



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department

Date: April 13, 2016

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

Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Rate

Austin's 2015 first Community Diversion Rate Study will be released in late April with a presentation to ZWAC in May. The Study is the first five-year Diversion Rate Study as recommended in ARR's Master Plan (Chapter 23, page 233). It was conducted by CB&I, a third-party environmental engineering contractor with ARR staff playing a strong supporting role. This is ARR's first comprehensive study of landfill, recycling, organic flows and compositions in Austin. Key findings will be presented during the ZWAC presentation in May.

Free Soil Testing for Urban Gardeners

With the arrival of spring and warmer temperatures, gardeners begin to think about the many varieties of crops they'll want to plant. First, however, they'll need to put some thought into the quality of their garden's soil. Austin Brownfields Revitalization Office, part of Austin Resource Recovery, is making this process easy by sponsoring free soil testing at this year's Soil Kitchen. The Kitchen will be open April 14-17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, 2608 E. Gonzales Street, 78702. Representatives from the Region 6 Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Austin Brownfields Revitalization Office will be on hand to test soil for the presence of heavy metals. The samples will be sent to a laboratory to be tested for soil nutrients and all results will be available anonymously online.

The Soil Kitchen is a perfect opportunity for backyard, school and community food gardens to learn more about safely and effectively growing great, healthy food. For more information about the Soil Kitchen and soil sampling, please visit: www.austintexas.gov/soilkitchen

SXSW/Spring Festival Service Report

In 2015, the City Council established a SXSW/Spring Festival Season Ordinance. The Spring Festival Season occurs over a nine day period in March when over 200 permitted events are expected to take place. City departments, including Austin Fire, Austin Police, Parks and Recreation, Austin Resource Recovery, Austin EMS, and Austin Transportation submit operating fees based on the needs of the Spring Festival season. These fees are generally waived by City Council.

The SXSW Festival is the most anticipated event during the Spring Festival Season, due to the amount of tourism and local visitors it attracts. SXSW occurs during the entire Spring Festival period and draws a massive, diverse and international crowd. The event has constant foot traffic that impacts public rights of way and includes indoor and outdoor venues over a large geographic area, spanning underneath a major highway and through various entertainment districts.

During normal non-event periods, Austin Resource Recovery provides daily street sweeping, alley flushing, and litter control for approximately 4 to 5 hours starting at 2:30AM. The service area is bordered by Lamar to the west, IH-35 to the east, 12th Street to the north, and Cesar Chavez to the south.

However, during SXSW/Spring Festival, service hours expand to 23 hours per day for the nine day period. The service footprint also expands to meet the event's footprint and is bordered by Lamar to the west, Comal to the east, 12th Street to the north, and Cesar Chavez to the south. ARR also provides additional support in the Rainey Street neighborhood as well as the South Congress business district. A zone map is included (page 5) with this report for your information.

In preparation for SXSW, ARR works collaboratively with SXSW organizers to plan for and manage waste, litter, and recycling. ARR provides the following basic services:

- Additional Litter Containers – Downtown/6th St./East Austin/Rainey St.

In addition to the existing, permanent 366 trash and 60 recycling containers, ARR deployed 200 additional temporary trash containers throughout the greater downtown area, including 6th street, areas in East Austin and Rainey Street. Staff tracked scheduled events by venue to anticipate high waste generation areas. ARR Operations staff monitored and emptied the trash containers, 23 hours a day. In addition, staff provided daily street sweeping around 3AM and also monitored alleys for overflowing dumpsters. Last year, a total of 62 employees worked nearly 6,000 hours to maintain the trash containers. Roughly 110,840 pounds of trash was collected from these containers alone. During the 2016 event, staff collected 113,920 pounds of trash from these containers. Additionally, visual inspection of the permanent street recycling containers located in the 4th Street area indicated a 60% contamination rate. Materials collected from the recycling containers were processed as recycling via the City's contract with Texas Disposal Systems.

- Additional Central Business District Service – Trash and Recycling

The City contracts with a third party (Texas Disposal Systems) for trash and recycling dumpster service in the alleys of the Central Business District. To accommodate the increased material, ARR requested additional trash and recycling dumpsters. Data from last year and this year include:

CBD Dumpster Volumes	2015 (in pounds)	2016 (in pounds)
Trash and Bulky Items	879,160	1,032,520
Recycling	190,400	246,500
Total	1,069,600	1,279,020
Diversion Rate	18%	19%

- Auditorium Shores Concerts – Recycling Containers

During the music festival, Auditorium Shores hosted a series of free concerts. SXSW organizers contracted with a private vendor to manage the waste at this portion of the event. ARR provided recycling containers and bags. The private vendor reported a diversion rate of 66% based on a total of 11,820 pounds of material generated, including 4,000 pounds of landfill trash material; 7,540 pounds of recycling; and 280 lbs of compost (mainly pizza boxes and soiled paper plates).

