



Organics Diversion in Austin: Transforming Wastes to Resources

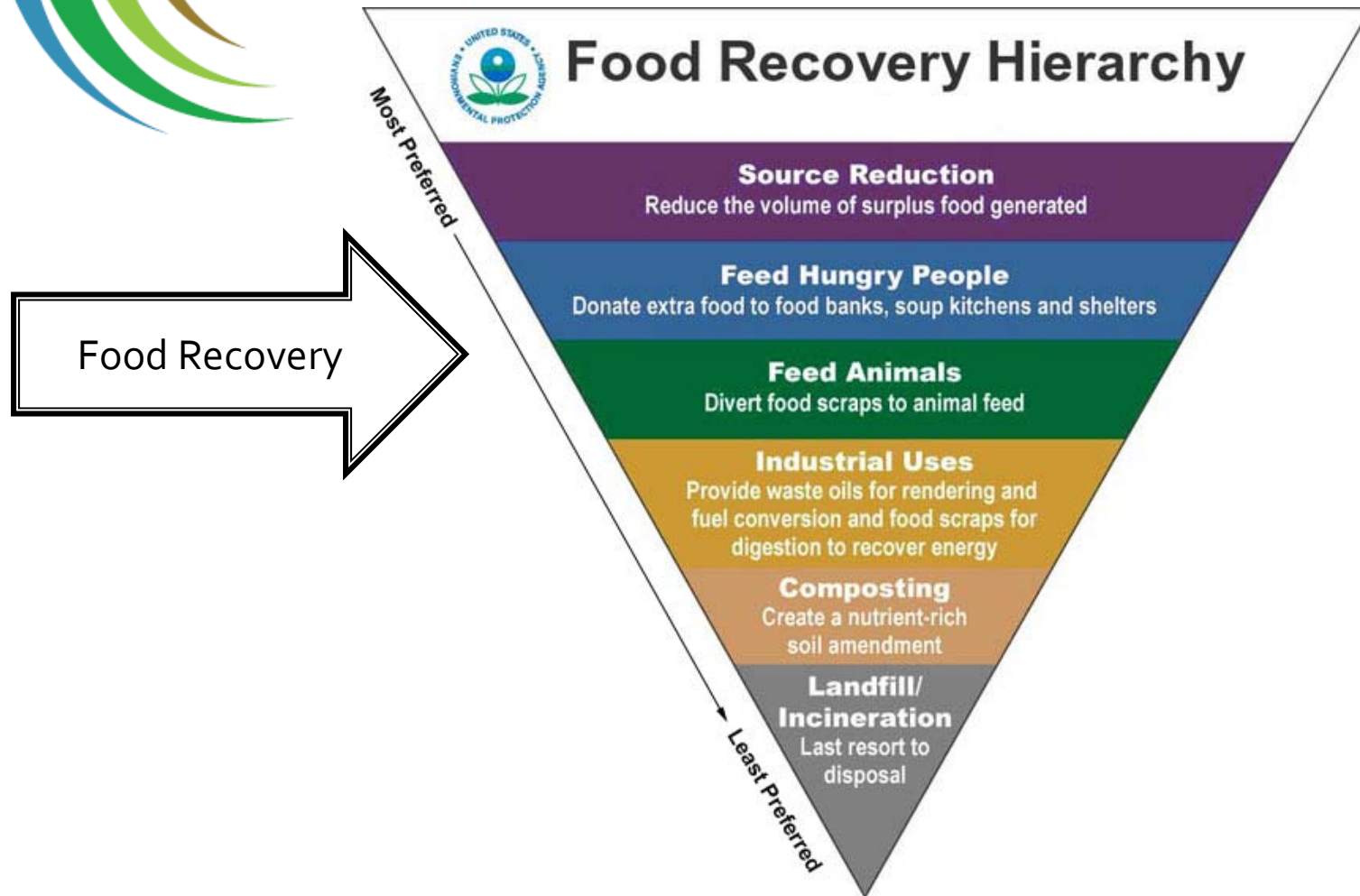




Agenda

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

Organics Diversion Intent

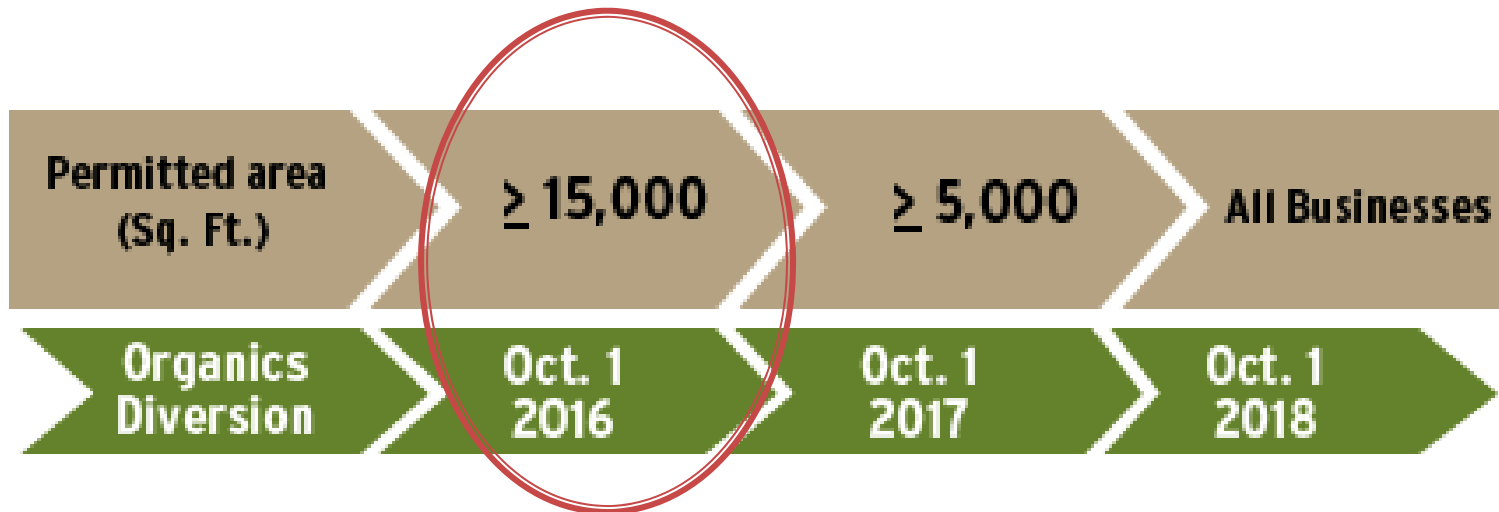


Some of the best organics diversion programs will not result in compost!



Universal Recycling Ordinance Implementation (URO)

