



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number (20150211-003c): Universal Recycling Ordinance Enforcement & Rules

WHEREAS, in January 2009, the City of Austin adopted the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, which included the Zero Waste goal to reduce the amount of waste sent by citizens of Austin to the landfill by ninety percent by the year 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) is a central part of Austin's Zero Waste Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, successive groups of businesses have come under the ordinance on October 1st of 2012, 2013 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, ten percent of affected properties have failed to file the requisite recycling plan as of September 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of this ordinance is difficult and requires three notifications of non-compliance and two site visits by ARR staff prior to referring the case to the Austin Code Department; and

WHEREAS, once a non-compliant property is referred to the Austin Code Department, Code Officers perform an additional site visit and offer 15 days to achieve compliance prior to initiating enforcement action; and

WHEREAS there may be multi-family housing complexes in the city providing valet trash service while requiring residents to service their own recycling, and

WHEREAS San Antonio's multi-family housing recycling ordinance requires waste valet services to include recycling as well; and

WHEREAS, multi-family housing requires 6.4 gallons of capacity per unit per week while ARR residential customers receive 48 gallons per week per household; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Austin Resource Recovery reserves the right to reevaluate and propose revisions to the multifamily service capacity requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission advises the City Council to direct the City Manager to evaluate and, if appropriate, present amendments the Universal Recycling Ordinance and Administrative Rules that would:

- (1) Streamline the enforcement process to at least reduce the number of non-compliance notifications issued to a non-compliant property;
- (2) Reevaluate the purpose and use of the Annual Diversion Plan in the enforcement process; and
- (3) Clarify that if valet trash service is provided, valet recycling service is required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ZWAC advises the City Council to, based on stakeholder input, direct the City Manager to re-evaluate multifamily service capacity requirements and the potential of increasing these capacity requirements.

Date of Approval: February 11, 2015

Record of the vote: Unanimously approved by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission on a 5-0 vote.

Attest:



(Staff signature)