



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department

Date: January 13, 2016

Subject: **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

Austin Resource Recovery Year in Review – Top 10 Accomplishments in 2015

- Developed *Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance* through a stakeholder process; adopted by City Council Nov. 19, 2015. Starting October 1, 2016, the ordinance impacts approximately 20 percent of the waste generated in Austin by requiring construction projects of 5,000 square feet or more to recycle at least 50 percent of the materials they generate.
- Launched the newly expanded *Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center*. The combined center provides additional services for residents and creates a more convenient customer experience. The Drop-Off Center now accepts Styrofoam containers and packing material, plastic bags and plastic film, all single-stream recyclables and hard plastics. A new webpage and comprehensive brochure help residents know what they can drop off and pick up at the facility. (The Drop-Off Center was formerly two facilities: the Household Hazardous Waste Facility and the Resource Recovery Center.)
- Launched *Recycle on the Go* – downtown recycling initiative. Mayor Steve Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo and the Downtown Austin Alliance joined City officials to announce the new initiative and unveil nearly 50 new recycling containers in downtown Austin. ARR's outreach team worked with businesses and downtown pedestrians to promote use of the new service.
- Coordinated with the Office of Innovation to launch a new community engagement tool, *Insights*, which gained insights from residents about barriers to household recycling. In one month, garnered more than 1,500 comments from the public which are being used to form future programs and public education and outreach plans.
- Provided outreach to over 3,500 individuals within the business community for property-specific recycling inquiries and related events. Received *Annual Diversion Plans* from more than 94 percent of properties affected by the Universal Recycling Ordinance.
- Conducted two citywide *Recycling Set-Out Audits* to identify ARR residential recycling participation rates. The audits results indicate that 74.5% of ARR residential customers utilize our curbside recycling program. This is a "Best Practice" standard envied by many American cities.
- Conducted ARR Internal *Waste Characterization Study* (the first of its kind in Texas), to identify ARR's Diversion Rate. The study identified a 42% Diversion Rate for ARR Residential customers and noted that over 40% of what Austin residents send to the landfill is Recyclable or Reusable.
- Cleaned up more than 2,000 tons of storm debris from the *Memorial Day and Halloween Storm events*

- Collected over 500 tons of trash during *South by Southwest Festival* (SXSW March 2015)
- Mixed and distributed 26,000 gallons of *Austin ReBlend*, a 100 percent post-consumer, rebled flat paint (with low VOCs) made from paint collected at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center.

2015 Awards presented to Austin Resource Recovery

- Awarded Star of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) first-place for Outstanding Environmental Public Education and Outreach Program (November 2015).
- Awarded Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Silver Excellence Award in Communication, Education and Marketing Tools (August 2015).
- Awarded Star of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) first-place for Outstanding Environmental Youth Education and Outreach Program for supporting Zero Waste in the next generation, the “Generation Zero” initiative in partnership with Keep Austin Beautiful and Austin public schools (November 2015).
- Austin Resource Recovery & Austin Economic Development Departments received an Excellence in Economic Development Awards in the category of Sustainable & Green Development for Austin Materials Marketplace (Gold Excellence) from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers internationally (October 2015).

Employee Recognition – PRIDE Awards

In December, I announced the recipients of Austin Resource Recovery’s Director’s Pride award for 2015. Each selected staff member was nominated because they demonstrated the City of Austin PRIDE values throughout the fiscal year (October – September).

- Public Service and Engagement
- Responsibility and Accountability
- Innovation and Sustainability
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Ethics and Integrity

I am truly proud of this group of outstanding and dedicated staff members who exemplify what’s great about our city and our department.

- David Daily – Customer Service
- Amanda Noble – Human Resources
- Katrina Fenrick – Quality Assurance
- Sir Derrick Lott – Collection Services
- Arturo Riojas – Collection Services
- Robert Williams – Operations Support
- Kevin Roland – Litter Abatement
- Jerry Wright – Litter Abatement
- Woody Raine – Strategic Initiatives
- Orlando Reyes – Diversion Facilities
- Vekessa Malveaux – Finance Division

Thank you to these team members for giving their all this year. I appreciate their efforts at ARR to advance Zero Waste goals and in providing the highest level of service.

Travis County Interlocal Agreement

Over the last year, the Business Outreach Team has worked with Travis County to complete Site Assessments and create a county Green Team; and now have completed Zero Waste training for more than 90 Green Team county employees. A new plan for the upcoming calendar year is currently in progress.

