



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission
From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department
Date: November 12, 2014
Subject: **Director's Report to ZWAC**

Single Use Bag Ordinance Report

The Single Use Bag Ordinance was enacted by City Council on March 1, 2012, with full implementation of the provisions of the ordinance on March 1, 2013. In adopting the ordinance, City Council made the following findings:

- (1) The proliferation of single use carryout bags presents a unique and pernicious problem for Austin's citizens, environment, and wildlife.
- (2) The successful reduction of single use carryout bags entering the City's solid waste stream, along with the integration of reusable bags and increase in recycling and composting, will help the city achieve its goal of "Zero Waste" by the year 2040.

Twenty months later, by available means to measure success, the ordinance has achieved its purpose. Anecdotal visual reports from Watershed Protection staff indicate that plastic single use bags once littered Lady Bird Lake, however in the past year rarely was a single use bag found in lake cleanup efforts. Keep Austin Beautiful staff report little to no single use bags found in recent neighborhood cleanups, contrary to the large volume of bags collected before the passage of the ordinance. There are similar reports from city staff and local businesses in the downtown area.

Recycling processing operators processing the city's recyclables state that there are fewer bags snagging their equipment. Processing equipment can become entangled with plastic bags, causing down time and employee labor time to cut the bags loose from the equipment. The sharp decrease of plastic bags in the recycling stream has saved the processors expense and indirectly has saved the city expense.

ARR is currently engaged in measuring the composition of residential trash flow to the landfill. Staff anticipates a measurable decrease in the waste stream of single use bags.

Although this initial report is primarily based on visual observations, ARR will provide a full report to ZWAC in spring 2015 to include side-by-side comparisons with like size cities, composition of the waste stream, and more direct evidence of the reduction of bags in the environment, with reduced impact on local wildlife.

Recycling Processing (MRF) Contract Update

The current recycling processing contracts with Texas Disposal Systems and Balcones Resources have five “reset” periods: 2012-2015, 2015-2020, 2020-2025, 2025-2030, and 2030-2032. As the current reset period is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2015, the contract offers the negotiation of Schedule A provisions, including the processing fee and market revenue share.

As the current period ends in 10 months, I am planning the process and timeline for negotiations with the two vendors. I propose the following schedule:

- April – ZWAC suggestions for inclusion in negotiations
- May/June – City negotiations with the two recycling processors
- August – City Council presentation and authorization for contracts
- October 1, 2015 – start of new reset period

Organics Study Update

I have requested from staff a report on the learned lessons of the two year organics collection pilot, with recommendations regarding changes as we plan for city-wide deployment. The purpose of this Organics Report is to learn from the pilot of 14,000 households, make changes to the organics collection program that reflect learned lessons and plan for city-wide roll-out. The report will provide a roadmap toward full city-wide implementation.

The staff report will include the following information and analysis:

Pilot Description, including the history of the pilot, description of trucks utilized, carts, education, kitchen containers, geographic locations, an expectation of tonnage diverted, data collected, and cost involved.

The staff report will also include learned lessons and recommendations, as well as reasonable accommodations for back-yard composters and customers utilizing compost in local gardens or decentralized collection/use.

The Organics Study and its recommendations will be presented to ZWAC at the January 14th Commission meeting.

Recent Council Actions

November 6th Council Meeting – City Council authorized execution of a contract with CANTERBURY DESIGNS OF OHIO, LLC DBA CANTERBURY INTERNATIONAL for the purchase of custom trash and recycle receptacles for the Austin Resource Recovery Department, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$85,840. ZWAC recommended approval at the July 9th commission meeting.

November 6th Council Meeting – City Council authorized the award and execution of a 10-month service contract through the State of Texas Procurement and Support Services Cooperative Purchasing Program with LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING, LLC, for removal and proper recycling of scrap tires in an amount not to exceed \$164,947, with two 12-month extension options in amounts not to exceed \$164,947 additional per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$494,841. (This contract value is shared with Austin Aviation Department). ZWAC recommended approval at the October 8th commission meeting.

