



Zero Waste Advisory Commission
Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Committee Meeting | May 5, 2017

Challenges with Recycling Contamination for Multi-Family and Commercial Businesses

Presented by:
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President – Environmental Practice



ECONOMICS

STRATEGY

STAKEHOLDERS

SUSTAINABILITY

www.newgenstrategies.net

Agenda

Introduction

Challenges for Multi-Family

Challenges for Commercial Businesses

Challenges for Organics / Food Waste

General Recommendations

Questions and Comments

NewGen | Dave Yanke Background

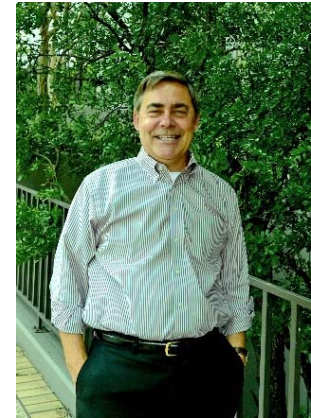
- **NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC**
 - 35 person national utility consulting firm
 - Focus on municipal solid waste, recycling, water, wastewater, and energy utilities
 - Financial and operational analyses



NewGen | Dave Yanke Background

- **Dave Yanke**

- 25 years solid waste / recycling experience
- Cost of service studies
- Operational reviews
- Research studies (full cost accounting, economic impact of recycling, environmental enforcement, food waste diversion)
- Austin PAYT Study, 1995



Challenges for Multi-Family

Transient population

Inconsistent messaging among complexes

Access to collection points may vary by complex

Lack of accountability

Challenges for Multi-Family



Challenges for Commercial Businesses

Change in how cleaning crews collect material (trash vs. recyclables)

Perception by tenants that *all* goes in the trash

Education of tenants on materials collected (e.g. work in Austin, live in Cedar Park)

Challenges for Organics / Food Waste

Generators – collection companies – processors
(one “weak” point and system fails)

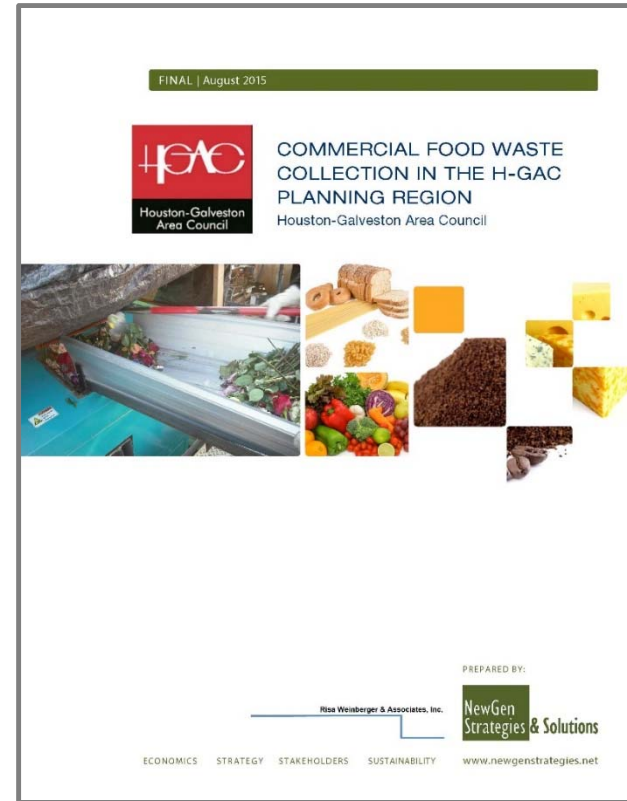
Restaurants – limited space

Pre vs. post-consumer food waste
(composters want “pre-consumer”)

