

# Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan Summary

## Austin's Road Map Toward Zero Waste

The Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan is a long-term plan for the Department that projects future activities and services through 2040. Driven by an extensive, 18-month long stakeholder input process, the Master Plan was approved by the City Council in December 2011 and reflects both the vision of the City of Austin and the Austin community.

ARR is beginning the process to update the Master Plan and plans to hire a consultant to assist with the update in late 2018.



### Universal Recycling Ordinance

- Implementing Phase 1 of the ordinance which mandates provision of recycling services at commercial and multifamily properties; in final year of 5-year implementation.
- Gained Council approval for Phase 2 of the ordinance which requires food-service businesses to implement programs to keep organic material out of landfills (known as organics diversion programs); in second year of 3-year implementation.
- Provide on-going technical assistance to commercial businesses and multifamily properties.

### Organics Composting

- Began citywide expansion of Curbside Composting Collection in 2017. Currently, there are 52,000 homes in the Curbside Composting Program, which began as a pilot in 2012. An additional 38,000 customers will be added in June 2018. ARR plans to expand the service to all customers by 2020, pending annual budget approvals.
- Conducted a pilot program for food scrap collection at restaurants in cooperation with Greater Austin Restaurant Association members.
- Expanded backyard composting education and rebate program.

### Completed Ordinance Processes

- In November 2015, the Austin City Council approved the Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance and administrative rules to increase reuse and recycling of materials from construction and demolition projects.
- All private haulers that collect, remove, or transport waste, recycling, and/or organic/compost within the City of Austin for a fee must obtain a Private Hauler License. These requirements are now administered by the Austin Code Department.
- The Austin City Council approved the Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance, which took effect March 1, 2013. The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance regulates the types of bags that can be distributed by business establishments in Austin and encourages a shift to reusable bags.
- The Special Events Ordinance was approved by Council in May 2018 and requires waste reduction and diversion plans for larger events.

### Brownfields

- Transferred Brownfields Program and staff to Austin Resource Recovery.
- Facilitated land reuse and redevelopment discussions with economic developers, financiers, manufacturers, government officials, consultants, and other interested parties.
- Provided Brownfield forums to educate developers and Brownfield property owners about potential land reuse opportunities.
- Applied and approved for US EPA Cleanup loan: A Revolving Loan Fund application was submitted December 2015 and was approved by Environmental Protection Agency in May of 2016.
- Formed Regional Brownfield Forum with representatives to: educate, strategize solutions, resources, & partnerships.

## Improved Services

- Textiles Collection: Program launched December 2016 with contracted vendor, Simple Recycling
- Assigned a Storm Debris Management response team; developed and planned for resources necessary to implement a Storm Debris Management Action Plan; implemented plan.
- Added aluminum foil and scrap metal to Curbside Recycling Program.
- Added durable plastic to Curbside Recycling Program.
- Expanded battery take-back program.
- Expanded hours of operation at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center.
- Implemented Clean Austin collection program that collects bulk items from areas that experience high tenant turnover or illegal dumping.
- Began Recycle-on-the Go program by installing over 100 recycling containers in the downtown area.
- Increased Event Recycling and Composting Container inventory for container loan program

## Community Engagement

- Participated in development, promotion, and implementation of Green Business Leaders Program
- Provided an information clearing house for Austin businesses to support “waste pairings”, known as Austin Materials Marketplace.
- Developed and contracted for comprehensive Youth Education Program: Generation Zero program conducted by Keep Austin Beautiful.
- Coordinated with Office of Sustainability to form an Inter-Departmental Green Team; meet to identify opportunities for partnerships and provide leadership in Zero Waste.

## ReUse

- Identified the companies, locally and nationally, that use the materials produced by Austin generators, to recruit these businesses to locate in the region.
- Prepared list of local reuse operations, manufacturers and composters using reclaimed and recycled materials; conducted media outreach and developed publications to encourage residents and businesses in Austin to embrace the “Re-Made in Austin” brand.
- Supported the development of a “Re-Made in Austin” alliance of manufacturers that use recycled feed-stocks to share resources and promote the recycling and recycled content.
- Developed a comprehensive directory of local reuse organizations that accept or purchase reusable household items to promote donation of items, rather than disposal.

### In Progress

- As appropriate, implement weekly recycling and biweekly trash collection among ARR customers when residential diversion reaches 60%. Weekly recycling in the FY18-22 Forecast to be implemented in October 2020 (impacts FY20 and FY21)
- Conduct community-based social marketing on pilot effort for on-call bulk item and brush collection

### On Hold Indefinitely

- Site four locations for Austin Reuse Centers; not financially feasible.
- Install improved gas recovery system; not financially feasible.
- North East Service Center: Build a second deployment service center in the northern portion of the city to increase service and administrative capacity and improve efficiency

For additional information or to read ARR's Master Plan in its entirety please visit: [www.austintexas.gov/department/zero-waste-2040](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/zero-waste-2040)