Staff Hires and Promotion Updates

New Employee	Promotion, Transfers, Reclasses	Title/ Division
James Sorrells		Temporary, ARR Associate
Susanne Harm		Public Information Specialist Sr.
Andrea Francis		Department Quality Analyst
Erin Benoit		Temporary, ARR Admin Support
Teri Bangert		Contract Development Analyst
Zerry Rowe		ARR Operator
Robert Mata		ARR Operator Associate
Clinton Kerr		ARR Operator
Jared Davee		ARR Operator Associate
Julian Alonzo		ARR Operator Associate
Robert Kimble		Temporary Associate
Roland Crayton		Temporary Associate
Michael Rodriguez		ARR Operator Associate
	Paul Brown (promoted)	Supervisor, ARR
	Michael Womack (promoted)	Supervisor, ARR

Positions Currently to be Filled

Position	# Open	Manager	Posting Status
Financial Specialist	1	Jessica Edwards	Position posted
Temporary Accounting Clerk	1	Jessica Edwards	Position to be posted
Temporary, Admin Assistant	1	Jessica Edwards	Position posted
Department Quality Analyst	1	Mike Turner	Top Candidate Selected
Planner Senior	1	Jessica King	Position to be posted
Public Information Specialist	1	Jessica King	Position to be posted
Administrative Specialist	1	Jessica King	Interviews scheduled
Public Information Specialist Sr.	1	Jessica King	Top candidate selected
Administrative Specialist	1	Jessica King	Interviews scheduled
Human Resources Advisor	1	Blanche Quarterman	Top candidate identified
ARR Crew Leader	3	Ron Romero	Interviews scheduled
ARR Operator	3	Ron Romero	Top candidates identified
Temporary, ARR Associate	6	Ron Romero	Positions posted
Waste Mgmt Supervisor	1	Donald Hardee	Position to be posted
Environ. Program Specialist, Sr.	1	Donald Hardee	Position posted
ARR Operator	3	Vidal Maldonado	Top candidates identified
Training Instructor	1	Vidal Maldonado	Interviews scheduled
ARR Crew Leader	2	Vidal Maldonado	Positions to be posted
Temporary, ARR Associate	2	Vidal Maldonado	Positions posted

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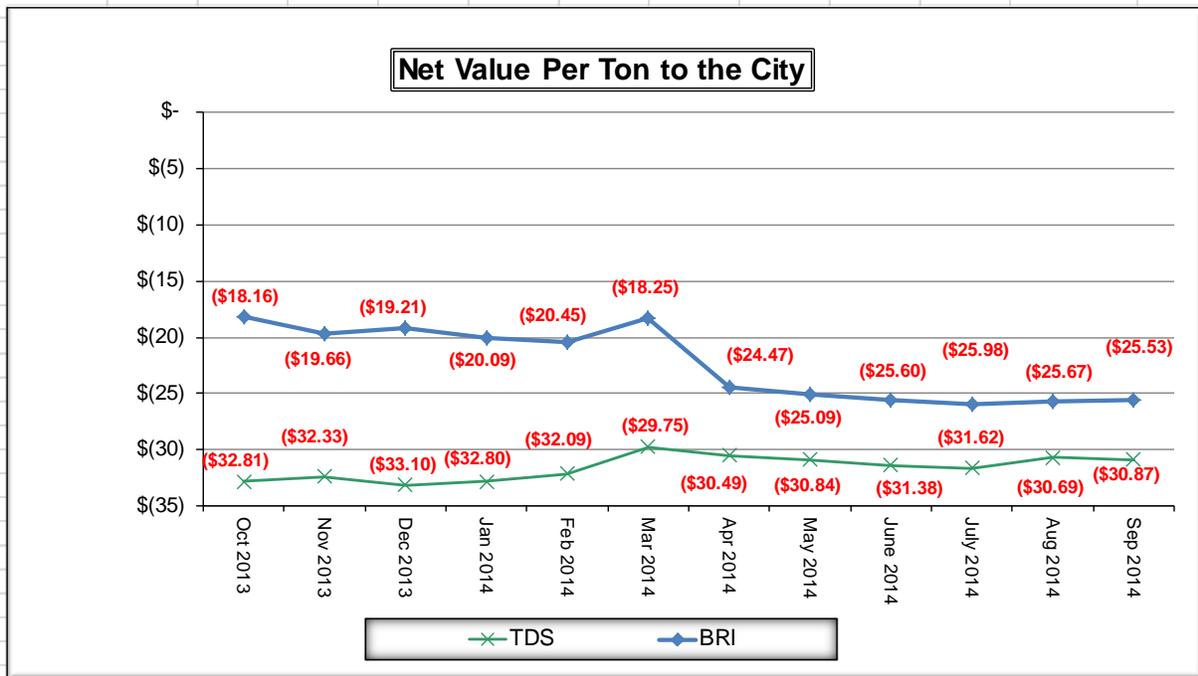
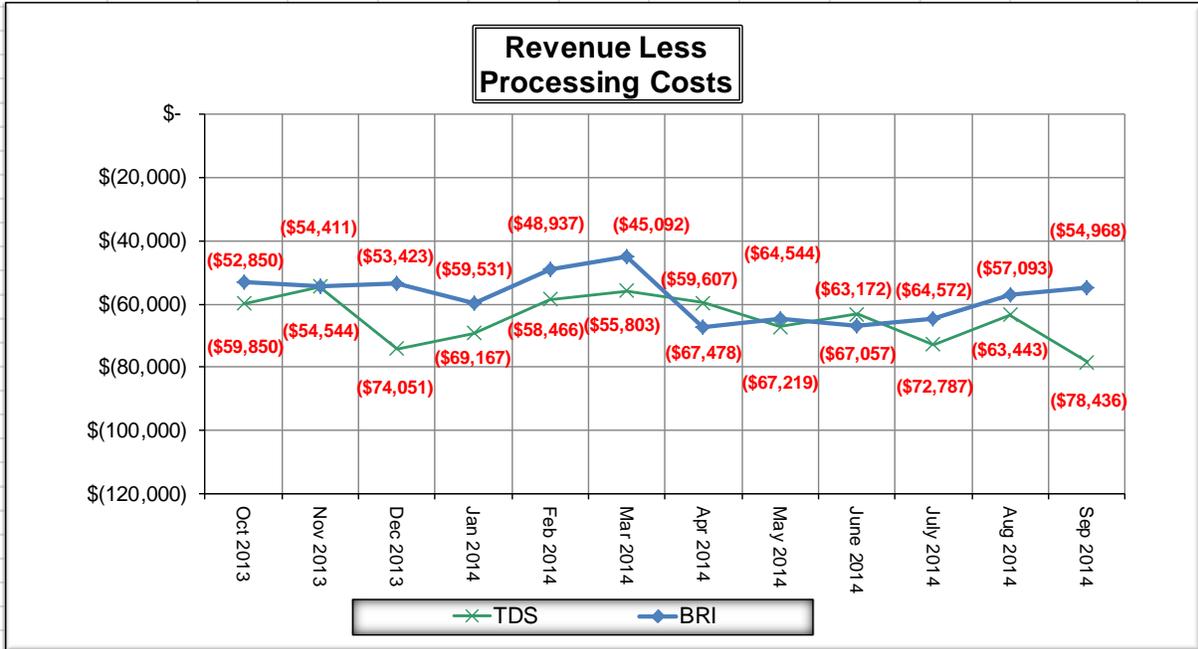
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY 2013-14: October, 2013 through September, 2014

