



## Austin Resource Recovery Staff Recommended CodeNEXT Revisions October 2017

### Background

CodeNEXT is the City of Austin's initiative to revise the Land Development Code, which determines how land can be used throughout the city - including what can be built, where it can be built, and how much can be built. The purpose of CodeNEXT is to update the Land Development Code in a manner that can help the city achieve the goals set in Imagine Austin. The new draft code is being developed by City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department (PAZ) CodeNEXT staff, contractor Opticos Design, and other City staff.

Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) has tracked the development of CodeNEXT since its 2012 inception in *Imagine Austin*. ARR has participated in the Green Infrastructure Working Groups, individual meetings with PAZ staff, economic development working groups, as well as Code Advisory Group Working Meetings. ARR provided formal departmental recommendations related to zero waste to CodeNEXT staff in October 2015 to inform the first draft of the new code.

The first draft of CodeNEXT was released to the public and City staff in January 2017, effectively launching the review portion of the process. At that time, ARR coordinated with PAZ to initiate the development of staff-recommended revisions to the new code.

ARR staff has, and will, remain engaged throughout the CodeNEXT review and adoption process to ensure zero waste, infrastructure, and departmental goals are considered.

### Process

Following the release of the first draft of CodeNEXT in January 2017, ARR conducted a full internal review of the draft code to identify language that could affect zero waste and departmental goals. The new code was compared to existing code and against the goals established in the ARR's 2015 CodeNEXT memo. Additionally, draft versions of this document were provided to Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) appointees for review and comment during the development of this document.

ARR is recommending revisions for the next version of the draft code that will be released in November 2017. A memorandum will be provided to CodeNEXT and Opticos Design staff and recommendations will also be submitted via the online review portal provided to City staff. Commissions and citizens are encouraged to submit recommendations via the public facing review portal at: [codenext.civiccomment.org](http://codenext.civiccomment.org),

The recommendations in this document are provided by ARR staff and by and large reflect language and definitions within existing code, with the intent of aligning the new draft code with existing code and furthering ARR's goals within the Land Development Code when possible. What is proposed within this document may or may not be accommodated in the next draft of CodeNEXT and will undergo legal, Commission, Council, and public review as part of the City's continued CodeNEXT development and adoption process.

All recommendations within this document were prepared in a manner to address specific items and not general themes. The intent is to provide actionable requests for the drafters of the new code and provide guidance to others who wish to advance specific amendments during the development process.

Separate from CodeNEXT but related, ARR also anticipates working with the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) to pilot their proposed Street Design Guide, which will provide details and graphics as to how all future streets will be designed within the City. ARR has requested to test some of these designs to ensure that ARR collection vehicles can adequately maneuver within the design parameters established for future streets, street parking and bike lanes. Feedback based on findings from ARR operators and staff will

be provided to ATD for consideration in the drafting of their guide, which will inform the development of a criteria manual that will be attached to the new code.

## Findings and Analysis

The impact of CodeNEXT on ARR's goals is limited, as ARR's primary, and most effective avenue for advancing policies is Title 15, Utilities Regulations, Chapter 15-6 (Solid Waste Services). CodeNEXT revises Title 25, the Land Development Code, which does not include any current or proposed provisions that inhibit ARR's goals.

Additionally, many of the key and potential operational issues facing the solid waste industry and ARR, such as street widths and protected bike lanes, will be addressed in Austin Transportation Department's Street Design Guide Pilot, which again, while related to CodeNEXT, is separate from it.

A comprehensive review of the existing and new codes found that many of the core concepts within the existing code related to ARR were largely carried over, albeit in a new format since the format of the new code is significantly differently than the existing one. Since major ARR initiatives such as the Universal Recycling Ordinance and ARR's Master Plan were adopted in recent years, ARR staff has developed recommendations on how the new code can reflect those goals.

Since the new code is formatted differently than the old code, the new code was reviewed as a standalone document and priority was placed on working within the framework of the new code to ensure that proposed language aligns with Title 15.

## CodeNEXT Adoption Schedule\*

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|--------------------|---|
| September 15, 2017 | CodeNEXT, Draft 2 text and map released                             |
| September 19, 2017 | CodeNEXT, Draft 2 roll out to City Council and Land Use Commissions |
| October 31, 2017   | Public Engagement on Draft 2 concludes                              |
| November 28, 2017  | CodeNEXT, Draft 3 text and map released                             |
| December 12, 2017  | CodeNEXT, Draft 3 Land Use Commission review                        |
| January 26, 2018   | CodeNEXT, Draft 3 Commission Action posted to City Council          |
| February 2, 2018   | CodeNEXT, Draft 3 City Council Review (Council Consideration)       |

*\*all dates are anticipated and subject to change*

## CodeNEXT Engagement Resources

- Learn more about CodeNEXT at: [austintexas.gov/codenext](http://austintexas.gov/codenext)
- Email the CodeNEXT team at: [codenext@austintexas.gov](mailto:codenext@austintexas.gov)
- CodeNEXT recommendations can be made online at: [codenext.civiccomment.org](http://codenext.civiccomment.org)  
*\*if submitting online as a commissioner, make sure to use your City "BC" email address*
- Sign up for in-person (office hours) meetings with CodeNEXT staff at:  
[austintexas.gov/department/codenext-community-engagement](http://austintexas.gov/department/codenext-community-engagement)
- CodeNEXT Zoning Comparison Map: [codenext.engagingplans.org/codenext-comparison-map](http://codenext.engagingplans.org/codenext-comparison-map)
- Learn more about Transportation's Street Design Guide Pilot at: [austintexas.gov/page/street-design-guide/](http://austintexas.gov/page/street-design-guide/)
- If you have questions, email: [jason.mccombs@austintexas.gov](mailto:jason.mccombs@austintexas.gov); [bc-Amanda.Masino@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Amanda.Masino@austintexas.gov)