



MEMORANDUM

To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Heather-Nicole Hoffman, ZWAC Organics Management Committee Chair and
Sam Angoori, P.E. Interim Director, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR)

Subject: Organics Management Committee 2016 Summary

Date: February 14, 2018

The purpose of this memo is to summarize actions of the Organics Management Committee of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) for calendar year 2017 as required by current bylaws.

Background

The Organics Management Committee was created in 2015 to collaborate with staff by making recommendations to the ARR Director to develop policy for food waste prevention and recovery consistent with the Zero Waste Master Plan.

Status

In October 2017, Austin Resource Recovery added approximately 38,000 new homes to the City's Curbside Composting Collection Program. The program collects food scraps, yard trimmings and food soiled paper, and converts them into compost. Austin Resource Recovery plans to add all curbside customers to the service by 2020, pending funding approval in future years.

In April 2017, ARR announced their Chicken Keeping Classes and Rebate. The classes and rebate were well received by the community garnering media attention with classes filling up within hours.

The Universal Recycling Ordinance requires all businesses with a food permit to establish programs to divert organic material from the landfill. Currently over 700 food permit holders with over 5,000 square feet of permitted space are affected. The final phase of implementation, in October 2018, will incorporate all remaining permit holders and is anticipated to affect over 6,000 food permit locations.

Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach Team continues to work cooperatively with the community and provide education and resources to food permit holders to find innovative solutions to food recovery, landfill diversion, and the requirements of the ordinance. Staff is also working to target permit holders to take advantage of rebates intended to encourage food waste prevention and recovery efforts.

The Committee met one (1) time in 2017:

March 31, 2017: The committee was briefed on the RFP for outreach on ARR's curbside compost collection roll-out, composting at multifamily housing, and the chicken keeping home composting rebate. The only action taken by the committee was to approve the recommendation of the composting outreach contract to ZWAC.

The Organics Committee will continue to monitor and provide recommendations regarding food waste prevention and recovery consistent with the Zero Waste Master Plan.