



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Ken Snipes, Director
Austin Resource Recovery

Date: February 19, 2020

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

Climate Action Plan Update

The Office of Sustainability is updating Austin's Community Climate Plan. The goal of this update is to identify actions that local government, businesses, and community members can undertake in the next 10 years that will help Austin reach its goal of reducing as many global warming emissions as created by 2050.

City staff, including representatives from Austin Resource Recovery, will host five workshops that coincide with the five advisory groups working on the Climate Plan Update. The "Climate Change and Consumption Community Workshop" will have discussion related to Austin's zero waste efforts.

- *Transportation Electrification Community Workshop*; February 4th from 5:30-8pm at Austin Energy Town Lake Center - Assembly Room 130
- *Sustainable Buildings Community Workshop*; February 8th from 2-4:30pm at Huston-Tillotson University - Dickey-Lawless Science Building
- *Natural Systems Community Workshop*; February 11th from 5:30-8pm at the Carver Library Auditorium
- *Transportation and Land Use Community Workshop*; February 13th from 5:30-8pm at the Carver Library Auditorium
- *Climate Change and Consumption Community Workshop*; February 22nd from 10:30-1pm Location has not been determined

More information at: austintexas.gov/climateplan

Curbside Textile Recycling Methods

In regards to questions raised at the previous ZWAC meeting, we are providing the following clarification with regards to the curbside textile program:

The proposed program is an on-call collection program that accepts textiles and other gently used household goods. The term "gently used" applies to "household goods" other than textiles, as the contract allows for donations of other materials as well. The description has been modified to read: *The proposed program is an on-call collection program that accepts textiles and other household goods.*

For clarity, section 3.1 of the contract states:

All marketing shall state that Textiles are acceptable in any condition (except wet or infested materials) for collection and shall encourage residents to use the program to recycle damaged, torn, or stained Textiles.

Regarding the process for recycling textiles, once material is collected through the curbside collection program, it is sent to one of the retail thrift stores throughout Central Texas. If the material doesn't sell within approximately four weeks, it will then go to one of two outlet centers within Austin and given a chance to sell by the pound. If the material doesn't sell in the thrift stores or outlets, it is then sorted, baled and sold as a commodity.

Compostable Food Service Containers

As access to composting services increases, there has been an increase in food service containers marketed as compostable. The variety of composition has posed challenges for organics recyclers and segmentation in materials accepted by haulers and processors. Solutions to this issue are complex and tied to public education and product stewardship.

The City of Austin provides education to thousands of food permitted businesses and customers each year that directly references the prohibition of "take out boxes with wax or plastic lining." Education is provided via social media, presentations, onsite meetings, and telephone conversations. Staff encourages containers that can be reused, recycled, or composted within local systems when speaking with food permitted businesses. Regional haulers and processors also provide similar education resources.

Municipal compostable food service policies have typically been housed with single use serviceware prohibitions that require food serviceware to be recyclable, reusable, or compostable. While these policies do not directly address items such as plastic lined cardboard boxes, these items could be deemed as non-compostable within local systems. Notable food serviceware bans include Seattle and San Francisco.

Due to the scale of the value chain of items such as food containers; much of the work to improve the design and stewardship of compostable food containers is being undertaken at the state or federal level. Here are some examples of organizations working to create more consistency in labeling and standardization of products:

- The Sustainable Packaging Coalition (sustainablepackaging.org) works to develop tools, applications, and services that can help companies take action toward packaging sustainability. Ongoing collaborations include the "Compostable Packaging Collaborative" in which members from across the value chain discuss issues and share resources.
- The National Stewardship Action Council (nsaction.us) is a national advocate of product stewardship and works to develop state and federal policy related to the circular economy.
- The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling [STAR] (recyclingstar.org) Product Stewardship Council works to develop State programs or policy related to product stewardship.

Clean Community Fee

The City of Austin's Clean Community Fee was established by ordinance to support cleanup and sanitation services that yield communitywide benefits. While only curbside collections customers pay Austin Resource Recovery's Base Customer and Trash Cart Fees, **every residence and commercial property is billed a monthly Clean Community Fee**. Commercial properties pay more due to additional services provided by the Department. As of December 2019, more than 407,000 residences and 25,000 commercial properties pay a monthly Clean Community Fee.

