



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number (20140611-003j): URO Enforcement

WHEREAS the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) went into effect on October 1, 2012, and

WHEREAS new businesses are included under its requirements every October 1 until all businesses in Austin will offer recycling, and

WHEREAS recycling and composting have been demonstrated as the most cost effective and quickest means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions—a fraction of the cost of energy efficiency upgrades, and

WHEREAS the City of Austin has a goal to divert 50% of all waste from landfills by next year—2015, and

WHEREAS Austin Resource Recovery staff reported to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission in April that 63% of businesses covered during the first two years of the URO are noncompliant with the ordinance in one way or another, and

WHEREAS it is the mission of the City of Austin Code Compliance to “provide quality education and enforcement of city codes and ordinances so that Austin will be a more livable city,” and

WHEREAS Code Compliance did not include any funds in their budgets over the last two years to enforce the Universal Recycling Ordinance, and

WHEREAS the proposed FY 2015 budget for Code Compliance does not include funds for Universal Recycling Ordinance Enforcement

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council ensure that resources are allocated for enforcement of the Universal Recycling Ordinance in the FY 2015 budget for Code Compliance and in future budget years.

Date of Approval: June 11, 2014

Record of the vote: Unanimously approved by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission on a 6-0 vote. All commissioners present.

Attest:


(Staff signature)