Actions Taken by City Council since the last ZWAC Meeting

October 28, 2015: ARR briefed the Council Committee on Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability on the draft C&D Recycling ordinance, which was amended to reflect recommendations by ZWAC and the Planning Commission. The amended draft ordinance set the effective date for commercial demolition projects as 10/1/2019, removed the greater diversion requirements that would become effective in 2020 and 2030, and added requirements that staff report to Council on the impact of the ordinance on household affordability and recycling markets. The Council Committee voted to recommend the draft ordinance to the full Council.

November 19, 2015: Council approved the C&D Recycling Ordinance amendments to chapters 15 and 25 of the City Code and to ARR Administrative rules, amending the recommendation by the OSES Council Committee on October 28, 2015. The additional amendment increases the diversion rate requirements in 2020 and 2030 dependent on Council action after consideration of information about existing recycling market studies and impacts to household affordability.

December 10, 2015: Council voted to oppose a 12-month extension of an Austin Energy Class 2 Waste contract for the management and disposal of industrial Class 2 non-hazardous waste. ZWAC voted in opposition of this extension. ARR is assisting Austin Energy in rebidding the waste hauling contract. "Community Values" will be added into the bid selection criteria.

November 19, 2015 and December 10, 2015: Council delayed decision on items involving a land sale for funding of Winnebago Lane property and budget amendment to place funds from sale of that property and lease of Bolm Road property into ARR Capital Improvement Projects budget, and referred the items to the Audit and Finance Committee on January 27th. ZWAC has been asked to review the items for a recommendation to Council.

December 17, 2015: Council approved Trash and Recycling Receptacles Agreement for Downtown streets, as recommended by ZWAC at November meeting.

Recycling MRF Update

The two Recycling MRF processing contracts require a new service schedule through a "reset" period that has recently expired. The new service schedule is under negotiation with the two vendors, and will have a five year term. Negotiations include changing certain operational requirements, as well as a renegotiated pricing structure. The negotiations are anticipated to conclude by January 31st. An update will be provided to ZWAC at the February 10th meeting.

Organics Support Letters

The City Manager and City Council members have received hundreds of letters from citizens requesting the implementation of city-wide residential curbside food-waste collection. The department is formulating an alternative implementation schedule and cost assessment to be discussed with ZWAC at the February 10th meeting.

National Recycling Coalition

Bob Gedert, Austin Resource Recovery Director, has been named president of the National Recycling Coalition. NRC is a nonprofit organization that promotes and enhances recycling in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The coalition, founded in 1978, is a network of more than 6,000 members that includes waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting organizations.

Personnel Changes November and December 2015

New employee	Temp to Regular	Transfers	Promotions	Title
Jason Johnson				Temp, ARR Associate
Hernandez Robert				Temp, ARR Associate
Selene Castillo				Waste Diversion Planner
Nathan Shaw-Meadow				Waste Diversion Planner
Felipe Abrego				Temp, ARR Associate
Freeman Alexander				Temp, ARR Associate
Harold Garrison				Temp, ARR Associate
Jaron Kelly				Temp, ARR Associate
Michael Metzger				Temp, ARR Associate
Lee Riggins				Temp, ARR Associate
Joshua Phillips				Temp, ARR Associate
Marcus Cossey				Temp, ARR Associate
Rodney McDaniel				Temp, ARR Associate
Devin Shaw				Temp, ARR Associate
Megan Ontiveros				Temp, Admin Assistant
Alexander Johnson				Temp, ARR Associate
Kelly Joyner				Temp, ARR Associate
	Fulani Cunningham			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Cedric Henry			ARR Operator
	Amber Martin			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Semaj Watkins			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Jon Baladez			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Julian Garza			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Marshall Mark			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Arthur Gatica			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Matthew Diaz			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Gilbert Sanchez			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Michael Torres			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Darius Gray			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Damon Fowler			ARR Operator Assoc.
	Quinton Baker			ARR Operator Assoc.
			Jesse Morales	
			Bearin Spears	
			Darryl Roberts	

Positions we are looking to fill in January 2016:

