



Organics Diversion in Austin: Transforming Wastes to Resources



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Food Policy Board



Agenda

- ❖ **URO: Organics Diversion – Development**
- ❖ **Stakeholder Concerns**
- ❖ **Requirements & Implementation**
- ❖ **Organics Initiatives**
- ❖ **How Can You Help?**



Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Organics Diversion - Development

Nov. 2010 - Universal Recycling Ordinance established

Sept. 2012 - Revised Ordinance and Admin. Rules

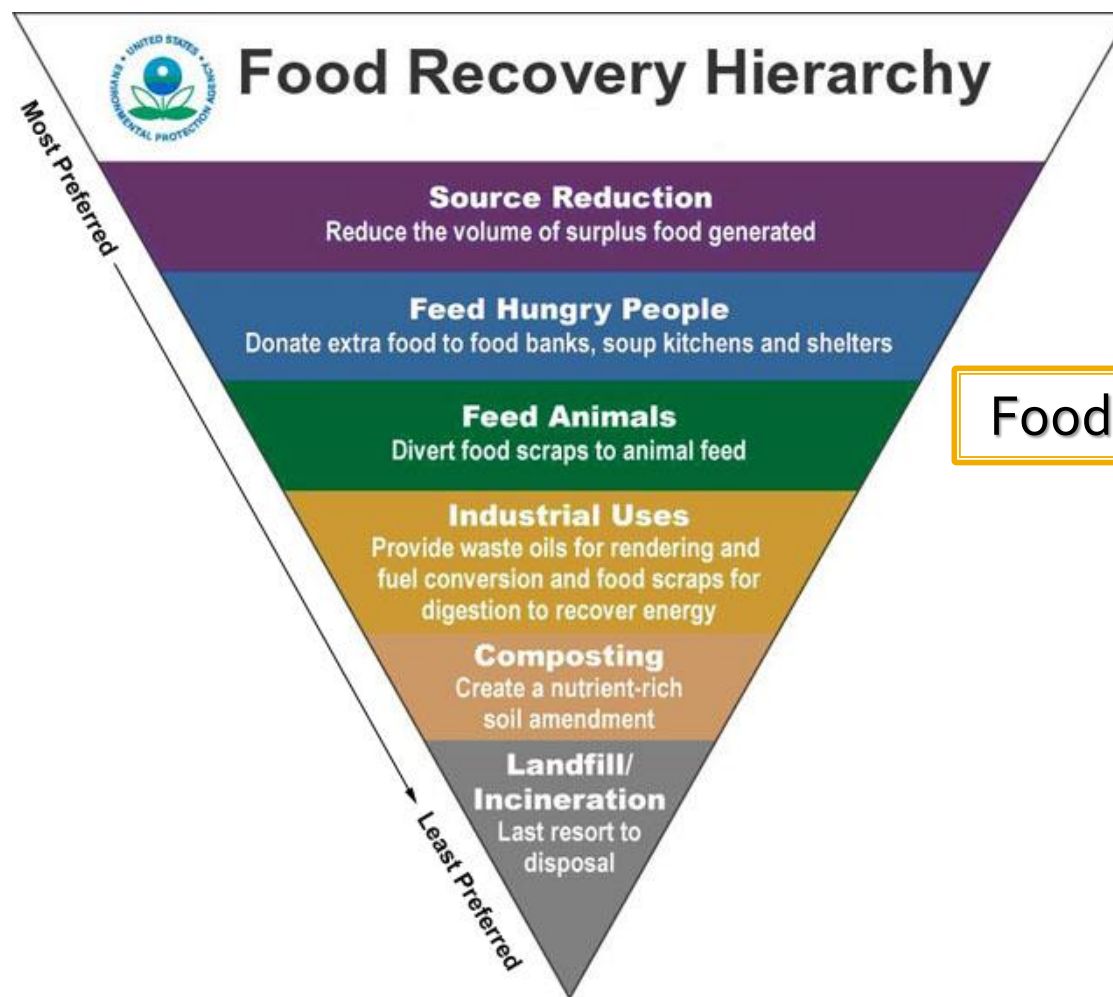
Apr. 2014 - Revised Organics Amendments

URO Organics Revisions

- 11+ public meetings
- 2 pilot programs, 2 waste composition studies
- ~180 unique stakeholders involved
- Impacts staff's ability to focus on implementation



Organics Diversion Hierarchy



Food Recovery

Some of the best organics diversion programs will not result in compost!



