

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	32539	Agenda Number	<ITEM_OUTLINE>
Meeting Date:	5/22/2014		Department:	Austin Resource Recovery
Subject				
Approval of amendments to City Code Chapter 15-6, Solid Waste Services, Article 5 Universal Recycling and administrative rules regarding recycling and organics diversion at certain commercial properties.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
N/A				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is required				
Purchasing Language:	N/A			
Prior Council Action:	On November 4, 2010 Council approved the Universal Recycling Ordinance. On September 27, 2012 Council approved revised administrative rules for Chapter 15-6 that included implementation details to support the Universal Recycling Ordinance. On April 25, 2013 Council approved amendments to expand the Universal Recycling Ordinance to apply to additional property types and require organics diversion of certain properties.			
For More Information:	Jessica Kingpetcharat, ARR, 974-7678; or Bob Gedert, ARR, 974-1926			
Boards and Commission Action:	The Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) is scheduled for consideration and action on May 14, 2014.			
MBE / WBE:	N/A			
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

This item seeks Council approval to amend City Code Chapter 15-6 Solid Waste Services, Article 5 - Universal Recycling, to change the term property owner to a more broadly defined responsible party, expand the reference to composting to organics diversion, allow for transport of materials to facilities that prioritize the hierarchy of beneficial use, and revise the organics diversion implementation dates. This action also seeks Council approval to amend the administrative rules to implement Chapter 15-6.

BACKGROUND

On November 4, 2010 the Austin City Council adopted the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) as part of Austin's Zero Waste goal to achieve a ninety percent reduction in landfill waste disposal by 2040. At that time, the URO applied to multi-family residential properties, commercial office buildings, and institutions. The URO required property owners to provide access to recycling services for at least five materials, to educate employees and tenants, and to submit an annual Recycling Plan. Commercial office, institutional, and multifamily properties were phased-in on an annual basis by square footage. On April 25, 2013 the Austin City Council amended the URO, expanding recycling requirements to all non-residential properties and require properties with a food service permit to divert organic materials.

PROCESS

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission's (ZWAC) Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee and Austin Resource Recovery staff conducted fourteen (14) public meetings from June 2013 to March of 2014. Stakeholders considered amendments to the Universal Recycling Ordinance and Administrative Rules that expanded affected properties to include all commercial and industrial properties within the City. Discussion also included food permit holders, organics diversion, and the best uses for food scrap diversion.

Stakeholder meetings averaged twenty-five (25) stakeholders per meeting including but not limited to: private haulers, grocers, retailers, hotels, hospitals, property managers, restaurants, and industrial properties. ZWAC committee members, stakeholders, and ARR staff discussed the potential impacts to the business community and practical implementation steps to achieve Zero Waste goals. With staff assistance and input, the Committee developed and forwarded to the full commission recommendation to amend the ordinance and administrative rules. On May 14, 2014, the full ZWAC is scheduled to consider and take action on the proposed amendments.

PRIMARY REVISIONS

Key amendments to the Universal Recycling Ordinance include:

- a) Revision of the term "Property Owner" to "Responsible Party," defined to better reflect the business operator of impacted properties.
- b) Revision of the term "compostable" to "organics diversion" to be inclusive of the hierarchy of beneficial use of food scraps (food donation, etc.).
- c) Modification to the organics diversion phase in timeline.

Key amendments to the Universal Recycling Ordinance Administrative Rules include:

- a) Provided details for organics diversion, including the hierarchy of beneficial use. Amendments provide flexibility for partnerships with local farms, food donation and composting.
- b) Provided clarification for requirements for affected properties who receive landfill trash and recycling services from the City of Austin.
- c) Developed reporting credits for reuse and reduction to reflect Hierarchy of Beneficial Use
- d) Relocated and grouped existing language throughout document for increased clarification.

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

On May 14, 2014, the Commission voted XXX

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of both the amendments to Chapter 15-6 of the Austin City Code for Solid Waste Services affecting Article 5 and the Chapter Eight of Austin Resource Recovery's Administrative Rules, which includes modifications requested by the ZWAC at the May 14, 2014 meeting (see Attachment A).