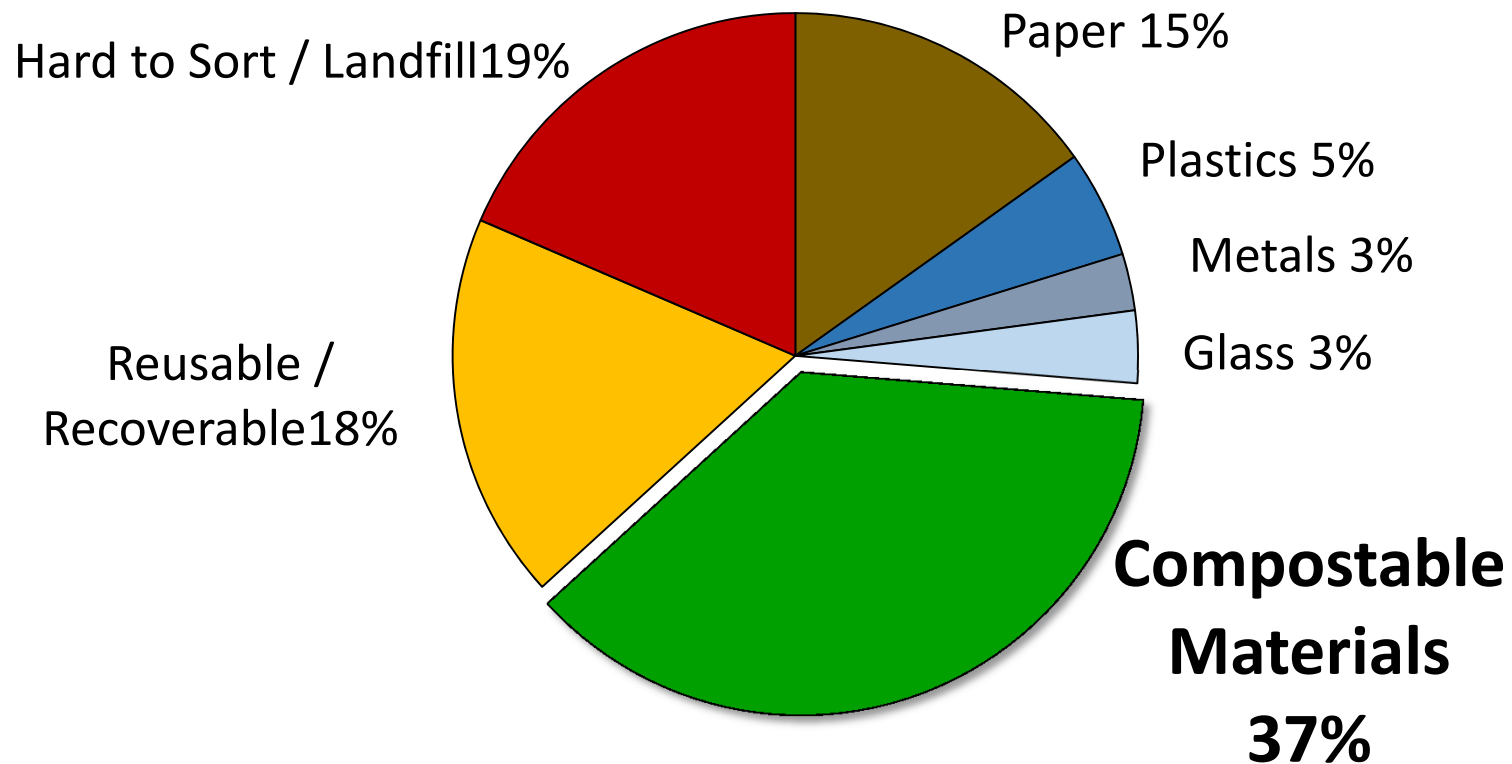
Organics Implementation Timeline



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



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



Stakeholder Concerns



Specific Business Concerns

- Space and cost of collection
- Not enough material, not worth the cost
- Labor costs, training, added time, ick factor
- Perceived liability for food donation
- Reliable pick-up, few refrigerated box trucks
- Many food recovery organizations rely on volunteers

Austin's Market Challenges

- Hauler containers and vehicles
- No Commercial-scale systems for food-to-animals
- Storage of food, commercial kitchens for preparation
- Compost processing capacity and competition



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.)



Affected Businesses – Food Permits

ORGANICS DIVERSION
Member: TEST | Year: 2017 | Cycle: ANNUAL

Business Information

Business Address: *

Food Permit Number (Click to view Sample Permit number): *

If you have additional food permits, click the Add button below.

Permitted Square Footage: *

Food Permit Number

CITY OF AUSTIN
PERMIT TO OPERATE A FOOD ENTERPRISE

PERMIT No: 2016 000111 FP Row ID: 10100000
TYPE: Food Service

ISSUED TO:

Food Permit Number (Click to view Sample Permit number): *

Format must be 10 digits (no spaces)

Organics Diversion Plan (ODP)

ORGANICS DIVERSION

Member: TEST | Year: 2017 | Cycle: ANNUAL

Business Information

Business Name: *

Business Address: *

Food Permit Number ([Click to view Sample Permit number](#)): *

Example: 2016000111

If you have additional food permit numbers to enter, please click 'Add' below.

 Add

Permitted Square Footage: *

Square footage is based on area where food is prepared and consumed



URO Organics Requirements

