

Zero Waste Advisory Commission Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee

JANUARY 8, 2020

1

Item 2a – Multifamily Compost Pilot

2

Goal of Pilot

- Inform future policy discussions around composting at multifamily properties
 - Gathering information from properties and tenants
 - Identifying challenges and best practices

3

Funding

- Rebate – reimbursement of all composting service costs
- Educational materials provided by ARR
- \$25,000 budget

TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS				
Number of Units	Number of Properties	Service subtotal	Educational materials subtotal*	TOTAL
<50	8 - 11	\$6,600 - \$7,200	\$552 - \$668	\$7278 - \$7752
50 +	6 - 9	\$13,800 - \$14,400	\$1,523 - \$2,752	\$15,923 - \$16,551
Total:	14 - 20			
Total Service and Education Costs				\$23,676 - \$23,829

*Educational materials include posters for every bin, flyers, compost collectors, and compostable bags.

4

Participants

- Any multifamily property in Austin can apply.
- Aim is to obtain a participant pool with variability in:
 - Geographic distribution
 - Size of property (50% participants under 50 units)
 - Rent prices
 - Community styles/layouts

5

Recruitment Plan

- Email outreach – Jan 2-3
- Phone outreach – Jan 6-10
- Austin Apartment Association and Community Association Institute outreach – ongoing
- URO training events– 1/17 & 1/23 (with AAA)
- Council offices and ZWAC members- reach out to communities in their districts

6

Pilot Process

1. Application
2. Selection
3. Baseline assessment
4. Contract for services
5. Begin 6 months of service
6. Weekly audits
7. 3-Month check-in survey and receipts submission
8. 6-Month final survey (including tenants) and receipts submission

7

Pilot Process

1. Application
 - Property representative submits application to ARR
 - Application asks for property information (e.g. size)
2. Selection
 - Selection team reviews applications and selects properties based on selection criteria
 - Selection criteria could include:
 - Location
 - Number of units
 - Rent price
 - Building style/layout
 - Collection methods

8

Pilot Process – After property selection

3. Baseline Assessment

- Onsite meeting to determine existing services
- Discuss contracting for composting services
- ARR staff will provide best practices and recommendations

4. Contract for service

- Property representative contracts for service with selected composting hauler
- Property representative requests explanation and documentation of any additional fees (contamination, etc.)

9

Pilot Process – contd.

5. Begin 6 months of service

- Before service starts, ARR will have onsite educational “open house” to provide information and bins/bags to residents
- ZWAC commissioners encouraged to attend and assist at events

6. Weekly audits

- Property representatives conduct visual audits of containers
- ARR will provide audit forms
- Audit will include container fullness, visible materials and contaminants
- Audits provide opportunities for right-sizing and targeted education

10

Pilot Process – contd.

7. 3-Month Check-In Survey

- ARR will conduct surveys at the mid-point of pilot to determine challenges, observations, etc.
- Property representative submits invoices for reimbursement

8. 6-Month Final Survey

- ARR will conduct final surveys at the end of 6 months, including resident survey
- Final invoices submitted and reimbursed

11

Pilot Timeline

JANUARY

- Recruitment
- Application submittal

FEBRUARY

- Application review and selection
- Baseline meetings / contract for services

MARCH

- Open house educational events
- Service begins

APRIL – MAY

- Service continues

JUNE

- 3-Month Surveys

JULY

- Service continues

AUGUST

- Service ends Aug 30
- Final Survey, including tenant surveys

SEPTEMBER

- Final rebates paid out
- Data analysis begins

12

Volunteer Opportunities

- Recruitment of properties / promotion of pilot
- Tabling at outreach events
- Participating in initial site visits
- Developing or conducting surveys

13

Selene Castillo, Planner Principal

Selene.Castillo@austintexas.gov

512-974-6424

Elizabeth Nelson, Planner Senior

Elizabeth.Nelson@austintexas.gov

512-974-6492

14