Stakeholder Concerns

Austin's Market Challenges

- Hauler infrastructure, competition and vehicles
- Compost processing capacity
- Potential conflicts with other City ordinances (e.g. parking, health codes, design criteria)

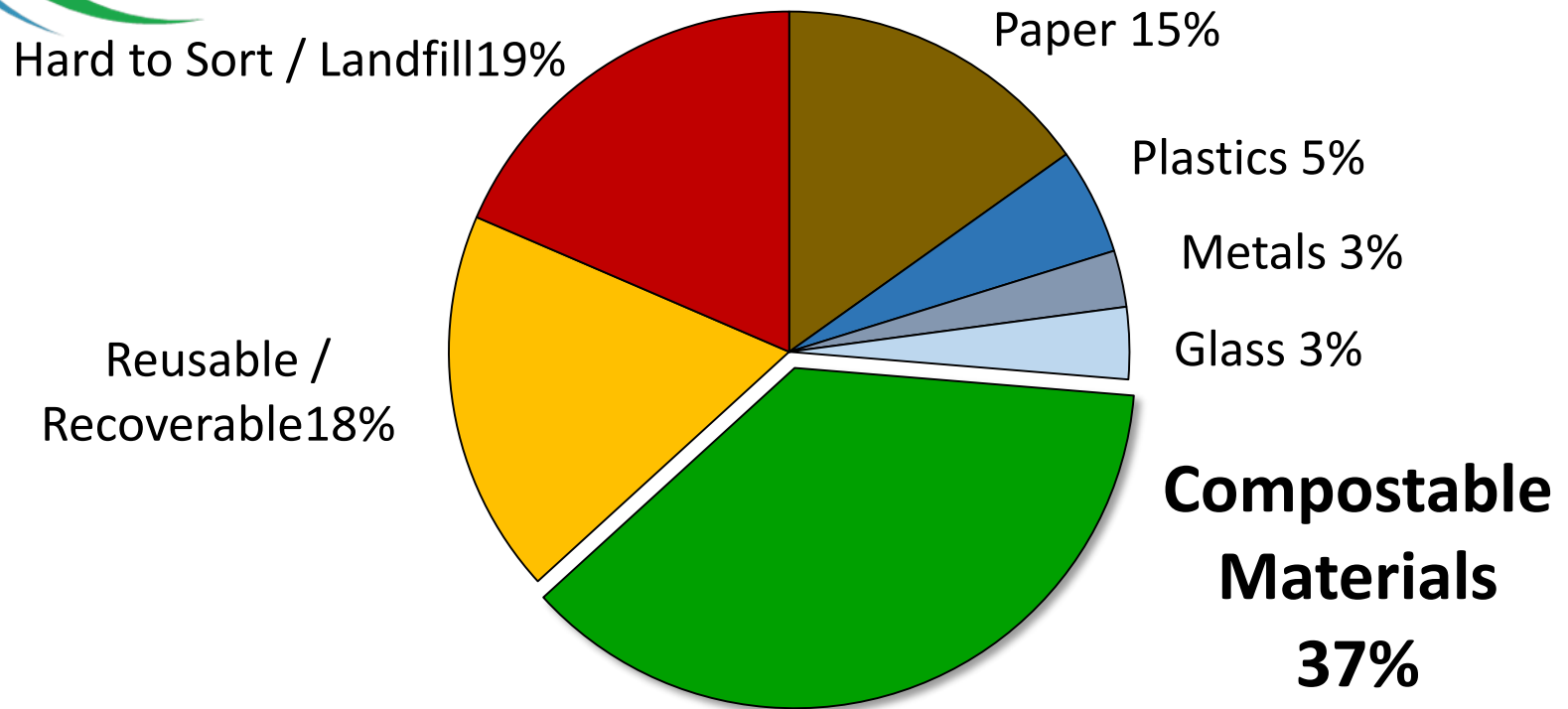


Specific Business Concerns

- Space for collection
- Cost of collection and processing
- Not enough material, not worth the cost
- Labor costs, training, added time, ick factor



Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study



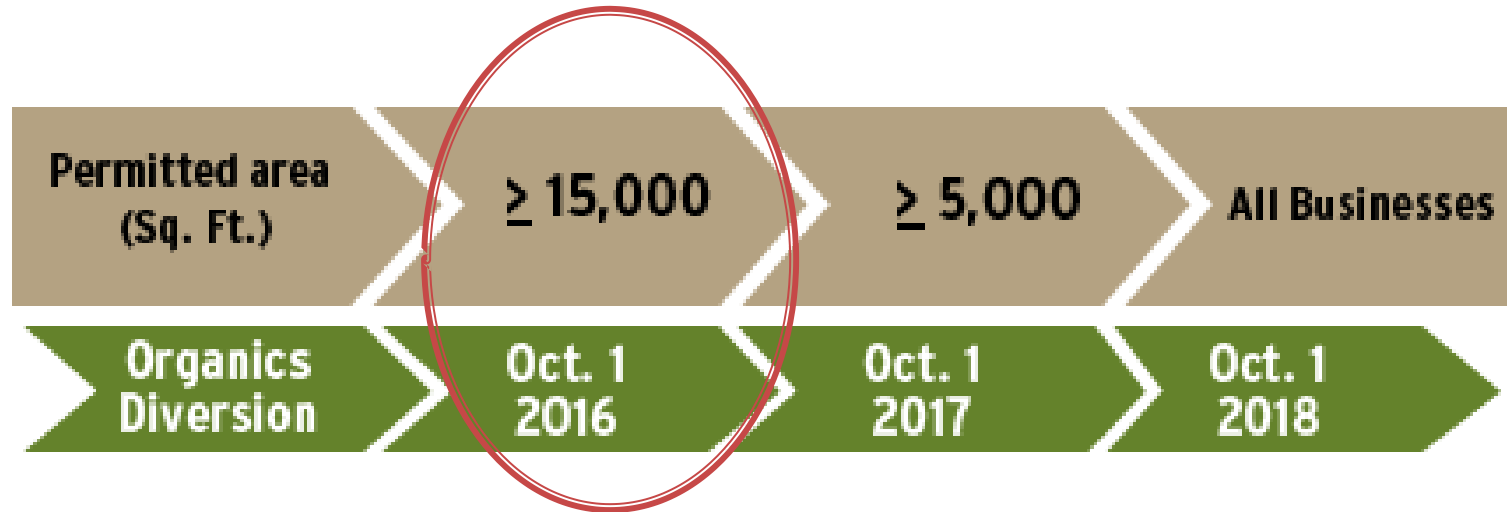
Other Key Findings:

- ARR controls **less than 15%** of materials generated.
- Private haulers control **nearly 85%** of materials generated



Universal Recycling Ordinance Implementation (URO)

Organics Implementation Timeline



Note: Organics requirements apply to businesses with a food permit.



Food Permitted Businesses

- 5,000+ businesses will be affected by Oct. 1, 2018
- 5,872 registered food permits from Health Dept.
- Different challenges (restaurants, grocery, daycare, assisted living, manufacturing, hotels, catering, etc.)





Organics Diversion

Responsible parties shall:

1. Establish an Organics Diversion program
2. Provide convenient access to organic diversion services (if applicable)
3. Post signs and provide education
4. Submit Organic Diversion Plan by Feb. 1
5. Adopt multiple Organics Diversion methods



Organics Diversion Methods

Examples of Organics Diversion Methods:

- Documented Reductions
- Food Waste Prevention Program – e.g. Inventory Tracking
- Donation to Feed People or Animals
- Food Recovery Program
- Eliminate Single-Use Materials
- Back-of-House Organic Compost Collection
- Front-of-House Organic Waste, Compost Collection
- ***Other Innovative Practices***

Composting Resources

- Posters
- Education
- Color Coded Labels
- Standardized Containers
- AustinTexas.gov/BizOrganics





Organics Initiatives

- Business Resources
 - ✓ AustinTexas.gov/BizOrganics
- Organics Diversion Baseline Survey
- Zero Waste Business Rebate
- Downtown Compost Pilot
- City Hall a Zero Waste Facility
- Organics Diversion Lunch and Learns
 - ✓ Tuesday, September 13th - Opal Divines, S. Congress
 - ✓ Wednesday, September 21st - Drafthouse



Zero Waste Business Rebate

- Help **promote** the rebate!
- Businesses can receive up to \$1,800
- Start or expand diversion programs
- Includes waste reduction, food donation and composting services

For more information: austintexas.gov/zwbizrebate





How Can You Help?

1. Support policies to promote organics diversion.
2. Help raise awareness that URO establishes Organics Diversion NOT composting requirements.
 - Resources: austintexas.gov/BizOrganics
3. Share information about our programs:
 - Zero Waste Business Rebate - austintexas.gov/ZWBizRebate
 - Lunch & Learns
 - Austin Green Business Leader
4. Help us find a way to encourage food recovery for hungry kids and seniors.



Questions?

More information available:

Online: AustinTexas.gov/Organics

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