Responsible parties shall:

1. Establish an Organics Diversion program
2. Bilingual Signs
3. Annual Education
4. Convenient Access to Collection/Programs
5. Submit Organic Diversion Plan by Feb. 1

Affected businesses encouraged to adopt multiple Organics Diversion methods



Types of Organics Diversion Methods

- Reduce Purchase of Food and/or Packaging
- Work with Supplier to Document 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**



Organics Implementation YTD

Successes

- 164 ODPs filed, ~57% as of 2/16/2017
- Direct Mail/Email (2 emails, 2 postcards, 1 letter)
- Lunch & Learns (2 Lunch and Learns for Organics)
- Onsite Assessments – 30+ completed

Challenges

- Reliance on self-reported information
- New programs?

Composting Resources

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





ARR Organics Initiatives

- Baseline Survey of 314 Food Permitted Facilities
- Sustainable Food Policy Board Working Group
- Zero Waste Assessments
- Zero Waste Business Rebate
- Composting at City Hall, Other Facilities
- Organics Diversion Lunch and Learns
- GrubTubs (Scraps>>Insects>>Animals)
- Research Technology – Case Studies at Ft. Hood

AustinTexas.gov/BizOrganics



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. Encourage food recovery for hungry kids and seniors.



Next Steps For Discussion

- Outreach to Food Service Establishments
- Prepare for Oct. 1, 2017 affected businesses
- How to support food donation system?
- How to connect donors to hungry people?
- How to support food scraps for animals?
- Technology to support organics diversion?





Questions

More information available:

Online: [AustinTexas.gov/Organics](https://austintexas.gov/organics)

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