



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission
From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department
Date: March 9, 2016
Subject: **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

Curbside Services Options - Community Input Update

ARR has partnered with CPIO to gather input from citizens regarding expanded service options for ARR's curbside customers. Generally, we are asking citizens which service we should roll out first – weekly recycling or organics collections. To reach as many customers as possible, staff has coordinated various activities:

Public Meetings: We held two public meetings, February 3rd at the Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center and the second was on February 9th at One Texas Center. Attendees heard a brief presentation that outlined the issue and ARR's basic services, followed by a guided discussion to gather input on service preferences.

Survey: Citizens have the option of providing input via an [online survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9TRQ9PJ) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9TRQ9PJ>). The survey will be open through the end of March and is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese. It has been marketed widely on Facebook, the City's website, and in a variety of community publications and venues. We currently have over 5000 survey responses. While we are still collecting responses and analyzing results, the responses have been fairly evenly split.

Conversation Corps: During the month of March trained facilitators will host one-hour conversations on Austin Resource Recovery Expanded Service options. They are finalizing their final dates and locations and will post them very soon. We anticipate 10-20 meetings throughout the community.

Telephone Town Hall: ARR is exploring hosting a telephone town hall on March 29th at 7:00 pm. The meeting would be filmed at City Hall and will be televised live on Channel 6.

Staff will continue to tabulate data from the various sources through the end of March, and be prepared to present results at the April ZWAC meeting as part of the budget discussion.

Travis County Interlocal Agreement Status Report

An Interlocal Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin was signed in January 2014. The agreement offers the ability of both governmental units to coordinate zero waste activities and share expenses to fund public education campaigns. The 30 year agreement also enables the synchronization of programs to coordinate consistent services and programs toward achieving the zero waste goals. Upon adoption of the agreement, City Council requested an annual report to Zero Waste Advisory Committee (ZWAC) in January of each year.

Travis County has prioritized the many opportunities to implement Zero Waste through this agreement, based on available staffing levels:

Waste Diversion Programs: Travis County shared information on how they each conduct site assessments, including demonstration of the process. In December of 2015 a recycling composition study was performed for the 700 Lavaca location. The audit demonstrated the largest amount of material generated in an office environment is mixed paper and cardboard.

Office Stream Recycling: All County offices have had access to single-stream recycling services since April 2013.

Construction: Per their respective resolutions, large City or County construction projects are required to meet at least LEED Silver certification requirements, which include earning credits for diverting construction material and using recycled-content products.

Specialty Material: The City and County each have contracts for recycling scrap tires and scrap metal. In 2014, Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) began to properly collect and dispose of universal wastes by purchasing pre-paid containers for disposal of fluorescent light bulbs, ballasts, and batteries.

Employee and Public Education Campaigns: The County provides information on single-stream recycling at New Employee Training. In addition, The County's website (<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/environmental-quality/conservation>) on conservation provides resources for County employees and the public on area recycling facilities, HHW, and other green initiatives. It includes links to several City information sources and programs.

In May 2015, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved an Order regarding recycling participation by all departments and offices of Travis County. The Commissioners Court ordered that implementation of a recycling participation agreement by all departments and offices of Travis County organization is necessary to achieve policies of optimizing material recovery, conservation and reuse. The order created the Green Team Program with full participation encouraged by all offices of Travis County. At this time, 74% of the county departments participate in the program. The first Green Team Meeting occurred in October with City of Austin's assistance in education.

Travis County TNR, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Facilities Management and CARE Program¹ partnered to host an Earth Day event called "Healthy Planet, Healthy People". At the event there were partner organizations such as City of Austin and county vendors hosting booths with helpful information to encourage 450 attendees.

The Toner Ambassador Program puts toner recycling into the generator's hands. A volunteer from each department or office space registers with the toner recycling program as a collection site. They are recognized with a certificate and appreciation letter. The Toner Ambassador collects the cartridges then ships them with a prepaid shipping label. This past year 51 new toner ambassadors registered and recycled 2,148 cartridges.

Community Drop-off and Reuse Facilities: Travis County approved an updated inter-local agreement with the City of Austin under which County constituents can use the City's hazardous waste collection facility. The County pays for a full time employee and a percentage of the disposal costs.

Travis County sponsored 4 drop-off sites for Christmas trees, complementing Austin's drop-off site near Zilker Park and the City's curbside collection service.