On-going education is critical

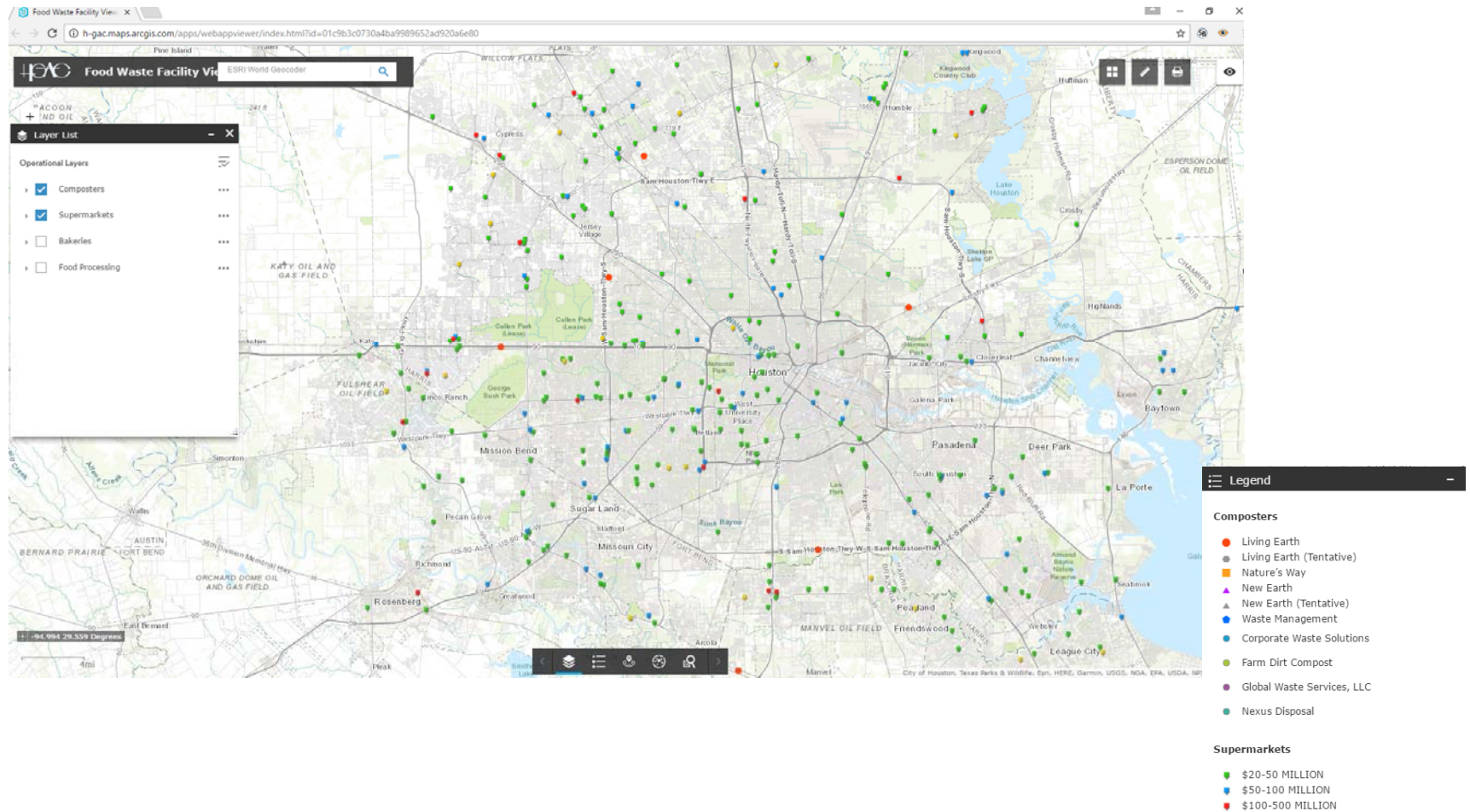
Challenges for Organics / Food Waste

- Food waste is one of the largest components of the waste stream
- Identify and analyze the challenges, opportunities, and solutions to cost effective commercial food waste collection
- How can commercial food waste diversion be implemented?
 - Voluntary
 - Collaborative



Link to report on H-GAC's website: <https://www.h-gac.com/community/recycling/documents/CommercialFoodWasteCollectionStudy2015.pdf>

Challenges for Organics / Food Waste



General Recommendations

Standardized education materials

Signage (simple, multiple-languages, graphics)

Code enforcement / inspections (use 80/20 rule)

Keep trash & recycling containers together

Roundtable discussions (commercial food waste)

“When in doubt, throw it out”

Examples

RECYCLING IS EASY
ALL ITEMS GO IN **ONE** DUMPSTER

Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard
Cartón aplastado

Paper & Mail
Papel y Correo

Newspapers & Magazines
Periódicos y Revistas

Glass (Empty)
Vidrio vacío

Hard Plastic Containers (Empty) 1 - 7
Contenedores de Plástico duro vacíos 1 - 7

Aluminum, Tin & Steel Cans (Empty)
Latas de aluminio, y fierro vacías

No Sorting Required!

