



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission
From: Sam Angoori, P.E., Interim Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department
Date: April 12, 2017
Subject: **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

[re]Manufacturing Hub Update

The Austin [re]Manufacturing Hub is a proposed redevelopment project aimed at turning unused City-owned land adjacent to closed FM 812 landfill into an eco-industrial park to house recycling and reuse manufacturing companies.

In July 2014, the City of Austin was awarded a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to partially fund development of on-site infrastructure at the Austin [re]Manufacturing Hub. However, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) lacked the funds for the required matching share for the grant or the means to obtain funds prior to EDA deadlines. The City also explored other uses of the federal funds, but did not have a substantially similar project able to be completed by July 1, 2019. As a result, in July 2016 the City requested and received a termination of the grant from the EDA. The City had expended no grant funds, and therefore no funds will need to be repaid.

Based on Council direction during late 2015-early 2016 regarding the sale of land at Winnebago Lane, the City examined a public-private partnership approach to the HUB project, and identified the need for additional analysis prior to initiating a solicitation due to the uniqueness of the project.

Economic and Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS), a consultant that has worked on numerous City of Austin redevelopment projects, performed a feasibility analysis of the proposed project following established Council direction, policies and guidelines. EPS determined that the current concept for the HUB is neither financially feasible nor attractive to a private developer. If a private developer were to take on a 40-year lease to develop and manage the Hub without additional subsidy, EPS estimates that the net present value of the Hub cash flow over 40 years is negative \$5.4 million. In other words, the developer would lose the current equivalent of \$5.4 million over the 40-year period because the ground lease payments they could receive from tenants would not cover the costs of infrastructure, operations, and an industry-standard profit margin. In EPS's opinion, no profit-oriented private developer would be attracted to this opportunity without major subsidy.

Staff will continue to work with EPS to carefully review this and other economic development opportunities, which will support our community's Zero Waste infrastructure.

Textiles and Household Goods Recycling

In response to Council [Resolution 20170202-045](#) regarding curbside textile recycling service and related contract, ARR executive staff recently met with Goodwill, Assistance League of Austin, Easter Seals, Salvation Army and Simple Recycling. Stakeholders have repeated requests to cancel the contract, and have not proposed alternatives at this time, but express a willingness to develop programs to collect textiles and housewares if the contract were to be cancelled. Simple Recycling has met with local organizations to discuss potential partnerships.

ARR held a stakeholder meeting on March 8 discussing marketing plans, a reuse directory concept, and data collection strategies. ARR staff suggested hiring a third-party firm to assist with data collection. Some larger organizations noted they would decline to provide data, while some of the smaller organizations expressed a willingness to do so. Stakeholder input indicates that if the City hired a third-party firm for this, it would be challenging to collect data from enough stakeholders to create a full or accurate picture. ARR will continue to collect monthly data from Simple Recycling and explore other publically available data that could be collected. ARR will continue to provide monthly updates throughout this six month process and will report on continued stakeholder discussions. As requested at last month's meeting, the postcard mailed to ARR customers announcing the program is attached to the end of this report.

2016 Status Report: City of Austin, Travis County Zero Waste Interlocal Agreement

The Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioner's Court completed a Zero Waste Interlocal Agreement in January 2014. The purpose of the 30-year agreement is to promote and implement Zero-Waste goals, programs, and initiatives shared between Travis County and the City of Austin. The agreement calls for annual reports to Zero Waste Advisory Committee (ZWAC) each year.

ARR and Travis County prioritized the many opportunities to implement Zero Waste through this agreement, based on available staffing levels.

Zero Waste Programs: Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) and Travis County meet periodically to discuss activities, areas of mutual support, to share resources, and plan training.

Special Events: ARR developed a Fact Sheet for Commercial Food Service and several Special Event Checklists that will help Travis County update its facility use agreements for County events and other events on County property. In addition, ARR is leading several other city departments in developing a comprehensive Green Event Manual, which will be available in 2017.

Employee and Public Education Campaigns: On Nov. 3, 2016, and in follow up meetings on March 22-23, 2017 ARR conducted training with the Travis County Green Team to promote recycling at work, outline challenges, and brainstorm solutions.

Training for businesses and multifamily properties: In FY2016 ARR conducted 13 Lunch and Learns on the URO for commercial and multifamily property owners and managers. In addition, ARR initiated a Zero

Waste Professional Certification program with accompanying training. The trainings and certification program serve all in Travis County.

Specialty Material: The County and City each have contracts for recycling scrap tires and scrap metal.

The County and City formed a partnership for a permanent pharmaceutical takeback kiosk placed at Precinct five. Austin Resource Recovery (a CoA service) is the sponsor of the permanent kiosk. Through this partnership the kiosk is available to all individuals.