Impact on City Services and Sanitation Challenges

Clean Community Fees make up about 26% of ARR's revenue and solely fund the following services:

- Litter Control in public areas and right-of-ways (including waste and litter removal in illegal dumpsite cleanups, homeless encampment cleanups, and other citywide litter abatement activities)

- Street Sweeping
- Dead Animal Collection
- ARR's Recycling & Reuse Drop-Off Center (RRDOC)
- Landfill Closure and post-closure requirements
- Zero Waste Strategic Design & Development
- Brownfields Remediation

Additionally, **Clean Community Fees collected from commercial properties constitute the sole funding for ARR's Business Outreach services** — including administration of the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) and other business-related Zero Waste programs. **Clean Community Fees collected from residential properties fund Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off** at RRDOC for residential customers.

Strategic Outcomes and Sustainability of Rates

Based on a recent affordability study* of 16 Texas benchmark cities, **only Austin provided all of the benchmark requirements to its residents and community.** The study noted that, while “total monthly fees appear higher” than in 3/4 of benchmarked cities, Austin “**provides many additional services, funded by the Clean Community Fee**, which are either not provided by benchmark cities, or [are] funded by other sources or city departments.” The study adds that, **as a percentage of average annual income, ARR's fees compare more favorably with benchmarked cities** than in direct cost comparison. Austin has the most ambitious recycling goals among benchmark cities, and currently holds the highest recycling rate at 38%.

The level of funding provided by the Clean Community Fee has met the expense requirements of the services it supports. As directed by City Council during the last budget cycle, the Department is currently developing a proposal to add environmental cleanup services, including increased litter abatement citywide and enhanced street sweeping services. As Austin grows and homeless encampment cleanups continue to expand beyond highway underpasses to City parkland, the Department will be challenged to keep up with increasing demand while maintaining household affordability.

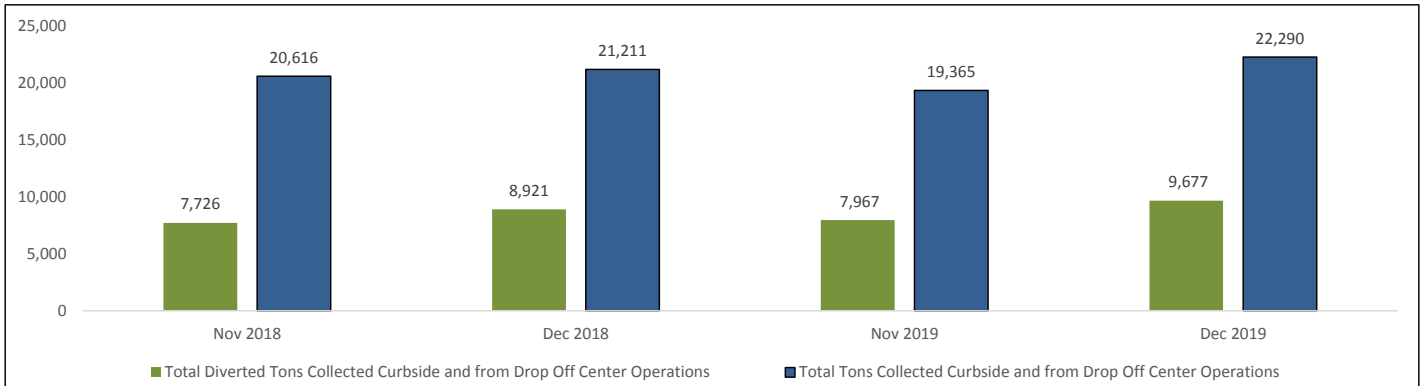
Multifamily Compost Pilot Update

Staff began recruiting properties to participate in the multifamily composting pilot in January 2020 with an application deadline of February 1. As of the February 1 deadline, three properties had applied, resulting in a deadline extension to February 14. As of February 7, six properties have committed to participating in the pilot. These six properties represent four council districts: 9, 4, 3, and 7 and include a mix of apartments and condominiums. Staff is in regular communication with eighteen property managers who have expressed interest in participating, but have been unable to commit to applying.

