



A City of Austin Service Department

Curbside Services - Cost / Benefit Analysis

Cost to Provide Curbside Services

<u>Program</u>	Fiscal Year 2014-2015
	<u>Average monthly cost of service per curbside collection customer</u>
Trash Collection (Weekly)	\$11.06
Residential Recycling (Bi-weekly)	\$ 7.46
Yard Trimmings Collection (Weekly)	\$ 3.13 *plus 4.10 by 2020
Brush Collection & Processing (Semi-Annual)	\$ 2.21
Large Bulk Collection (Semi-Annual)	\$ 1.28
Total average monthly cost of service per Curbside collection customer	\$25.14

*Added Organics costs

Fees charged to cover costs of programs noted above are charged through the monthly Trash Cart and Base Customer Fees.

Yard Trimmings Collection & Brush Collection and Processing – Adding Food Waste collection

- Reduces methane gas emissions from landfills by diverting organic waste (food waste, yard and brush);
- Annual Reduction of 33,000 GHG Emissions (MTCO₂E) equivalent to: 78,500,000 Miles driven by an average passenger vehicle;
- Reduces dependence on landfills, including expansion or opening of new landfills (landfills are the greatest source of water pollution in the US);
- Supports Austin Water Utility's Hornsby Bend operation by providing yard trimmings, which are combined with biosolids to produce Dillo Dirt. The alternative would be landfill disposal of biosolids;
- Assists homeowners with large brush removal after major storm events;
- Minimizes likelihood of illegal dumping of brush that may cause fire hazards; and
- Makes free mulch available to the public and other City departments, thereby improving soil quality and reducing the need for herbicides.

Residential Recycling

- Annual Reduction of 108,000 GHG Emissions (MTCO₂E) equivalent to: 257,000,000 Miles driven by an average passenger vehicle;
- Reduces dependence on landfills, including expansion or opening of new landfills (landfills are the greatest source of water pollution in the US);
- Increases job creation opportunities by attracting new businesses and helping local businesses grow to process material.

Trash Collection

- Satisfies requirements of the State of Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act (Title 5, Subtitle B, Chapter 361).

Large Bulk Collection

- Provides Austin homeowners with a low-cost option to remove bulky items, thereby reducing the likelihood of material accumulating outside of homes in violation of the City Code.
- Assists homeowners with removal of bulky items after major storm events.

Benefits to Providing Curbside Services – Fiscal Year 2014-2015

- Contributes to a healthy and clean environment;
- Provides a variable rate structure based on customer choice with lower rates for those that generate less waste and higher rates for those that generate more waste;
- Coordinated City of Austin curbside collection minimizes truck traffic throughout residential neighborhoods and assists in the reduction of the carbon footprint;
- Coordinated City of Austin curbside collection ensures consistent and reliable collection standards among all City of Austin customers;
- Provides reliable jobs that pay at least a living wage and allows employees to positively contribute to the local economy; and
- Recyclable and organic material collected by the City of Austin supports local businesses and stable local jobs. A forthcoming study by TXP, Inc. on the economic impact of the Recycling and Reuse sector estimates that there are over 900 direct jobs in the Austin MSA created due to recycling activity and another 900 indirect and induced jobs that are supported by this industry. These businesses generate property taxes and electric and water utility revenues, and the wages paid to their employees generates City sales tax.