



**To:** Zero Waste Advisory Commission

**From:** Sam Angoori, P.E., Interim  
Director Austin Resource  
Recovery Department

**Date:** August 8, 2018

**Subject:** **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

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### **Single-Use Plastic Bags**

Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) will continue efforts to reduce single use plastic bag waste despite the recent ruling that eliminated the ability to enforce the City's ordinance. The use of single-use plastic bags is not in line with the City's Zero Waste vision and ARR remains committed to reducing use of these bags and other single use disposable items.

ARR welcomes the City Council's engagement on this topic and appreciates the independent efforts of non-profit and community groups encouraging Austin residents and businesses not to use single use plastic bags.

ARR intends to develop a program that would encourage retail practices that minimize the use of single-use plastic bags. As the first step towards that goal, ARR has initiated information gathering on retailers' current plans. ARR contacted eight large retailers with locations in the Austin area to ask how they anticipated responding to the City's announcement of no longer enforcing a ban on plastic bags. As of July 18, 2018, 38% of respondent retailers were still considering next steps and 25% were unaware the bag ban was no longer being enforced. None of these eight retailers communicated an immediate return to the practice of distributing single use plastic bags. An additional retailer contacted the City to get more information on how the Texas Supreme Court ruling impacted their Austin stores. ARR will continue dialogue with retailers, invite their feedback, and gather data on the barriers and other factors driving business decisions on reintroducing single use plastic bags. Concurrently, ARR will educate retailers about the benefits of offering only reusable bags and how they can support our community's Zero Waste goal. ARR will also consider strategies that could address waste reduction from not only bags but other single use plastic items as well, such as straws. ARR will report back on its findings and resulting action plan by September 30, 2018.

ARR is increasing efforts to educate the community about the benefits of bringing reusable bags when shopping. ARR will launch a social media campaign by September 2018 to coincide with the back-to-school shopping season, which will include videos and consumer engagement opportunities. The campaign will reinforce that reusable bags are consistent with Austin's Zero Waste goal and the environmental values of the City, and will remind consumers to bring reusable bags when shopping. ARR staff is also looking for opportunities to recognize retailers that have committed to not distribute single-use plastic bags by profiling them in case studies or blog posts.

## **[Re]Move and [Re]use in West Campus**

The City of Austin partnered with Keep Austin Beautiful, State of Texas Alliance for Recycling, UT Sustainability Office and eight local reuse organizations to launch the first West Campus [Re]Move & [Re]Use initiative. This innovative effort aimed to provide West Campus students with easy access to donation stations during move out, which typically occurs at the end of July each year.

The endeavor tested a long-needed solution to the heaps of student discards (gently-used futons, chairs, books, clothing, non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, household items, etc.) that accumulate on West Campus curbsides, backstreets and parking lots every year as students rush to move out. It was the result of more than 200 community members and organizations providing input on the project. Since the fall of 2017, more than 40 dedicated individuals have been actively involved in the project's implementation. Participating Reuse Organizations included:

- Austin Creative Reuse
- Central Texas Food Bank
- Goodwill Central Texas
- Lifeworks
- Salvation Army Family Stores
- Street Youth Ministry
- Arms of Hope
- JOSCO Products

Reuse organizations and volunteers collected items at three West Campus locations from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 27 to July 31 and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on August 1. Drop-off station locations included:

- 2102 Pearl St.
- San Gabriel St. & Poplar St.
- 806 W. 24th St. (entrance off W. 25th St.)

Staff will be working with all of the project partners to evaluate the success of the program and look forward to sharing the results. For additional information, please visit [MoveOutATX.Org](http://MoveOutATX.Org).

Event news conference: <http://austintx.swagit.com/play/07272018-731>



ARR Solicitations Update  
ZWAC Meeting Date: August 8, 2018

**New ARR Solicitations are under Development (in alphabetical order):**

1. **Flat Sheet Printing and Bulk Mail Services:** RFP – Contractor to provide a variety of flat sheet printing and related services. Current Contract Documents:  
[https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/contract\\_catalog/OCCViewMA.cfm?cd=MA&dd=1500&id=N A130000124](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/contract_catalog/OCCViewMA.cfm?cd=MA&dd=1500&id=N A130000124)
2. **Medical Health and Evaluation Program:** RFQS – Contractor to provide a medical and health evaluation program for applicants and employees potentially exposed to levels of hazardous materials, respiratory contaminants, noise, and other occupational health related conditions, as well as conduct medical and health evaluations for Commercial Driver's License drivers to determine each driver's physical ability to operate a commercial vehicle. Current Contract, NA140000170, is not available to the public. Current Contract expires on October 12, 2019.
3. **Organics Processing Services:** RFP – Contractor to provide complete organics processing, sorting, composting, and marketing services to include detailed data reporting to support the City's expanding residential curbside organic materials collection program. Current Contract Documents:  
[https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/contract\\_catalog/OCCViewMA.cfm?cd=MA&dd=1500&id=N A170000183](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/contract_catalog/OCCViewMA.cfm?cd=MA&dd=1500&id=N A170000183)
4. **Waste Diversion and Characterization Study:** RFP – Consultant to conduct a community waste diversion and waste characterization study to analyze existing programs, conduct field observations, facilitate composition evaluation, and perform data analysis to track progress towards ARR's Zero Waste goal and identify needs and opportunities for diversion of particular materials. ARR's Master Plan recommended that a waste diversion study be completed and updated every five years. This is a new Contract.