- Volunteer Clean Up Events – Keep Austin Beautiful

To assist with clean up, ARR coordinated, in partnership with Keep Austin Beautiful, two clean up events during SXSW. More than 3 dozen volunteers attended, and were provided with supplies and protective equipment to collect trash from the downtown area. This was the second year that ARR coordinated this event, and will continue to be a successful way to engage the community and give citizens an opportunity to help keep their City clean.

- Outreach to Business - In addition to managing the increased services, ARR assists SXSW to remind venues with private waste service to contract for adequate service levels (additional capacity/increased frequency/etc.). ARR also notifies venues about the Zero Waste Event Rebate to increase diversion at their events.

Staff will debrief internally, with the Austin Center for Events team and also with SXSW, to review services and discuss how to continue expanding sustainability efforts.

G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency

I had the great pleasure to actively participate in the recent G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency, held in Washington DC March 22-23, 2016. This invitation-only event included representatives from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States. The purpose of the G7 gathering, as a follow-up of the Paris Climate Change Discussions, was to explore key challenges to implementing life cycle concepts and to advance resource efficiency practices.

Resource efficiency, as defined in these international discussions, includes the analysis and reduction of environmental impacts within the life-cycle of product and packaging design, raw material extraction, production, transportation, marketing, consumer use, and end-of-life management through, reuse,

recycling, composting or disposal. Other terms used to describe these activities and processes included Sustainable Materials Management, Zero Waste, and the Circular Economy.

Mathy Stanislaus (USEPA Assistant Administrator) and Masahito Fukami (Japan Ministry of the Environment) hosted the two days of active discussions. Delegates from the seven countries discussed best practices in waste reduction through design, and the challenges of establishing reuse and recycling collection.

Recycling markets were the main discussion point in the round-table discussions, with the call for cleaner collection methods, higher quality recyclables marketed, and strong needs to aggregate volumes to support industrial raw material feedstock. Contamination was identified as a major weakness in the industrial settings of material recovery, much as we see in the post-consumer collection programs. In the discussion of best practices, many called for common terminology and collection standardization of the recycling industry.

The German Minister called for international research and education on the development of a global Circular Economy, where “waste” is defined as resources replacing raw material extraction and reducing impacts on Climate Change. The French Minister called for focus on waste reduction and recycling as a Industrial KPI – Key Performance Indicator. Most of the international discussions focused on product manufacturing, regarding smarter design, less material waste, reduced energy consumption, and the development of “remanufacturing” networks to support recycling markets.

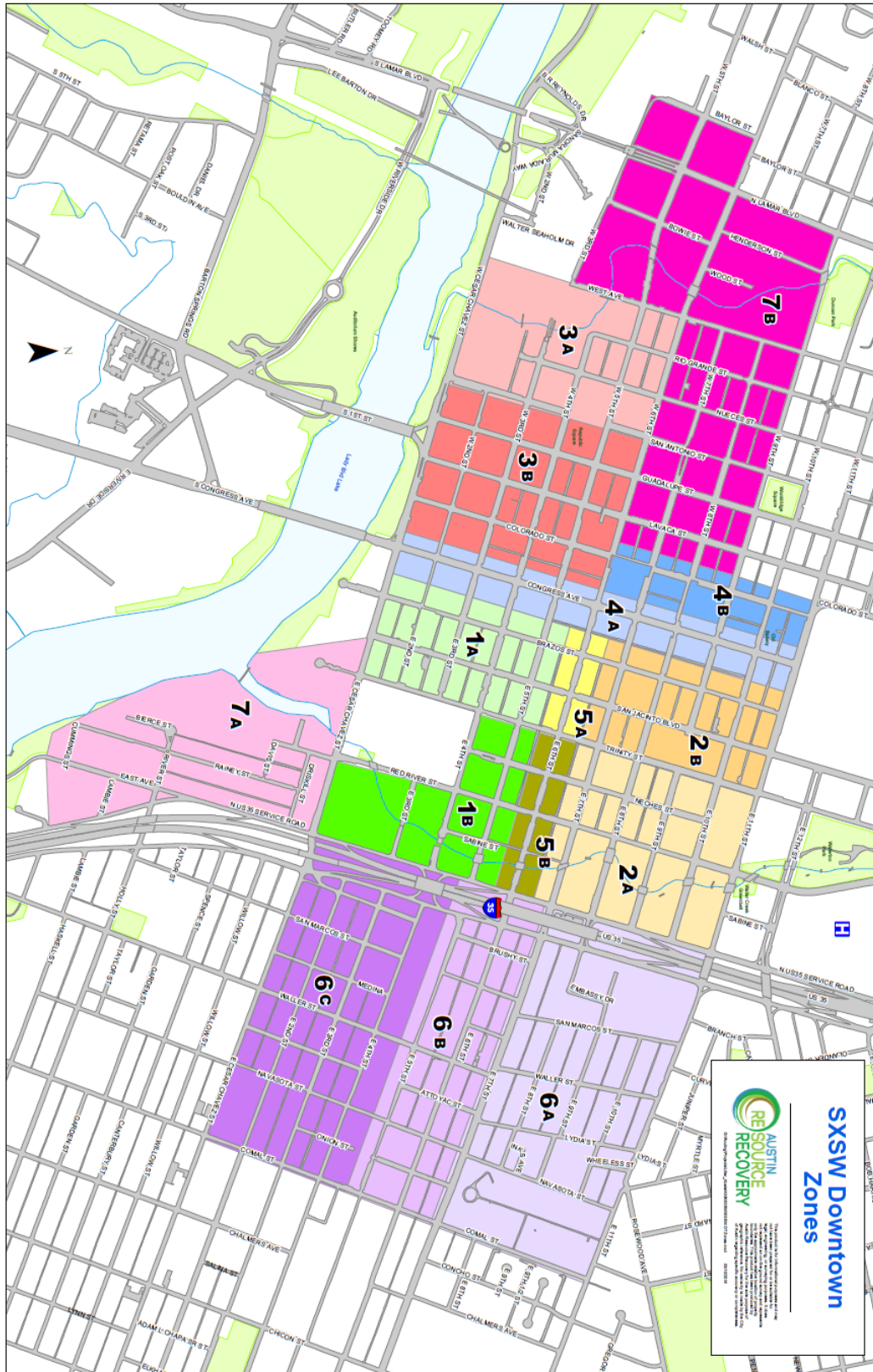
End-of-Life challenges discussed included recyclability of composites and mixed materials, regional differences in collection standards, mitigation of supply risk regarding quantity variations, mitigating quality concerns through international standardization, and public education challenges.

