



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: (20160413-4d): Curbside Composting

WHEREAS the City of Austin has set a goal of reaching Zero Waste by diverting at least 90% of our discards by 2040, and

WHEREAS the City of Austin has set a goal of reaching Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 20XX, and

WHEREAS a majority of Austin's waste is compostable in a municipal composting program, and

WHEREAS landfilling organic wastes is a major source of methane emissions, a dangerous greenhouse gas, and

WHEREAS composting organic wastes creates almost 5 times as many jobs as landfilling the same materials, and

WHEREAS compost retains more water than other soils, reducing water consumption, and

WHEREAS the Austin Resource Recovery Department already collects organic yard and tree wastes for composting, and

WHEREAS the Department can extend curbside composting to Austin residents by simply enhancing this existing program, and

WHEREAS the Department estimates that the fees necessary for this program will be an average of \$4.10 a month, phased in over multiple years, and

WHEREAS three-quarters of residents will be able to fully offset this fee by downsizing their current cart, and



WHEREAS more than 14,000 Austin households have already been receiving comprehensive curbside organics collection for up to three years, and

WHEREAS the Austin Resource Recovery Department has identified important learned lessons from this pilot program, and

WHEREAS advocates in the community report having generated thousands of letters, calls, emails, and other communications from residents demanding curbside composting, and

WHEREAS the Austin City Council will be considering whether to extend curbside composting citywide as part of the 2017 budget process, beginning this month,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council authorize the necessary expenditures and fees to enhance Austin's organic waste collection program to include all organic and compostable wastes including food wastes and food soiled papers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council authorize the fastest possible timeline for phasing this service in so that the program will be fully operational by the time we reach the Zero Waste Plan's 2020 75% diversion benchmark.

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote: _____

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)