



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission
From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department
Date: May 11, 2016
Subject: **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

Austin Recycles Games – Winners Announced

ARR is pleased to announce the winners of the Austin Recycles Games: District 8 for Most Overall Recycling and District 6 for Most Improved. Awards were presented at the Austin Earth Day Festival on April 23rd.

Austin Resource Recovery kicked off the Austin Recycles Games, a competition among the 10 city council districts to increase recycling, on Nov. 30, 2015. The Austin Recycles Games calculated the pounds of recyclables collected per household in each district from Nov. 30 through April 1, 2016.

By the end of the four-month competition, District 8 recycled a total of 253 pounds per household to win Most Overall Recycling. District 10 takes a close second in this category with an average of 250 pounds. District 8 maintained their No. 1 position for most of the Recycles Games, never falling out of the top three. For their award, they will receive a beautification project for the Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park.

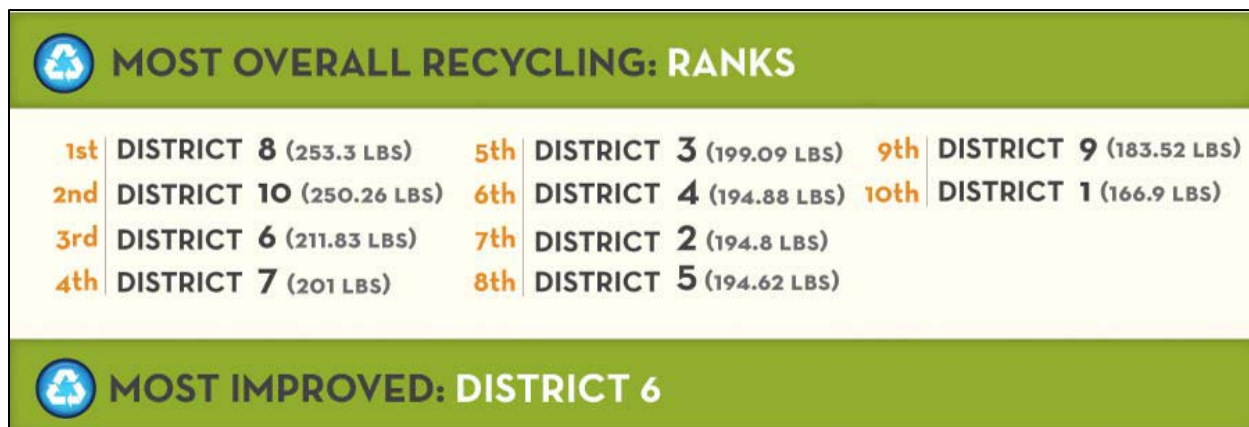
District 6 increased their recycling by an impressive 44 percent to win the Most Improved category. They ended the competition recycling 62.65 pounds per household, compared to 43.63 pounds before the competition began. For their award, District 6 will receive a beautification project for the Spicewood Springs Library.

Congratulations to District 8 and District 6 for their inspiring accomplishments during the Austin Recycles Games, these districts have made important strides to help Austin move toward our Zero Waste goal and we are thrilled the whole community stepped up to the challenge.

Our most recent measurements show that recycling is up 7 percent citywide since the Recycles Games began. District 8 and District 6 won the Austin Recycles Games, but everybody wins when we recycle more and take another step toward Zero Waste.

The Austin Recycles Games initiative follows a community engagement process conducted in Aug. 2015 where City officials asked residents to identify barriers to recycling. More than 1,500 residents participated and contributed insights for ways to increase recycling.

For more details about the Austin Recycles Games, district information and recycling tips, visit www.austinrecycles.com



Greenhouse Gas Impacts

Below are calculations of the effects of materials management for Austin municipal curbside collection, utilizing the USEPA WARM Model for calculating MTCO₂e Green House Gas Impact. These calculations estimate the impact of carbon dioxide releases per material management action. Carbon dioxide releases to the atmosphere has been documented to affect climate change through unwanted warming of the atmosphere. Note that these calculations do not reflect the methane releases through landfilling.

