

MEMORANDUM

To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Josh Blaine, ZWAC Construction and Demolition Recycling Committee Chair and Sam Angoori, P.E. Interim Director, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR)

Subject: Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance Reform Committee 2016 Summary

Date: February 3, 2017

The purpose of this memo is to summarize actions of the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling Committee of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) for calendar year 2016 as required by current bylaws.

Background

The Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance adopted by the Austin City Council on Nov. 19, 2015 took effect on Oct. 1, 2016, requiring contractors for building projects of more than 5,000 square feet of new, added, or remodeled floor area to divert at least 50% of the construction debris from the project. In addition, contractors for affected projects report the disposition of the materials at the conclusion of the project.

Status

The C&D Recycling Committee met twice in 2016: Aug. 30 and Dec. 13.

During their Aug. 30 meeting, Committee members discussed the committee's structure, function, goals and priorities, including performance measures that would track the impact of the ordinance. Woody Raine, Austin Resource Recovery Planner Senior responsible for administering the ordinance, provided information on the development, requirements, and implementation of the ordinance.

During their Dec. 13 meeting, ARR staff and guest speakers presented information to the Committee on deconstruction, C&D material markets, qualified processors, and ordinance performance measures. In addition, staff from Austin Energy Green Building discussed how their program is adjusting its construction material management standards to complement the new construction recycling ordinance.

Next Steps

For their next meeting on Feb. 28, the Committee asked for more information on programs and policies in other communities that support deconstruction. They also asked for information on how other communities and organizations treat using C&D scrap wood as fuel – whether it's credited as diversion or not.