A call to action was actively discussed at the end of the gathering, with a written report to be distributed by May to the OCED. Some of the actions discussed included a call for manufacturers to meet with recyclers, regulatory relaxation of recycling activities (stop treating material recovery as waste management), incorporating and encouraging green design standard, and international data collection on life-cycle analysis to support end-of-life material recovery.

The final call was to build partnerships between industry, recyclers, and consumers: again the need for *partnership, collaboration, and action*. I was pleased to represent the City of Austin (and the National Recycling Coalition) in these discussions, and will be involved in future actions regarding these discussions as they unfold.

Actions Taken by City Council since the last ZWAC Meeting

March 31, 2016 Council meeting: Council approved on consent a contract through the Houston-Galveston Area Council with TOTER INCORPORATED for refuse and recycling containers in an amount not to exceed \$886,870. The agreement was reviewed and unanimously recommended at the March 9th ZWAC meeting.



Zero Waste Advisory Commission - April 13, 2016								
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report								
FY 2015-16: October, 2015 - February, 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 2016	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
February 2016	TDS	1,985.04	\$81,838	\$181,631	(\$99,793)	(\$50.27)	\$21.36	\$42,400
	BRI	2,568.78	\$103,675	\$204,640	(\$100,965)	(\$39.30)	\$21.36	\$54,869
	Total	4,553.82	\$185,513	\$386,271	(\$200,758)			\$97,270
FY 2015-16 Totals		24,777.98	\$1,078,599	\$2,085,247	(\$1,006,648)			\$529,258

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

Description of Services	LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
	FY 2014	FY 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	FY15 YTD (Oct 14- February 15)	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	FY16 YTD (Oct 15- February 16)	FY 2016 Goal	
Tons of curbside Trash	127,624	130,794	11,190	6,493	52,663	10,494	9,362	50,810	125,000	
Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,892	9,525	530	757	3,143	801	878	5,298	10,207	
HHW Operations Tons Disposed	442	432	51	31	160	38	37	183	360	
Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	137,258	140,741	11,731	10,271	55,865	11,333	10,267	56,261	135,561	
Tons Diverted										
Tons of curbside recycling	55,494	57,324	5,134	4,209	23,871	5,099	4,555	24,807	60,000	
HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	296	311	3	18	83	23	34	159	270	
Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	27,357	28,036	2,231	1,890	10,154	2,573	2,708	12,700	35,000	
Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	176	171	12	12	66	15	12	64	142	
Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,892	7,778	270	407	2,219	394	420	2,821	8,000	
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	90,015	93,618	7,650	6,536	36,393	8,044	7,729	40,351	103,412	
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	227,273	234,359	19,381	16,807	92,259	19,378	17,996	96,612	238,973	
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.61%	39.95%	39.47%	38.89%	39.45%	41.51%	42.95%	41.77%	43.27%	
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup	25.96	25.96	26.92	22.91	25.38	25.24	22.50	24.45	24.49	
Number of Trash customers	189,543	191,580	191,279	191,228	191,222	192,035	192,024	192,013	198,300	
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	22.79	22.20	24.99	20.49	23.24	24.57	22.08	24.05	23.51	
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.62	5.67	5.43	4.80	4.94	6.24	6.56	6.16	6.21	
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	187,456	190,098	189,824	189,754	189,716	190,594	190,803	190,550	198,300	
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.33	4.33	21.65	4.33	4.33	21.65	52	
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	61	62	5	4	28	4	3	19	67	

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