Community Drop-off and Reuse Facilities: ARR continues to expand the list of items accepted at its Reuse and Recycling Drop-off Center, which is available to all Travis County residents. In addition, ARR intends to operate a Drop-off Center at ARR's northeast service center when it opens.

Cart Color Change

ARR's current cart supplier charges \$1.10 per cart for a granite finish, which gives the surface of the cart flecks of different colored plastic for a better look. Future cart orders will revert back to flat colors, the type ARR used prior to the current carts offered. This will apply to all sizes of trash, recycling, and curbside compostable carts, and will result in savings per cart over time.

Actions Taken by City Council since last ZWAC Meeting

February 16, 2017 Council Agenda: City Facilities Dumpster Contract with *Republic Waste Systems*. ZWAC Chair requested this item return to ZWAC on 2/8/17, where the item was split into categories to help simplify review. ZWAC again did not recommend the item, but provided new reasons. At the 2/16 Council meeting, Council denied authorization to negotiate and execute the contract, stating that Council first should respond to staff's policy questions related to waste management contracts. Council Members agreed to work with staff to evaluate and address the policy issues. Staff began meeting with Council members and aides the week of 3/16.

March 2, 2017 Council Agenda: Vehicle Fleet Technology Upgrade that ZWAC approved unanimously on 2/8/17 was approved on consent at Council meeting.

March 2, 2017 Council Agenda: Organics Processing Services with *Organics by Gosh*. ZWAC reviewed 11/9/16 and again at 2/8/17 ZWAC to address outstanding concerns. ZWAC voted to recommend 7-0-2 with contingency that necessary permits and registrations be obtained and the added restriction that no biosolids or compost from biosolids will be mixed with COA food waste or compost from food waste. Council postponed a decision on the proposal to 3/23/17 meeting and asked that staff treat this item in the same manner as the city facilities issue, and to utilize a holdover of the current agreement while policy concerns are addressed.

March 23, 2017 Council Agenda: Council approved an item creating [a resolution](#) establishing a council working group to examine and provide recommendations on Austin Resource Recovery and Austin Water organics and recycling policies and contracts. This action extends the meetings above as a formal working group with direction to provide recommendations to ZWAC and Council by June 1, a date which may be extended.

March 23, 2017 Council Agenda: Council postponed to its 4/6 meeting to consider an ordinance waiving Chapter 2-7.6 (Anti-lobbying and Procurement) of the City Code regarding solicitations for organics processing services and refuse, recycling, organics, and special waste collections for City facilities. This would enable Council to allow stakeholders to engage in the contract policy discussion noted above.

March 23, 2017 Council Agenda: Consideration of the Organics Processing Services contract was also postponed indefinitely. Depending on Council action/resolution on the organics processing contract, the planned expansion of the curbside organics collection program may be delayed from summer to fall 2017.

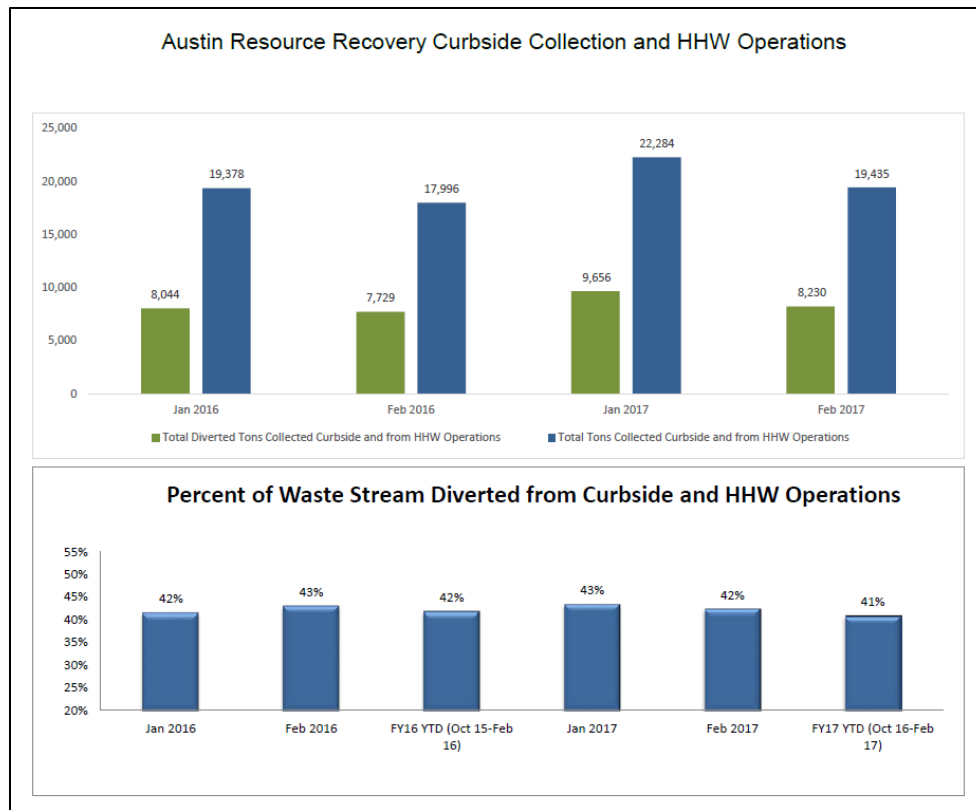
April 6, 2017 Council Agenda: Council approved an ordinance waiving [Chapter 2-7, Article 6 \(Anti-lobbying and Procurement\) of the City Code](#) for solicitations for the collection, disposal and processing of municipal solid waste, recyclables, compostables, special waste collections for City facilities, and other solid waste matters related to these items. The executed ordinance is not available at time of posting but this is a link to the draft copy and exhibit A of the approved waiver ordinance:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=274690>