Position	# open	Contact Manager	Posting Status
Contract Compl. Specialist and Specialist Sr	2	Jessica Frazier	Top candidates tbd
Business Process Specialist	1	Jessica Frazier	Interviews scheduled
Financial Consultant	1	Jessica Frazier	Position posted
Business Process Consultant	1	Jessica Frazier	Position to be Posted
Utility Account Specialist	1	Jessica Frazier	Top candidate tbd
Business Process Consultant Sr	1	Mike Turner	Position to be Posted
Planner III or Sr	1	Jessica King	Top candidate to start 1/25/16
Waste Diversion Planner	1	Jessica King	To be posted
Marketing Rep A or B	1	Jessica King	Interviews scheduled
Administrative Specialist	2	Jessica King	Interviews scheduled
Commtty Engagement Consultant	1	Jessica King	Position to be Posted
Environmental Program Specialist	1	Donald Hardee	Position posted
ARR Operator	1	Ron Romero	Position to be Posted
ARR Operator Sr	1	Ron Romero	Top candidate selected
ARR Crew Leader	2	Ron Romero	Top candidates selected
ARR Supervisor	2	McHale/Romero	Position posted
ARR Operator (Yard Trimmings)	1	Richard McHale	Interviews scheduled
ARR Operator Sr (Street Sweeping)	1	Richard McHale	Interviews scheduled
ARR Assoc (Litter Control)	2	Richard McHale	Interviews scheduled
ARR Assoc (Carts)	1	Richard McHale	Top candidate selected
Temp, ARR Associate	8	McHale/Romero	Top candidates selected

Zero Waste Advisory Commission - January 13, 2016

Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY 2015-16: October - November, 2015

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 2015	TDS	1,700.01	\$78,859	\$155,559	(\$76,701)	(\$45.12)	\$21.36	\$36,312
	BRI	3,021.57	\$136,882	\$239,301	(\$102,419)	(\$33.90)	\$21.36	\$64,541
	<i>Total</i>	4,721.58	\$215,741	\$394,861	(\$179,120)			\$100,853
November 2015	TDS	2,119.75	\$97,578	\$193,957	(\$96,379)	(\$45.47)	\$21.36	\$45,278
	BRI	2,762.91	\$122,874	\$219,501	(\$96,626)	(\$34.97)	\$21.36	\$59,016
	<i>Total</i>	4,882.66	\$220,452	\$413,458	(\$193,006)			\$104,294
FY 2015-16 Totals		9,604.24	\$436,193	\$808,318	(\$372,125)			\$205,147

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

Description of Services	LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
	FY 2014	FY 2015	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	FY15 YTD (Oct 14-Nov 14)	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	FY16 YTD (Oct 15-Nov 15)	FY 2016 Goal	
Tons Disposed										
Tons of curbside Trash	127,924	130,784	10,282	9,785	20,067	9,981	9,196	19,177	125,000	
Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,682	9,525	704	576	1,280	825	2,025	2,850	10,201	
HHW Operations Tons Disposed	442	432	40	13	53	38	29	67	360	
Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	137,258	140,741	11,026	10,374	21,400	10,844	11,250	22,094	135,561	
Tons Diverted										
Tons of curbside recycling	55,494	57,324	4,905	4,288	9,193	4,723	4,883	9,606	60,000	
HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	296	311	31	11	42	31	25	56	270	
Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	27,357	28,036	1,305	1,003	2,308	2,192	1,848	4,040	35,000	
Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	176	171	13	11	24	20	8	28	142	
Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,682	7,776	702	421	1,123	751	684	1,435	8,000	
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	90,015	93,618	6,956	5,734	12,690	7,717	7,448	15,165	103,412	
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations										
Operations	227,273	234,359	17,981	16,108	34,089	18,561	18,598	37,259	238,973	
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.61%	39.95%	38.68%	35.60%	37.22%	41.58%	39.83%	40.70%	43.27%	
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup										
	25.96	25.96	24.96	23.58	24.26	24.00	22.15	23.07	24.49	
Number of Trash customers										
	189,543	191,580	190,300	191,705	191,002	192,099	191,771	191,935	196,300	
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	22.79	23.20	24.00	20.83	22.41	22.89	23.70	23.30	23.51	
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.62	5.67	3.19	2.44	2.81	5.31	4.49	4.90	6.21	
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers										
	187,456	190,088	188,776	190,156	189,466	190,586	190,310	190,448	196,300	
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.33	4.33	8.66	4.33	4.33	8.66	52	
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	61	62	7	6	13	4	4	8	67	

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation							
Category of Waste Generation	FY2010-11 actual	FY2011-12 actual	FY2012-13 actual	FY2013-14 actual	FY2014-15 actual	FY2015 -16 Goal	FY2015-16 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	38.57%	37.86%	39.64%	39.61%	40%	44.00%	40.70%
Commercial / Industrial Waste Diversion	information not available*						
Institutional Waste Diversion	information not available*						
*Non-residential waste diversion to be inventoried in 2015							

