



**To:** Zero Waste Advisory Commission

**From:** Bob Gedert, Department Director, Austin Resource Recovery

**Date:** May 11, 2016

**Subject:** Organics Processing Solicitation

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Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) desires to keep members of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) informed of recent progress with the City of Austin's organics pilot program.

### **History**

At the recommendation of ZWAC, the Austin City Council approved the initiation of a pilot program to offer organics collection / processing to a selected population subset. The pilot program consists of both the curbside collection of organic materials and the subsequent processing of the collected materials. ARR performs the curbside collection activity while a vendor provides organics processing.

An organics processing vendor went under contract after Austin City Council approved, at ZWAC's recommendation, the selection of a vendor and the organics pilot program commenced.

### **Current Events**

ARR is planning an expansion of their curbside collection of organics materials. In order to plan the most efficient and cost effective expansion ARR developed a new solicitation to ensure adequate vendor capacity to process the increased volume and also to allow for the possibility of multiple vendors in various locations in the city to decrease vehicle mileage driving to the vendor locations.

ARR issued a competitive solicitation for the selection of an organics processing vendor that has closed. There were scope changes required that were discovered after the initial solicitation had launched. The current solicitation will be cancelled and an updated solicitation will be issued soon.

### **Next Action**

In an upcoming meeting, ARR will request ZWAC's favorable recommendation to Austin City Council for the selection of the vendor identified through the most recent solicitation process.