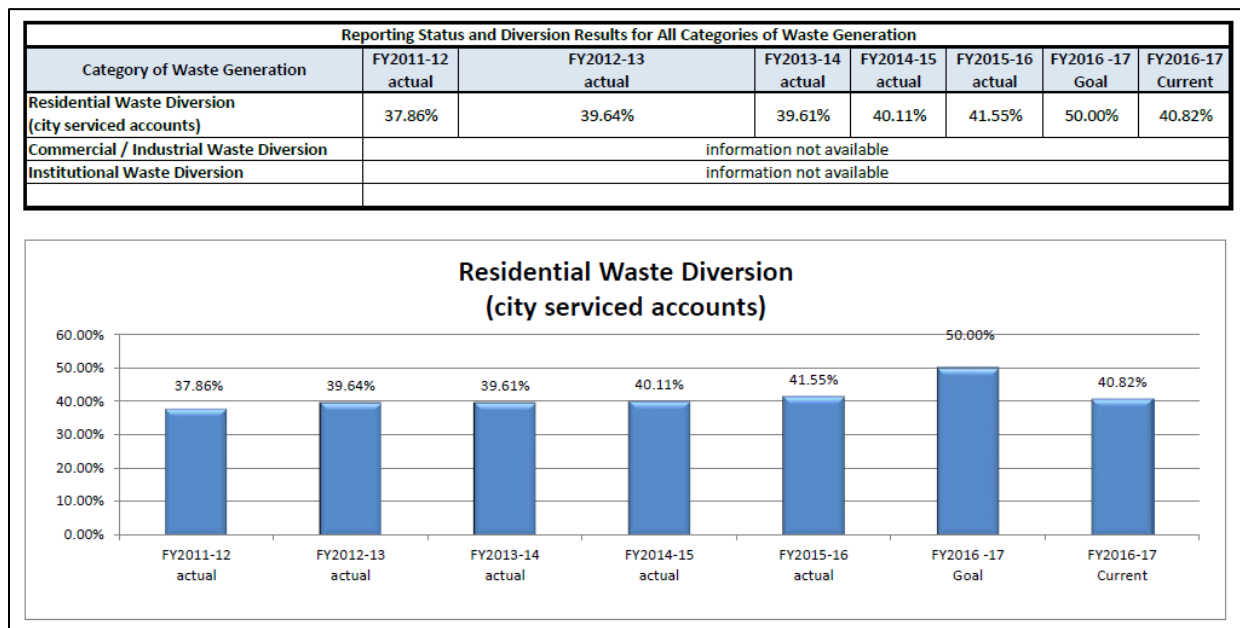
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=274691>