Current Carbon Footprint (2015)

Landfilled Waste	130,784 Tons	+59,825 MTCO ₂ e Impact
Recyclables	57,324 Tons	(164,348) MTCO ₂ e Impact
Organics Composted	32,951 Tons	(12,050) MTCO ₂ e Impact
Net:		(116,573) MTCO ₂ e Impact

Projected 75% Diversion Carbon Footprint (2020)

Landfilled Waste	60,000 Tons	+27,446 MTCO ₂ e Impact
Recyclables	101,000 Tons	(289,567) MTCO ₂ e Impact
Organics Composted	79,000 Tons	(28,890) MTCO ₂ e Impact
Net:		(291,011) MTCO ₂ e Impact

Special Events and Waivers

In 2002, City Council adopted Resolution 20021003-40 to establish an initial list of City co-sponsored events. This resolution waived certain fees and Code requirements for those events. For these and additional events that have been added over time, the City Council makes decisions, by individual ordinance, for the fees and Code requirements it wishes to waive. In 2009, City Council adopted Resolution 20091022-040, which directed the City Manager to implement recycling a city co-sponsored events. Recycling services from Austin Resource Recovery are waived for approximately 16 co-sponsored events per fiscal year. The table below show the total of fees waived by City co-sponsored events from FY14-present.

Council Co-Sponsored Event Fee Summary FY14-FY16

	FY14	FY15	FY16 (to date)
MLK March and Festival	\$751.25	\$96.42	\$1,792.52
African American Heritage Festival	\$1,717.35	\$1,653.45	\$0.00
Texas Independence Day Parade	\$1,937.39	\$2,070.35	\$1,693.97
Zilker Kite Festival	\$1,400.32	\$668.81	\$718.45
SXSW	\$226,019.33	\$182,780.26	\$125,000.00
Urban Music Festival	\$12,037.54	\$12,266.19	\$0.00
Juneteenth Parade and Festival	\$5,865.03	\$7,734.86	
Fourth of July Celebration	\$0.00	\$621.68	
Austin PRIDE Parade	\$5,164.70	\$5,614.75	
VIVA Streets!	\$2,833.96	\$2,478.58	
Viva La Vida Festival	\$3,140.59	\$341.75	
Veterans Day Parade	\$1,844.02	\$1,907.88	
Trail of Lights		\$1,594.10	
Austin New Year	\$0.00	\$2,160.42	
TOTAL:	\$262,711.48	\$221,989.50	\$129,204.94

ARR Website Update - What's Recyclable and What Can Go Into the Trash Container

The Austin Resource Recovery website is constantly evolving. To educate our customers about all the programs we offer that contribute to our Zero Waste mission, ARR offers extensive information online and in print. For a listing of all residential curbside services, customers can directly link to information by visiting:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/residential-services>

The curbside recycling program has the most comprehensive information including a list of materials that are accepted and what cannot be accepted. At the same site, customers can look up their collection schedule and use our "What do I do with..." search engine to learn about recycling and/or disposal options for particular materials.

Staff is always updating the website and trying to improve the information shared with customers. Based on recent feedback, customers may need more clarification about what cannot be accepted in their trash carts. While the Department does offer print material on what cannot be included in trash carts, staff recently updated the website to clarify program standards, including the reason certain materials cannot be accepted.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/trash>

Downtown Public Space Diversion Efforts

Currently, Austin Resource Recovery has over 400 containers in the downtown area, including 79 recycling containers. In 2011, Austin Resource Recovery initiated a public space recycling project near the University of Texas. Staff installed 13 recycling containers along Guadalupe. Based on lessons learned from that pilot project, staff expanded the Street-Level Recycling Pilot to the South Congress Area and the Central Business District, specifically at the intersection of 4th Street and Colorado.

ARR intends to continue expansion of the street-level recycling in the downtown area has budgeted \$67,000 over the next two years to install and replace litter containers and recycle containers. The litter and recycle containers are part of the Great Street standards used by the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department and Public Works Department. Within the next year, ARR will also add litter and recycling containers along Barton Springs and in the Rainey Street area to accommodate increased foot traffic in these areas.

After expansion of the Street-Level Recycling Pilot, ARR staff conducted a waste audit on the recycling containers located around City Hall and on Congress Avenue which yielded the following results:

Location	Type of Container	Contents
Congress Avenue – downtown	Recycling	43% contaminated with trash
	Trash	55% recyclable material
City Hall area	Recycling	44% contaminated with trash
	Trash	56% recyclable material

The primary challenge to providing public space recycling containers in the downtown area is space. There is not enough space on the curb corner to place recycling containers next to trash containers. Additionally, while there is an interest in adding composting containers, limited space and high probability for contamination make adding public space composting containers in the downtown area very challenging. Lastly, staff research of other communities found that while many Zero Waste communities include public space recycling containers, very few provide public space composting containers. If public space composting containers are available, they are normally provided in areas that meet certain criteria such as high pedestrian only traffic, dedicated staffing, and a concentrated number of foodservice establishments.