No Necesita Separarlos!

KEEP TRASH OUT
MANTENGA LA BASURA AFUERA

Plastic Bags
Bolsas de plástico

Food
Comida

Paper cups, plates, napkins, towels
Tazas, platos, servilletas y toallas de papel

Styrofoam
Unicel

Shredded Paper
Papel en pedacitos

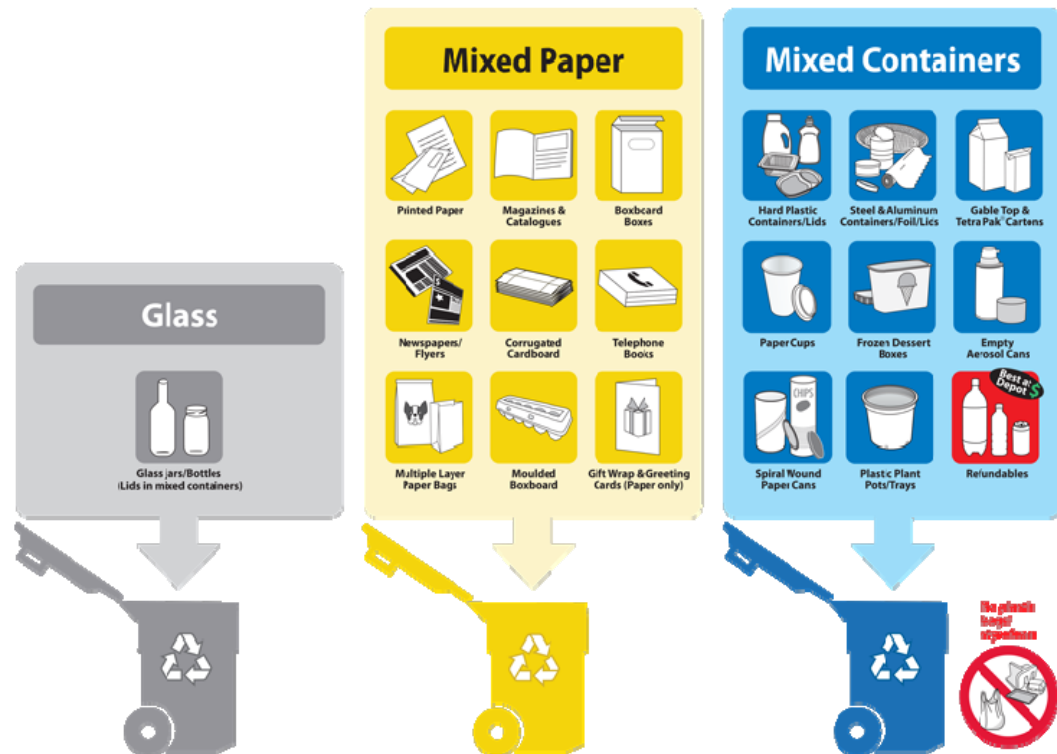
Waxed Cardboard
Cartón encerado

AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY
A CITY OF AUSTIN DEPT. ONLY

austinrecycles.com

974-1964

Examples



Examples



Examples



Start An Organics Recycling Program

Food loss and waste is the single largest component of disposed U.S. municipal solid waste, and accounts for a significant portion of U.S. methane emissions, which fuel climate change. A single restaurant in the U.S. can produce 25,000 to 75,000 pounds of food waste in a year. Composting is nature's way of recycling organic material into soil. Composting not only helps reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, it produces a valuable soil amendment which can improve the texture, fertility, and water retention of the soil.

Coffee & Tea Grounds

Vegetables

Fruits

Corporate Waste Solutions is providing food waste recycling to local restaurants, hotels, schools, grocery stores, and other businesses that produce food waste. We provide you with a 32 gallon cart to collect your materials and offer up to 5 days a week service.

- ✓ Reduce Landfill Usage
- ✓ Increase Recycling Efforts
- ✓ Meet Sustainability Goals
- ✓ Promote a Green Image among your employees and customers

Call us now to get started!
713-817-7187



Examples

Vermont Has New Universal Recycling Symbols

By AMY KOLB NOYES • NOV 15, 2013





Questions and Comments

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