

**Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) Fiscal Assessment**  
**Special Event Ordinance**  
**Projected Fiscal Impact based on 2018 Implementation Date**

**Waste Reduction and Diversion Requirements**

A key component of the proposed Special Events Ordinance (SEO) is a new waste reduction- and diversion-plan requirement. Currently, a waste management plan is a requirement of the event application submitted to the Austin Center for Events. Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) reviews these applications to ensure waste management is addressed, and also encourages waste reduction, recycling and any other diversion if not already included in an event. The proposed ordinance establishes a Four Tier Level of events based on the impact of each event. For events classified as Tiers Two, Three, or Four, the draft ordinance requires a waste reduction and diversion plan that must be approved by ARR. Event organizers would also be required to ensure equal and reasonable access to landfill trash, recycling and/or organic diversion for event employees, participants, and attendees pre-event, during the event, and post-event.

Further, glass containers and expanded polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam™) may not be provided or distributed during a special event held at a City facility or on streets, sidewalks or other city right-of-way. This provision is consistent with the existing Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Rules which prohibit glass in many park areas. In addition, an event organizer may not provide or distribute single-use carryout bags, which is consistent with the existing Single-Use Bag Ordinance.

With approximately 1,200 permit applications submitted in 2016, it is estimated that 85 events would be required to comply with the new waste management requirements. More than half of these events are held annually.

**Impact on ARR Staff and Associated Cost**

Once the SEO goes into effect event organizers would need to comply with new diversion requirements and provide details in their permit application and site plan, the SEO will require an additional review process by ARR. ARR staff will also provide additional communication to assist event organizers during the planning process. Since these would be new requirements, ARR staff will be responsible for all associated outreach efforts to event organizers, which will include educational materials and training. On-site inspections and enforcement would also be needed to ensure compliance.

Existing ARR staff does not have the capacity to assume the additional duties necessary for effective administration of the waste diversion and reduction provisions of the proposed SEO. ARR estimates that that a full-time-equivalent (FTE) employee would be needed and would spend at least 50% of their time dedicated to SEO work. If the SEO is adopted, ARR will evaluate the additional workload to determine if a request for a position should be included in the FY 2019 budget.

If the SEO is adopted, the estimated annual fiscal impact is approximately \$61,000 and includes half of the cost of the new FTE, additional vehicle costs, and costs for outreach and educational materials.