**New Requests for Information (RFI) issued in July or scheduled to be issued in the next 30 days:**

1. **Mattress Collection and Recycling Services:** – A RFI was processed to discuss with key stakeholders and potential recipients ways they can provide mattress recycling. This is a new service needed as mattresses are currently collected through bulky collection and landfilled at high rates. Once that

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information is gathered a scope of work will be established and a solicitation published. This RFI was issued in July.

**ARR New Contracts for Review (in alphabetical order):**

1. **Landfill Gas Collection Services:** – The contract will provide for leachate and methane gas collection, control system operation maintenance and repair services at the closed Austin Resource Recovery Landfill located at 10108 FM 812 (District 2). The services include non-routine and emergency services for all associated components, as well as greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting. An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the proposals and scored SCS Field Services as the best to provide these services based on business experience and personnel qualifications, total evaluated cost, business organization, schedule, and local business presence. The current contract expires February 15, 2019; however, all funds authorized under the contract have been exhausted. If the City is unable to enter into a contract, the City will not be in compliance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and EPA standards to report methane emissions.
2. **Safety Footwear:** The contract is for safety footwear used by departmental staff. The footwear will provide employees with protection, personal comfort, and durability to withstand hazards during waste collection, walking through debris, conducting inspections, and other rigorous outdoor functions. The recommended contractor is the current provider of these goods. The requested authorization amounts were determined using historical spend amounts, additional departments' needs, as well as anticipated additional staff in future years. This new contract will consolidate multiple safety shoe contracts, one of which will expire on October 26, 2018 and will support additional departments. If the City is unable to secure a contract for the safety footwear some City departments may not have a reliable source for footwear protection for city personnel.

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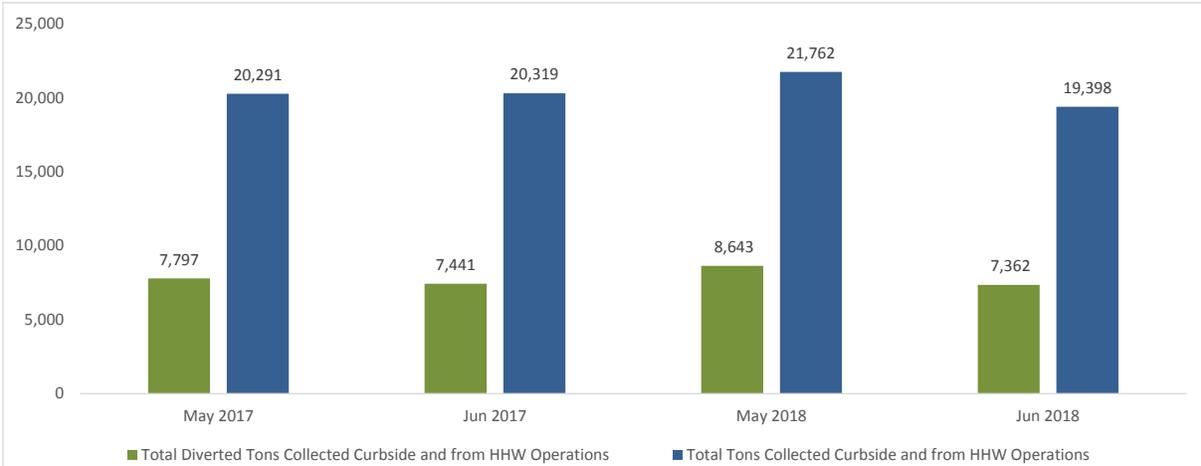
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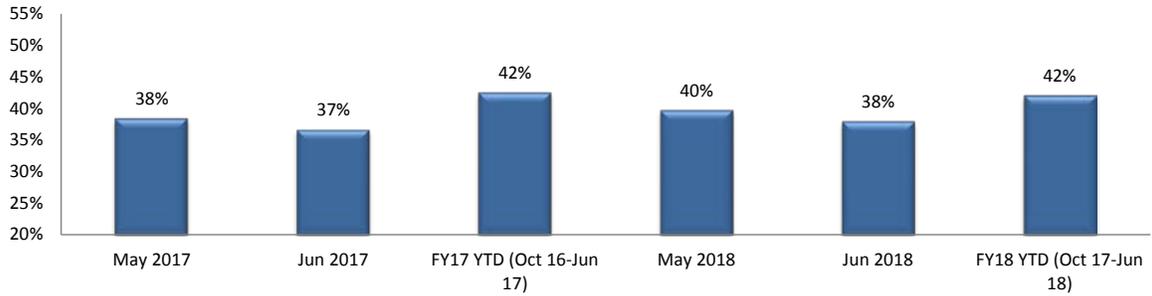
# Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

