



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: (20180214-4A): ZWAC LANDFILL CRITERIA MATRIX RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding City policies concerning solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin formed the Waste Management Policy Working Group of four City Council members to examine solid waste policies and contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group recommended that waste should be directed to or away from certain landfills through the use of a landfill criteria matrix and directed staff to develop criteria to include considerations such as: community impact and social equity, carbon footprint, amount and type of waste, existing levels of hazardous materials at landfill; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group declared that the landfill criteria should come before the Austin City Council for approval before implementation; and

WHEREAS, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) posted draft landfill criteria for comment on Monday, November 6, 2017 and presented them at the meeting of the ZWAC on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 and invited stakeholders to submit comments to ARR through December 13, 2017. ARR received comments from Austin Energy, Central Texas Refuse, City of Austin Equity Office, City of Austin Office of Sustainability, Green Group Holdings, Texas Campaign for the Environment, Texas Disposal Systems, and Waste Connections either by email, at the ZWAC meeting, or both; and

WHEREAS, ARR posted updated draft landfill criteria and staff response to public comments on Monday, January 8, 2018 and presented them at the meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Council on Wednesday, January 10, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the landfill criteria will establish high but achievable standards for carbon footprint, community impact, social equity, environmental impact, and other operational measures; and

WHEREAS, the landfill criteria will serve as a model for other communities to adopt;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin, recommends that ARR Staff and ZWAC develop a scoring evaluation matrix that will be used to evaluate a landfill(s) commitment to the City of Austin's Master Plan and its Zero Waste Goal. The Evaluation Matrix will include the review of a landfill(s) impact to the community, its carbon footprint, its greenhouse gas emissions, the amount and type of waste accepted, existing levels of hazardous material at the landfill, and its commitment to waste diversion and social equity.

Further, Recommends that this evaluation matrix be used to annually score a landfill(s) eligibility to participate in City of Austin managed or owned waste and recycling contracts.

Further, Recommends that staff incorporate the following changes into the matrix based on Texas Campaign for the Environment's recommendations presented to ZWAC on Feb 14, 2018. Specifically:

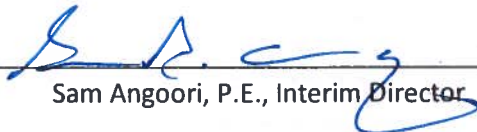
- 1B should be a pass/fail metric.
- 2A should add lifetime violations and/or complaints to 5 year complaint history.
- Amend the final sentence of 2B to "This does not include Waste-to-Energy technologies except for normally occurring landfill gas-to energy, not including induced bioreaction."
- Add to 2B "Use of electric vehicles and carbon free energy sources is preferred over carbon-based energy sources."
- Item 2B should award additional points for carbon free facilities.
- Clarify that 3A-3E only add points for exceeding permit requirements.
- Clarify 4A so that it only accounts for executives and management
- Eliminate the final sentence of 4C.
- Add criteria and measures for History of City Opposition, Concentration of Facilities, Labor Peace/Collective Bargaining for Employees, and Racial, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Demographics as compared to City of Austin Demographics.

Further, Recommends that ARR staff enact an inclusive stakeholder process to further refine the landfill criteria matrix, including staff, ZWAC members, and stakeholders from industry, environmental groups, health groups, and community groups and community members as well as independent researchers who identify objective measures that embody subjective criteria.

Date of Approval: February 14, 2018

Record of the vote: Unanimous on an 8-0 vote

Attest:

 2/27/18
Sam Angoori, P.E., Interim Director