[re]Manufacturing Hub Update

At their February 4, 2016 meeting, the Austin City Council voted against authorizing negotiation and execution of all documents and instruments necessary or desirable to sell approximately 9.4 acres of land at 4711 Winnebago Lane. Austin Resource Recovery is the steward of this property and had intended to use the proceeds from this land sale to fund the development of the Austin [re]Manufacturing Hub.

At the same meeting, the Austin City Council voted in favor of a resolution expressing Council support for the Austin [re]Manufacturing Hub project and directing the City Manager to return by February 25, 2016 with alternate financing mechanisms that do not increase rates.

ARR, the Financial Services Department, and the Office of Real Estate Services responded with a memo to Council on February 23, 2016. As noted in the memo, Austin Resource Recovery is actively engaged in conversations with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) on options for remedying the project's timeline delays to maintain the City's \$1 million grant for the project.

The most promising financing mechanism for outstanding project costs is the concept of a public-private partnership with a professional developer. Staff believes a similar approach for the Austin [re]Manufacturing Hub is achievable and in the best interest of the City. The process has been initiated to develop the scope of service for formal solicitation for a public-private partnership to support this project. We expect to complete the third-party developer

¹ Care acronym: Check-ups, A Healthy Outlook, Regular Exercise, Eating Right

solicitation process by late summer. Concurrent to the formal solicitation process, the City will continue the design and construction of the exterior waste water line to serve the property, which will assist us in meeting EDA timelines.

The approved February 4th resolution from City Council additionally directed the City Manager to explore the feasibility of developing a live/work project with Artspace, to consider 4711 Winnebago Lane as a potential location for this project, and to report back to the City Council by March 3, 2016. The Economic Development Department responded to this resolution with a memo on March 3, 2016 (see attached). The memo outlined the opportunities and obstacles to developing 4711 Winnebago Lane as a live/work project with Artspace, including the need to either purchase the land from Austin Resource Recovery or develop the project with a zero waste as part of the project's mission. The memo noted that a potential solution to some of the obstacles for development of the project would be to explore the feasibility of developing the site as art workshops, without residential use, for artists working with reclaimed materials.

Actions Taken by City Council since the last ZWAC Meeting

February 4, 2016 Council meeting: Council approved on consent a 36-month contract with SCS FIELD SERVICES to provide landfill maintenance services with three 12-month extension options for a total contract amount not to exceed \$630,000. ZWAC had unanimously recommended this item at the January 2016 meeting. *See above section for items regarding the [re]Manufacturing Hub from the February 4th meeting.*

February 11, 2016 Council meeting: Council approved universal changes (required from 10+1 Council changes) for 23 boards (including ZWAC) and updated committee language for 3 boards (Environmental, People with Disabilities, Zero Waste).

March 3, 2016 Council meeting: ZWAC had submitted additional general language edits to its bylaws like adding "materials management" and "composting" which required an ordinance to amend the municipal code. The draft ordinance containing the updated bylaw language was approved by Council and now the bylaws can return to ZWAC for adoption.

Recycling Processing Contract Update

Negotiations with the two recycling processors are continuing with the purpose of updating the agreement terms and pricing of the Recycling Processing contracts, in context of a second "reset" period. A complete update and summary of contract changes is scheduled to be presented at the April ZWAC.

Personnel Changes January and February 2016

New employee	Temp to Regular	Transfers	Promotions	Title
Ashley Fisher				Planner Senior
David Bennett				Temporary ARR Associate
Scott Long				Temporary ARR Associate
Jacob Morgan				Temporary ARR Associate
Joshua Saldana				Temporary ARR Associate
Anthony Ramirez				Temporary ARR Associate
Sasha Saeedi				Contract Compliance Specialist
Jorge Ortega				Marketing Rep B
Cory Gaspard				Temporary ARR Associate
Daniel Lopez				Temporary ARR Associate
Joe Aguilar				Temporary ARR Associate
Joshua Williams				Temporary ARR Associate
Jamal Mitchell				Temporary ARR Associate
Dennis Reyes				ARR Associate
Joel Garcia				Temporary ARR Associate
Hannah Kronke				Intern
Joshua Peterson				Temporary ARR Associate
Louis Yanez				Temporary ARR Associate
	Keith Organ			ARR Oper Associate
	Patrick Rostro			ARR Oper Associate
		Jason Smith		ARR Operator Specialist Sr.
		Eric Hernandez		ARR Oper Associate
			David Guevara	ARR Operator Specialist Sr.
			Anthony Calderon	ARR Oper Associate
			Kenneth Monroe	ARR Crew Leader
			Benjamin Delgado	ARR Crew Leader
			Timothy Darby	ARR Operator Specialist Sr.