Description of Services		LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
		FY 2016	FY 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	FY17 YTD (Oct 16-Jun 17)	May 2018	Jun 2018	FY18 YTD (Oct 17-Jun 18)	FY 2018 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	129,266	131,815	11,228	11,481	99,298	11,771	10,574	97,773	133,208
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	11,869	11,179	1,224	1,350	7,548	1,302	1,396	7,141	10,900
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	468	471	42	48	351	47	66	385	476
	<b>Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations</b>	<b>141,603</b>	<b>143,465</b>	<b>12,494</b>	<b>12,879</b>	<b>107,197</b>	<b>13,119</b>	<b>12,036</b>	<b>105,300</b>	<b>144,108</b>
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	58,879	58,705	5,059	4,986	44,342	5,296	4,768	44,383	60,000
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	436	465	59	48	338	48	47	327	498
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	32,605	34,316	2,197	1,824	28,977	2,776	1,962	26,980	41,525
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	276	161	19	25	113	26	35	157	160
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	8,460	7,367	463	557	5,362	497	550	4,537	8,000
	<b>Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations</b>	<b>100,656</b>	<b>101,014</b>	<b>7,797</b>	<b>7,441</b>	<b>79,132</b>	<b>8,643</b>	<b>7,362</b>	<b>76,384</b>	<b>110,183</b>
<b>Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations</b>		<b>242,259</b>	<b>244,479</b>	<b>20,291</b>	<b>20,319</b>	<b>186,329</b>	<b>21,762</b>	<b>19,398</b>	<b>181,684</b>	<b>254,291</b>
<b>Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations</b>		<b>41.55%</b>	<b>41.32%</b>	<b>38.43%</b>	<b>36.62%</b>	<b>42.47%</b>	<b>39.71%</b>	<b>37.95%</b>	<b>42.04%</b>	<b>43.33%</b>
<b>Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup</b>		<b>25.83</b>	<b>26.09</b>	<b>26.61</b>	<b>27.13</b>	<b>26.24</b>	<b>27.12</b>	<b>24.30</b>	<b>25.22</b>	<b>25.89</b>
Number of Trash customers		192,476	194,357	194,749	195,349	194,069	200,319	200,876	198,790	197,876
<b>Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)</b>		<b>23.69</b>	<b>23.38</b>	<b>24.14</b>	<b>23.73</b>	<b>23.60</b>	<b>24.55</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>23.03</b>	<b>23.61</b>
<b>Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week</b>		<b>6.56</b>	<b>6.83</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>4.34</b>	<b>7.71</b>	<b>6.43</b>	<b>4.54</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>8.17</b>
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers		191,156	193,110	193,475	194,002	192,717	199,128	199,674	197,704	195,520
Number of PAYT pickups		52	52	4.33	4.33	39.00	4.33	4.33	39.00	52
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter		39	44	5	3	34	3	2	29	42
Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit		9,556	9,471	868	862	7,010	877	983	7,697	9,927
Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected		N/A	245	17	16	208	15	14	116	171
Tons of Curbside Compost Collected		4,123	5,069	362	330	4,174	1,214	1,009	10,832	20,221

## Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations



### Percent of Waste Stream Diverted from Curbside and HHW Operations

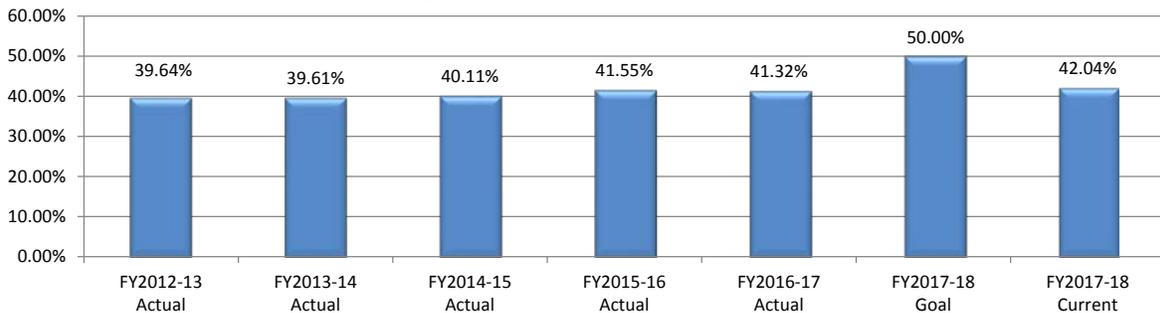


#### Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2012-13 Actual	FY2013-14 Actual	FY2014-15 Actual	FY2015-16 Actual	FY2016-17 Actual	FY2017-18 Goal	FY2017-18 Current
<b>Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)</b>	39.64%	39.61%	40.11%	41.55%	41.32%	50.00%	42.04%
<b>Community Diversion Rate</b>	*	*	*	42.02%	*	*	*