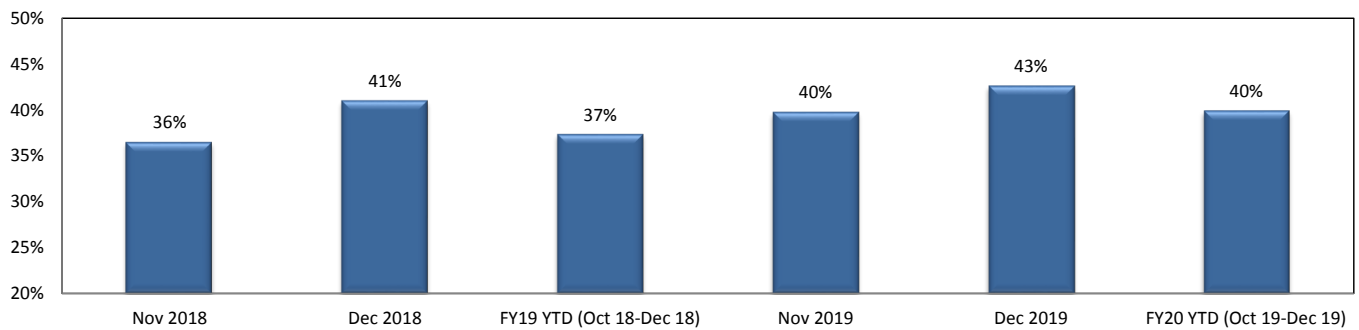
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR			
Description of Services		FY 2018	FY 2019	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	FY19 YTD (Oct 18-Dec 18)	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	FY20 YTD (Oct 19-Dec 19)	FY 2020 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	128,829	130,307	11,121	10,600	32,915	9,837	10,965	31,348	132,546
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	10,231	11,040	656	694	2,429	711	704	2,378	10,248
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	528	517	40	27	100	35	27	98	560
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	10,642	11,761	1,074	969	3,102	815	917	2,610	10,670
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	150,230	153,625	12,891	12,290	38,546	11,398	12,613	36,434	154,024
*Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit										
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	48,005	47,528	4,073	4,239	12,452	3,755	4,239	12,038	50,250
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,986	2,259	157	194	552	175	156	533	2,600
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	1,505	2,595	194	194	564	287	183	732	2,500
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	469	477	28	33	109	33	23	92	560
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	3,759	5,073	351	401	1,152	473	343	1,297	5,450
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	32,244	37,265	2,870	3,863	8,989	3,342	4,781	10,735	37,500
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	201	257	28	20	73	22	19	59	210
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,292	6,447	395	374	1,332	342	296	1,227	7,373
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	150	77	9	8	25	0	0	0	157
	Tons of Carts Recycled	154	166	0	16	32	33	0	50	175
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	90,805	96,813	7,726	8,921	24,055	7,967	9,677	25,407	101,115
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected**	14,414	22,040	1,783	2,231	5,471	2,822	3,973	9,045	31,300
***"Tons of Curbside Compost Collected" is included in the "Tons of Yard Trimmings Collected"										
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		241,035	250,438	20,616	21,211	62,602	19,365	22,290	61,841	255,139
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		36.77%	37.47%	36.46%	40.99%	37.33%	39.74%	42.58%	39.89%	38.05%
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup		24.84	24.78	25.56	24.31	25.18	22.29	24.75	23.63	24.92
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		199,448	202,292	200,840	201,211	201,076	203,726	204,510	204,097	204,549
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)		18.62	18.17	18.79	19.56	19.15	17.10	19.24	18.25	18.99
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week		6.25	7.12	6.62	8.91	6.91	7.61	10.85	8.14	7.09
Number of Yard Trimmings/Organics Customers		198,325	201,174	200,047	200,067	200,038	202,650	203,337	202,973	203,508
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter		36	30	4	3	10	3	3	9	32