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources, Inc. (BRI)

Month and Year	Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments			Net Value to the City \$ per ton value	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
			Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Amount Due/(Owed)		Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2013	TDS	1,824.24	\$108,623	\$168,473	(\$59,850)	(\$32.81)	\$21.01	\$38,327
	BRI	2,910.84	\$177,974	\$230,825	(\$52,850)	(\$18.16)	\$21.01	\$61,157
	Total	4,735.08	\$286,598	\$399,298	(\$112,701)			\$99,484
November 2013	TDS	1,682.84	\$99,569	\$153,980	(\$54,411)	(\$32.33)	\$21.01	\$35,356
	BRI	2,775.04	\$165,885	\$220,429	(\$54,544)	(\$19.66)	\$21.01	\$58,304
	Total	4,457.88	\$265,454	\$374,409	(\$108,955)			\$93,660
December 2013	TDS	2,237.24	\$130,657	\$204,707	(\$74,051)	(\$33.10)	\$21.01	\$47,004
	BRI	2,781.35	\$167,489	\$220,913	(\$53,423)	(\$19.21)	\$21.01	\$58,436
	Total	5,018.59	\$298,146	\$425,620	(\$127,474)			\$105,441
January 2014	TDS	2,108.75	\$123,783	\$192,951	(\$69,167)	(\$32.80)	\$21.01	\$44,305
	BRI	2,963.60	\$175,333	\$234,864	(\$59,531)	(\$20.09)	\$21.01	\$62,265
	Total	5,072.35	\$299,116	\$427,814	(\$128,698)			\$106,570
February 2014	TDS	1,821.99	\$108,246	\$166,712	(\$58,466)	(\$32.09)	\$21.01	\$38,280
	BRI	2,392.85	\$142,235	\$191,172	(\$48,937)	(\$20.45)	\$21.01	\$50,274
	Total	4,214.84	\$250,482	\$357,884	(\$107,403)			\$88,554
March 2014	TDS	1,875.52	\$115,807	\$171,610	(\$55,803)	(\$29.75)	\$21.01	\$39,405
	BRI	2,470.59	\$152,032	\$197,124	(\$45,092)	(\$18.25)	\$21.01	\$51,907
	Total	4,346.11	\$267,839	\$368,733	(\$100,894)			\$91,312
April 2014	TDS	1,954.76	\$119,253	\$178,861	(\$59,608)	(\$30.49)	\$21.01	\$41,070
	BRI	2,757.04	\$151,574	\$219,052	(\$67,478)	(\$24.47)	\$21.01	\$57,925
	Total	4,711.80	\$270,827	\$397,912	(\$127,085)			\$98,995
May 2014	TDS	2,179.65	\$132,219	\$199,438	(\$67,219)	(\$30.84)	\$21.01	\$45,794
	BRI	2,572.14	\$140,352	\$204,897	(\$64,545)	(\$25.09)	\$21.01	\$54,041
	Total	4,751.79	\$272,571	\$404,335	(\$131,764)			\$99,835
June 2014	TDS	2,012.96	\$121,013	\$184,186	(\$63,173)	(\$31.38)	\$21.01	\$42,292
	BRI	2,618.97	\$141,425	\$208,482	(\$67,057)	(\$25.60)	\$21.01	\$55,025
	Total	4,631.93	\$262,438	\$392,668	(\$130,230)			\$97,317
July 2014	TDS	2,301.98	\$137,844	\$210,631	(\$72,787)	(\$31.62)	\$21.01	\$48,365
	BRI	2,485.29	\$133,677	\$198,249	(\$64,572)	(\$25.98)	\$21.01	\$52,216
	Total	4,787.27	\$271,521	\$408,880	(\$137,359)			\$100,581
August 2014	TDS	2,066.90	\$125,679	\$189,122	(\$63,443)	(\$30.69)	\$21.01	\$43,426
	BRI	2,223.71	\$121,132	\$178,225	(\$57,093)	(\$25.67)	\$21.01	\$46,720
	Total	4,290.61	\$246,811	\$367,347	(\$120,536)			\$90,146
September 2014	TDS	2,540.99	\$154,065	\$232,501	(\$78,435)	(\$30.87)	\$21.01	\$53,386
	BRI	2,153.26	\$117,864	\$172,832	(\$54,968)	(\$25.53)	\$21.01	\$45,240
	Total	4,694.25	\$271,929	\$405,333	(\$133,404)			\$98,626
FY 2013-14 Totals		55,712.50	\$3,263,731	\$4,730,234	(\$1,466,503)			\$1,170,520