Actions Taken by City Council Since Last ZWAC Meeting

April 14, 2016 Council meeting: Council approved a resolution brought forth by Council Member Casar directing the City Manager to include certain requirements in the proposed [re]Manufacturing Hub solicitation.

April 21, 2016 Council meeting: Council approved an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Austin Resource Recovery Fund Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20150908-001) to transfer \$1,200,000 into the ARR Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20150908-002) for FM 812 Landfill repairs. This was recommended by ZWAC at March 9 meeting.

May 5, 2016 Council meeting: Council authorized execution of an interlocal agreement with Pilot Knob Municipal Utility District No. 3, for the City to provide solid waste services to the District's residents in accordance with the terms of the consent agreement between the MUD District and the City.

May 5, 2016 Council meeting: Council authorized negotiation and execution of a 36-month contract with AUSTIN METAL AND IRON CO., L.P., for the sale of scrap metal, with three 12-month extension options. This revenue agreement was recommended 9-0-1 at April 13 ZWAC meeting.

May 5, 2016 Council meeting: Council approved a resolution recommending that the City Manager prioritize Austin Resource Recovery in the performance and budget review by the Office of Performance Management, stemming from the March 9th ZWAC recommendation that Council prioritize a review by the Office of Performance Management. It was unanimously recommended to full Council at April 11 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee.

April 27 through June 1, 2016 Council Budget Discussions: five Council work sessions will occur in May and into June that are designed to engage with Council on significant policy issues and elicit input and feedback prior to the development of the City Manager's Proposed Budget. The April 27 budget policy discussion provided an overview to council, which will be followed by departments presenting 20-30 minute staff briefings to frame the policy topics, followed by council discussion and questions for staff.

Zero Waste Advisory Commission - May 11, 2016								
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report								
FY 2015-16: October, 2015 - March, 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
March 2016	TDS	1,928.56	\$81,894	\$176,463	(\$94,570)	(\$49.04)	\$21.36	\$41,194
	BRI	3,138.57	\$124,313	\$248,257	(\$123,945)	(\$39.49)	\$21.36	\$67,040
	Total	5,067.13	\$206,206	\$424,721	(\$218,514)			\$108,234
FY 2015-16 Totals		29,845.11	\$1,284,805	\$2,509,968	(\$1,225,162)			\$637,492

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

LAST FISCAL YEAR										CURRENT FISCAL YEAR			
Description of services	FY 2014	FY 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	FY15 YTD (Oct 14- March 15)	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	FY16 YTD (Oct 15- March 15)	FY 2016 Goal				
Tons of curbside Trash	127,924	130,784	9,483	11,090	63,653	9,352	11,814	62,624	125,000				
Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,892	9,525	757	121	3,264	878	26	5,294	10,201				
HHW Operations Tons Disposed	442	432	31	33	193	37	37	220	360				
Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	137,258	140,741	10,271	11,244	67,110	10,267	11,877	68,138	135,561				
Tons of curbside recycling	55,494	57,324	4,209	4,625	28,496	4,555	5,073	29,880	60,000				
HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	296	311	18	38	121	34	72	231	270				
Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	27,357	28,036	1,890	4,326	14,480	2,708	5,874	18,574	35,000				
Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	176	171	12	4	70	12	-	64	142				
Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,692	7,776	407	478	2,697	420	903	3,524	8,000				
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	90,015	93,618	6,536	9,471	45,864	7,729	11,922	52,273	103,412				
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	227,273	234,359	16,807	20,714	112,974	17,996	23,799	120,411	239,973				
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.61%	39.95%	38.89%	45.72%	40.60%	42.95%	50.10%	43.41%	43.27%				
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup	25.96	25.96	22.91	26.71	25.60	22.50	26.38	25.10	24.49				
Number of Trash customers	189,543	191,580	191,228	191,359	191,245	192,024	192,295	192,060	196,300				
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	22.79	23.20	20.49	22.45	23.11	22.08	24.55	24.14	23.51				
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.62	5.67	4.60	10.50	5.87	6.56	14.21	7.50	6.21				
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	187,456	190,088	189,754	189,876	189,742	190,603	190,874	190,604	196,300				
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.33	4.34	26.00	4.33	4.33	25.98	52				
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	61	62	4	4	32	3	3	22	67				

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