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

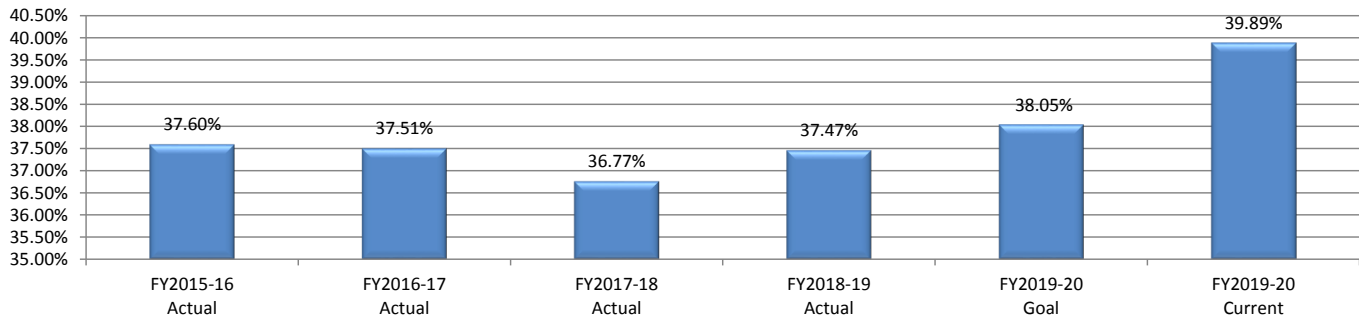


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2015-16 Actual	FY2016-17 Actual	FY2017-18 Actual	FY2018-19 Actual	FY2019-20 Goal	FY2019-20 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	37.60%	37.51%	36.77%	37.47%	38.05%	39.89%
Community Diversion Rate	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. According to Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study, Residential Waste Diversion Rate (city serviced accounts) represents approximately 15% and the Community Diversion Rate (accounts serviced by private waste haulers) represents approximately 85% of the total citywide wastage.

Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)



Category of Waste Generation	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018
Commercial Tons Landfilled**	1,152,661	1,708,484	1,079,312
Commercial Tons Recycled**	360,244	722,573	402,292
Commercial Organics Tons**	206,165	97,173	80,906

** Numbers reported here are compiled from self-reported data submitted by licensed private waste haulers via semi-annual tonnage reports required under Section 15-6-3 of the City Code on a calendar year basis and as such, ARR does not attest to the accuracy of these amounts. These numbers reflect data from 100-200 licensed haulers (number of haulers varies over time), and include haulers servicing dumpsters, roll-offs, construction and demolition debris, landscaping debris, and metal scrap. These numbers do not reflect all data sources included in Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study.

Zero Waste Advisory Commission - January 8th, 2020

Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY20: October 2019-December 2019

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources, Inc. (BRI)

Month and Year	Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments			Net Value to the City	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
			Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Amount Due/(Owed)	\$ per ton value	Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2019	TDS	1,939.98	\$44,128	\$175,568	(\$131,440)	(\$67.75)	\$22.93	\$44,484
	BRI	2,982.78	\$40,533	\$215,984	(\$175,451)	(\$58.82)	\$22.93	\$68,395
	Total	4,922.76	\$84,661	\$391,552	(\$306,891)			\$112,879
November 2019	TDS	1,753.88	\$43,495	\$158,726	(\$115,231)	(\$65.70)	\$22.93	\$40,216
	BRI	2,816.24	\$41,361	\$206,158	(\$164,797)	(\$58.52)	\$22.93	\$64,576
	Total	4,570.12	\$84,856	\$364,884	(\$280,028)			\$104,793
December 2019	TDS	2,346.49	\$61,255	\$212,357	(\$151,103)	(\$64.40)	\$22.93	\$53,805
	BRI	2,808.82	\$43,110	\$205,720	(\$162,610)	(\$57.89)	\$22.93	\$64,406
	Total	5,155.31	\$104,365	\$418,078	(\$313,713)			\$118,211
FY20 Totals		14,648.19	\$273,882	\$1,174,514	(\$900,632)			\$335,883



ARR Solicitations Update
As of January 24, 2020
ZWAC Meeting February 12, 2020

Upcoming Solicitations Under Development (in alphabetical order):