Positions we are looking to fill in March 2016:

Position	# of open positions	Contact Manager	Posting Status
Contract Compliance Specialist Sr.	1	Jessica Frazier	Interviews scheduled
Business Process Specialist	1	Jessica Frazier	Position Posted
Financial Consultant	1	Jessica Frazier	Interviews scheduled
Contract Compliance Supervisor	1	Jessica Frazier	Position Posted
Temporary, Finance	1	Jessica Frazier	Position to be posted
Business Process Consultant Senior	1	Mike Turner	Position Posted
Dept. Occupational Safety Coord.	1	Mike Turner	Position Posted
Waste Diversion Planner or Senior	2	Jessica King	Position Posted
Administrative Specialist	2	Jessica King	Top candidates selected
Community Engagement Consult.	1	Jessica King	Interviews scheduled
Temporary Graphic Designer	1	Jessica King	Position Posted
ARR Operator Senior	1	Ron Romero	Top candidate selected
Environmental Program Specialist	1	Donald Hardee	Interviews scheduled
ARR Operator	6	Ron Romero	Top candidate selected
ARR Crew Leader	1	Ron Romero	Top candidate selected
ARR Crew Leader	1	Richard McHale	Position to be posted
ARR Operator	1	Richard McHale	Position to be posted
ARR Operator Senior	2	Richard McHale	Position Posted
Temporary ARR Associate	8	McHale/Romero	Top candidates selected

Zero Waste Advisory Commission - March 9, 2016								
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report								
FY 2015-16: October, 2015 - January, 2016								
Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources, Inc. (BRI)								
Month and Year	Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments			Net Value to the City	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
			Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Amount Due/(Owed)	\$ per ton value	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
	Total	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
	Total	4,882.66	\$220,452	\$413,458	(\$193,006)			\$104,294
December 2015	TDS	2,151.52	\$96,666	\$196,864	(\$100,198)	(\$46.57)	\$21.36	\$45,956
	BRI	3,399.88	\$149,062	\$268,261	(\$119,199)	(\$35.06)	\$21.36	\$72,621
	Total	5,551.40	\$245,728	\$465,125	(\$219,397)			\$118,578
January 2015	TDS	1,975.70	\$83,546	\$180,777	(\$97,231)	(\$49.21)	\$21.36	\$42,201
	BRI	3,092.82	\$127,619	\$244,756	(\$117,137)	(\$37.87)	\$21.36	\$66,063
	Total	5,068.52	\$211,165	\$425,533	(\$214,368)			\$108,264
FY 2015-16 Totals		20,224.16	\$893,086	\$1,698,976	(\$805,890)			\$431,988

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR					
Description of Services	FY 2014	FY 2015	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	FY15 YTD (Oct 14- January 15)	Dec 2015	Jan 2016	FY16 YTD (Oct 15- January 16)	FY 2016 Goal	
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	127,924	130,794	11,883	11,150	43,080	11,787	10,494	41,458	125,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,892	9,525	578	530	2,398	739	801	4,390	10,201
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	442	432	25	51	129	41	38	146	380
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	137,258	140,741	12,464	11,731	45,595	12,567	11,333	45,994	135,561
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	55,494	57,324	5,335	5,134	19,662	5,577	5,089	20,252	60,000
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	298	311	21	3	68	45	23	124	270
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	27,357	28,036	3,725	2,231	8,284	3,379	2,573	9,992	35,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	178	171	18	12	54	9	15	52	142
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,892	7,778	419	270	1,812	402	364	2,201	8,000
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	90,015	93,618	9,518	7,650	29,858	9,412	8,044	32,621	103,412	
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	227,273	224,359	21,982	19,381	75,452	21,979	19,378	78,616	238,973	
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.61%	39.95%	43.30%	39.47%	39.57%	42.82%	41.51%	41.49%	43.27%	
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup	25.96	25.96	28.53	26.92	26.00	28.34	25.24	24.93	24.49	
Number of Trash customers	189,543	191,580	191,598	191,279	191,220	192,135	192,035	192,010	198,300	
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	22.79	23.20	25.87	24.98	23.92	27.02	24.57	24.55	23.51	
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.62	5.67	9.03	5.43	5.03	8.19	6.24	6.06	6.21	
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	187,456	190,088	190,058	189,834	189,706	190,655	190,594	190,536	198,300	
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.34	4.33	17.33	4.33	4.33	17.32	52	
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	61	62	6	5	24	4	4	16	67	

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

