aimed to facilitate mobile food industry diversion was presented to the full ZWAC. Additionally, staff scheduled two mobile food industry specific stakeholder meetings to foster community discussion around recycling and composting.

November 14, 2013. Staff provided an update on the stakeholder process, including:

- Status of the mobile food industry stakeholder discussions
- Potential options to address emerging trends in the stakeholder discussions, including:
 - Responsible Party
 - Extent of access provided
 - Reduction and reuse
 - Baled and backhauled materials
 - Recycle Plans – multiple locations
 - Exterior container space issues
 - Interior container collection
 - Data source to identify responsible party
 - Organics Diversion (including Hierarchy of Beneficial Use of Food Scraps)

Next Steps

Staff is scheduling URO Phase 2 Committee meetings to begin again in January 2014. The URO Phase 2 Committee will discuss and take action on recommendations to amend the Administrative Rules and Universal Recycling Ordinance. The Committee’s recommendation will then be forwarded to the full ZWAC for consideration and action. Anticipated timeline is:

- **January – February 2014:** Drafting, coordinating with Legal, Stakeholder follow-up and check-in, draft reviews, Final Draft to URO P2 Committee for Action
- **March – April 2014:** ZWAC (Action) and other Boards and Commissions
- **May – June 2014:** Council Adoption

Cc: Bob Gedert, ARR Director
Sam Angoori, PE, ARR Deputy Director
Tammie Williamson, AICP, ARR Assistant Director
Jessica King, ARR Strategic Initiatives, Manager