\*As prescribed in the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan, the Department will conduct a detailed waste assessment study every five years to determine progress toward our Zero Waste goal. The first such study was published in 2015 and is titled Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study. The study focused on estimating diversion from both ARR-serviced properties and commercial properties. Commercial properties include retail businesses, food service establishments, professional offices, industrial properties, institutional facilities, government facilities, and multifamily properties five units and larger.

### Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)



**Zero Waste Advisory Commission - July 23rd, 2018**  
**Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report**  
**FY18: October 2017 - June 2018**  
**Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources, Inc. (BRI)**

Month and Year	Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments			Net Value to the City \$ per ton value	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
			Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Amount Due/(Owed)		Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2017	TDS	2,189.11	\$115,337	\$198,114	(\$82,777)	(\$37.81)	\$21.99	\$48,139
	BRI	2,619.00	\$68,017	\$194,521	(\$126,504)	(\$48.30)	\$21.99	\$57,592
	<b>Total</b>	4,808.11	\$183,354	\$392,635	(\$209,281)			\$105,730
November 2017	TDS	1,836.05	\$83,079	\$166,163	(\$83,084)	(\$45.25)	\$21.99	\$40,375
	BRI	3,135.81	\$75,579	\$224,469	(\$148,890)	(\$47.48)	\$21.99	\$68,956
	<b>Total</b>	4,971.86	\$158,658	\$390,632	(\$231,974)			\$109,331
December 2017	TDS	1,905.47	\$86,947	\$172,445	(\$85,498)	(\$44.87)	\$21.99	\$41,901
	BRI	3,076.03	\$77,502	\$221,181	(\$143,679)	(\$46.71)	\$21.99	\$67,642
	<b>Total</b>	4,981.50	\$164,449	\$393,626	(\$229,177)			\$109,543
January 2018	TDS	2,469.47	\$114,108	\$223,487	(\$109,379)	(\$44.29)	\$21.99	\$54,304
	BRI	3,051.51	\$77,835	\$224,382	(\$146,547)	(\$48.02)	\$21.99	\$67,103
	<b>Total</b>	5,520.98	\$191,943	\$447,869	(\$255,926)			\$121,406
February 2018	TDS	1,731.32	\$75,379	\$156,684	(\$81,305)	(\$46.96)	\$21.99	\$38,072
	BRI	2,573.31	\$62,284	\$191,825	(\$129,541)	(\$50.34)	\$21.99	\$56,587
	<b>Total</b>	4,304.63	\$137,663	\$348,509	(\$210,846)			\$94,659
March 2018	TDS	1,779.68	\$73,714	\$161,061	(\$87,347)	(\$49.08)	\$21.99	\$39,135
	BRI	3,209.71	\$69,386	\$228,534	(\$159,148)	(\$49.58)	\$21.99	\$70,582
	<b>Total</b>	4,989.39	\$143,100	\$389,595	(\$246,495)			\$109,717
April 2018	TDS	2,044.21	\$90,088	\$185,001	(\$94,913)	(\$46.43)	\$21.99	\$44,952
	BRI	2,706.52	\$57,099	\$199,685	(\$142,586)	(\$52.68)	\$21.99	\$59,516
	<b>Total</b>	4,750.73	\$147,187	\$384,686	(\$237,499)			\$104,469
May 2018	TDS	2,003.78	\$83,448	\$181,342	(\$97,894)	(\$48.85)	\$21.99	\$44,063
	BRI	3,272.99	\$61,180	\$232,014	(\$170,835)	(\$52.20)	\$21.99	\$71,973
	<b>Total</b>	5,276.77	\$144,628	\$413,357	(\$268,729)			\$116,036
June 2018	TDS	1,841.88	\$76,941	\$166,690	(\$89,749)	(\$48.73)	\$22.52	\$41,479
	BRI	2,908.47	\$61,463	\$211,600	(\$150,137)	(\$51.62)	\$22.52	\$65,499
	<b>Total</b>	4,750.35	\$138,403	\$378,290	(\$239,887)			\$106,978
	<b>FY18 Totals</b>	<b>\$44,354</b>	<b>\$1,409,385</b>	<b>\$3,539,198</b>	<b>(\$2,129,813)</b>			<b>\$977,869</b>