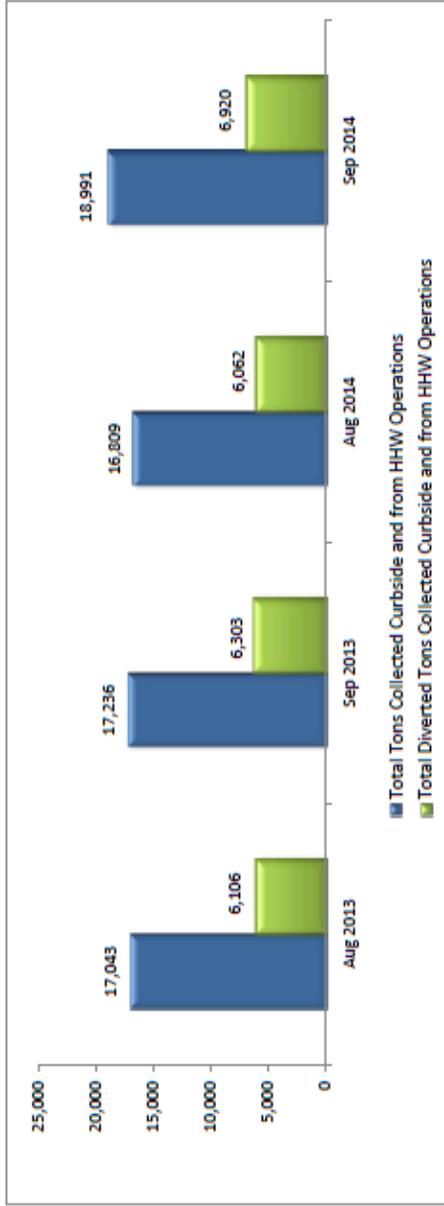
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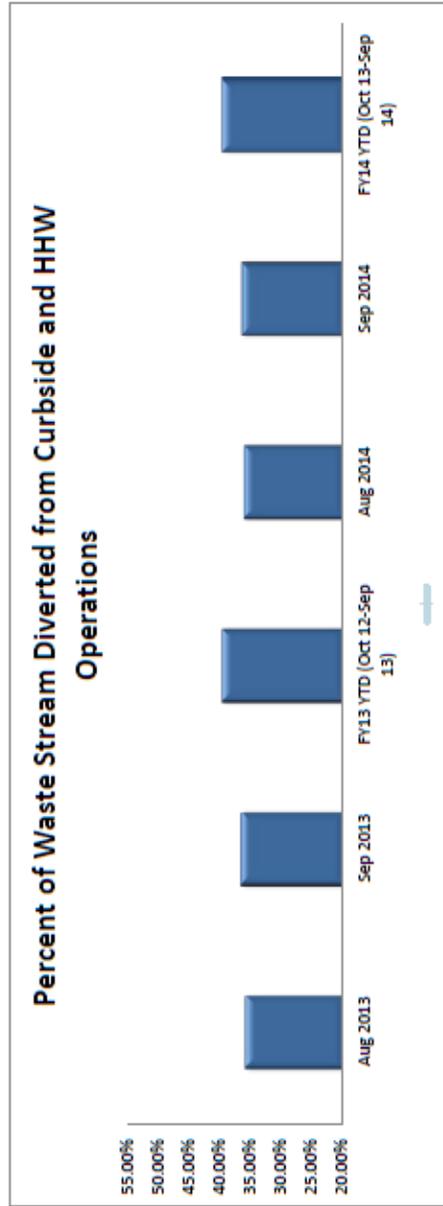
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

	LAST FISCAL YEAR			CURRENT FISCAL YEAR					
	FY 2013	FY 2013 Goal	Aug 2013	Sep 2013	FY13 YTD (Oct 12-Sep 13)	Aug 2014	Sep 2014	FY14 YTD (Oct 13-Sep 14)	FY 2014 Goal
Tons of curbside Garbage	124,183	127,000	10,145	8,908	124,183	9,961	10,969	127,924	123,000
Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,500	6,600	753	1,011	8,500	716	1,075	8,692	7,000
HHW Operations Tons Disposed	381	400	39	14	381	70,111	28	442	350
Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	133,064	134,000	10,937	10,933	133,064	10,747	12,072	137,258	130,350
Tons of curbside recycling	53,702	62,500	4,451	4,327	53,702	4,291	4,665	55,494	64,000
HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	240	150	17	13	240	29,771	19	256	150
Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	25,898	27,000	1,103	1,201	25,898	1,218	1,403	27,357	31,000
Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	181	800	11	14	181	10	20	176	783
Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	7,359	6,400	524	748	7,359	513	763	6,692	6,200
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	87,380	96,850	6,106	6,303	87,380	6,062	6,920	90,015	102,133
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	220,444	230,850	17,043	17,236	220,444	16,809	18,991	227,273	232,523
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.64%	42%	35.83%	36.57%	39.64%	36.06%	36.44%	39.61%	44%
Pounds of Garbage collected per customer per pickup	25.53	26.03	24.74	24.21	25.53	24.07	26.52	25.96	24.64
Number of Garbage customers	187,105	187,676	189,408	188,626	187,105	191,141	190,605	189,543	192,000
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	22.25	25.62	21.88	21.31	22.25	20.91	22.88	22.79	25.64
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.37	5.53	2.71	2.96	5.37	2.97	3.42	5.62	6.21
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	185,658	187,676	187,865	187,109	185,658	189,590	189,147	187,286	192,000
Number of PAYT PICKUPS	52	52	4.33	4.34	52	4.33	4.34	52	52
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	50	85	3.00	5.00	50	4.00	5.00	61	85

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations



Percent of Waste Stream Diverted from Curbside and HHW Operations



Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation						
Category of Waste Generation	FY2009-10 actual	FY2010-11 actual	FY2011-12 actual	FY2012-13 actual	FY2013-14 goal	FY2013-14 current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	37.32%	38.57%	37.86%	39.64%	44.00%	39.61%
Commercial / Industrial Waste Diversion	information not available*					
Institutional Waste Diversion	information not available*					
* Non-residential waste diversion to be inventoried in 2015						