1. Lighting Upgrade at Austin Resource Recovery's Todd Lane Campus: IFB – Contractors qualified to upgrade external lighting to energy efficient light-emitting diode ("LED") light panels. No existing contract.
2. Post-Disaster Debris Removal Services: RFP – Contractor to provide emergency debris removal services in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) policies and guidelines. No existing contract.
3. Post-Disaster Debris Monitoring Services: RFP – Contractor to provide emergency field debris monitoring services to include management and accounting services for monitoring the recovery efforts of the City's Post Disaster Debris Removal Contractor. No existing contract.
4. Recycling Processing Services for City In-House Recycling Collection: IFB – Contractor to provide single-stream recyclable material processing and marketing services to receive, sort, process, store, market, and sell recyclable material collection by ARR from City facilities. [Link to current contract](#)
5. Single-Stream Recycling Services for RRDOC: IFB – Contractor to operate a single-stream recycling facility to help increase diversion from landfills by picking up and processing single-stream recyclable materials collected at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center to provide support for the City's recycling drop-off location for residents who do not receive curbside collections and want to responsibly discard their recyclables. [Link to current contract](#)
6. Truck Cameras: RFP – Contractor to deliver, install, integrate, maintain, and repair external vehicle cameras along with all required hardware, cables, support, tools, components, and solutions. These cameras must be compatible with the existing cameras installed as well as the vehicles in-vehicle technology provided by FleetMind Solutions. No existing contract.

Solicitations Expected to be Posted Within the Next 90 Days:

1. Daily Drop-Off of Material Collected Through Dumpster or Roll-Off Service: IFB – Contractor to receive daily collections of bulk materials from the City at their disposal facility or landfill. No existing contract.
2. Purchase of Foam Densifier: IFB – Contractor to provide new foam densifier to include delivery, installation, training, and warranty. No existing contract.
3. Routine Non-Residential (City facilities) Dumpster Collection Services: [RFI](#)/IFB – Contractor to collect trash, recycling, brush, bulk, and compostable Materials from City of Austin facilities. Scope may also include special event and emergency service needs at City facilities on an as-needed basis. [Link to current contract](#)
4. Truck Scale Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair Services: IFB – Contractor to complete quarterly full-service, diagnostics, inspections, preventative maintenance, servicing, authorized part replacements, and repairs of truck and floor scales located at City facilities. [Link to current contract](#)

Definitions:

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IFB (Invitation for Bid): Formal bidding documents inviting suppliers to submit pricing for goods or services.

RFI (Request for Information): Used to obtain industry input, feedback, or reactions from potential suppliers prior to issuing a solicitation.

RFQ (Request for Quotation): Informal request to suppliers to provide quotes on specific goods or services.

RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

RFP (Request for Proposals): Formal request for a supplier to provide a solution and cost estimate to a complex need.

Published Solicitations:

1. Dumpster Collection and Cleaning Services for the Central Business District: [RFI/IFB 1500 SLW1036](#) – Contractor to provide trash, recycling, and compost dumpster collection, collection of bulk materials and area litter clean up in the Central Business District of Austin, Texas. This solicitation posted on December 9, 2019 and has been extended to close on February 13, 2020. [Link to current contract](#)
2. Mattress Collection and Recycling Services: [RFP 1500 SLW3005](#) – This is a new service needed as mattresses are currently collected through bulky collection and landfilled. [RFI 1500 SLW6000](#) was issued in July 2018 related to these services. This solicitation posted on January 6, 2020 and closes on February 13, 2020. No existing contract.
3. Truck Wash Equipment Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair: [RFQ 1500 MMO0410](#) – Contractor to provide routine monthly inspection, maintenance, and repairs on the commercial vehicle truck was equipment owned by the City. The ensuing contract will be for one year to cover the City's needs until the new equipment retrofit is complete. This solicitation posted on January 9, 2020 and closed on January 29, 2020. [Link to current contract](#)

Solicitations in Evaluation or Negotiation:

1. Residential Trash Dumpster Collection Services: [IFB 1500 SLW1028](#) – Contractor to collect, transport, process, dispose of, and clean-up trash materials generated by ARR residential customers located within the ARR service areas of Austin. ARR residential customers include single-family, duplex, triplex, and fourplex premises. This solicitation was posted on September 16, 2019 and closed on October 22, 2019. [Link to current contract](#)
2. Vehicle Rapid Response Remediation Services: [IFB 1500 SLW1037](#) – Contractor to provide rapid response remediation services for spills resulting from accidents and equipment malfunctions that occur within ARR's vehicle fleet, to include containerizing and transporting the material from vehicle spills for recycling, waste treatment, and ultimate disposal. Spills associated with these incidents are primarily non-hazardous total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and engine coolant. This solicitation posted on December 16, 2019 and closed on January 7, 2020. [Link to current contract](#)

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