Statistical Reports

| Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Description of Services | LAST FISCAL YEAR | | | | | CURRENT FISCAL YEAR | | | FY 2017 Goal |
| | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | Jan 2016 | Feb 2016 | FY16 YTD (Oct 15-Feb 16) | Jan 2017 | Feb 2017 | FY17 YTD (Oct 16-Feb 17) | |
| Tons Disposed | | | | | | | | | |
| Tons of curbside Trash | 130,784 | 129,266 | 10,494 | 9,352 | 50,810 | 11,773 | 10,143 | 54,233 | 125,000 |
| Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed | 9,525 | 11,869 | 801 | 878 | 5,268 | 820 | 1,023 | 4,083 | 10,201 |
| HHW Operations Tons Disposed | 432 | 468 | 38 | 37 | 183 | 35 | 39 | 173 | 360 |
| Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations | 140,741 | 141,603 | 11,333 | 10,267 | 56,261 | 12,628 | 11,205 | 58,489 | 135,561 |
| Tons Diverted | | | | | | | | | |
| Tons of curbside recycling | 57,324 | 58,879 | 5,069 | 4,555 | 24,807 | 5,498 | 4,547 | 24,629 | 60,000 |
| HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused | 311 | 436 | 23 | 34 | 159 | 34 | 32 | 163 | 270 |
| Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings | 28,036 | 32,605 | 2,573 | 2,708 | 12,700 | 3,646 | 3,037 | 12,700 | 35,000 |
| Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled | 171 | 276 | 15 | 12 | 64 | 14 | 12 | 58 | 142 |
| Tons of Curbside Brush Collected | 7,776 | 8,460 | 364 | 420 | 2,621 | 464 | 603 | 2,792 | 8,000 |
| Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations | 93,618 | 100,656 | 8,044 | 7,729 | 40,351 | 9,656 | 8,230 | 40,342 | 103,412 |
| Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations | 234,359 | 242,259 | 19,378 | 17,996 | 96,612 | 22,284 | 19,435 | 98,831 | 238,973 |
| Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations | 39.95% | 41.55% | 41.51% | 42.95% | 41.77% | 43.33% | 42.35% | 40.82% | 43.27% |
| Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup | 25.96 | 23.69 | 25.24 | 22.50 | 24.43 | 28.02 | 24.20 | 25.87 | 24.49 |
| Number of Trash customers | 191,580 | 26 | 192,035 | 192,024 | 192,013 | 194,091 | 193,587 | 193,556 | 196,300 |
| Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week) | 23.20 | 6.56 | 24.57 | 22.08 | 24.04 | 26.35 | 21.86 | 23.67 | 23.51 |
| Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week | 5.67 | 47.97 | 6.24 | 6.56 | 6.15 | 8.74 | 7.30 | 6.10 | 6.21 |
| Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers | 190,088 | 191,156 | 190,594 | 190,603 | 190,550 | 192,716 | 192,185 | 192,180 | 196,300 |
| Number of PAYT pickups | 52 | 52 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 21.66 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 21.66 | 52 |
| Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter | 62 | 39 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 67 |
| Estimated tons of curbside recycling residual - based on bi-annual sample composition audit data | 8,684 | 9,556 | 814 | 735 | 5,332 | 839 | 693 | 4,141 | N/A |



Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations



| Zero Waste Advisory Commission - April 12th, 2017 | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report | | | | | | | | |
| FY17: October, 2016 - December, 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 2016 | TDS | 1,938.46 | \$97,782 | \$175,431 | (\$77,649) | (\$40.06) | \$21.55 | \$41,774 |
| | BRI | 2,560.51 | \$80,302 | \$191,070 | (\$110,768) | (\$43.26) | \$21.55 | \$55,179 |
| | Total | 4,498.97 | \$178,083 | \$366,501 | (\$188,417) | | | \$96,953 |
| November 2016 | TDS | 2,033.25 | \$107,888 | \$184,009 | (\$76,122) | (\$37.44) | \$21.55 | \$43,817 |
| | BRI | 2,950.92 | \$91,498 | \$214,105 | (\$122,607) | (\$41.55) | \$21.55 | \$63,592 |
| | Total | 4,984.17 | \$199,385 | \$398,114 | (\$198,728) | | | \$107,409 |
| December 2016 | TDS | 1,818.52 | \$98,093 | \$164,576 | (\$66,483) | (\$36.56) | \$21.55 | \$39,189 |
| | BRI | 3,280.63 | \$102,662 | \$232,435 | (\$129,773) | (\$39.56) | \$21.55 | \$70,698 |
| | Total | 5,099.15 | \$200,755 | \$397,011 | (\$196,256) | | | \$109,887 |
| FY17 Totals | | 14,582.29 | \$578,224 | \$1,161,625 | (\$583,401) | | | \$314,248 |

Austin Resource Recovery customers can now recycle unwanted clothing, shoes, and housewares with free, curbside pick-up on your regular recycling collection day.

You will receive specialized green Simple Recycling collection bags via U.S. mail soon.

This program is being offered in addition to your current recycling program. Your regular recycling collection day will remain the same.

Items that are acceptable for recycling collection: All types of men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes and accessories, plus housewares such as kitchenware, books, and toys

Need additional bags?

Call 866.835.5068

or email info@simplerecycling.com

Begins: December 5, 2016



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