



**To:** Zero Waste Advisory Commission

**From:** Ken Snipes  
Director  
Austin Resource Recovery

**Date:** March 8, 2023

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

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## **Winter Storm Clean Up**

### **Winter Weather Storm Update March 2023**

During the week of January 30, the Austin area experienced an arctic air outbreak that caused freezing temperatures and significant ice accumulation. The City of Austin is collecting unprecedented storm debris from the 2023 winter storm (Mara). In the first week of collection alone, the total tonnage of material collected from the 2021 winter storm (Uri) was exceeded.

With the combined forces of 70+ City staff and contracted crews, the department anticipates it will complete the first of several passes through the city collecting storm debris by the end of the first week of March. Many areas will require a second or third collection to clear all storm debris. The department expects those will be completed by April 30, 2023. After April, focus will shift from broad passes across the city, and continue collections as needed, strictly through special storm debris collection requests made through Austin 3-1-1. This will continue through June 30, 2023.

Over 98,000 tons of storm debris has been collected in 13,000 loads through February 28.

### **Trash, Recycling, and Compost Collection Operations**

Normal cart, bulk, and brush collection services resumed February 6.

### **Storm Debris Collection**

The department continues to respond to the volume of requests to collect storm debris caused by the winter weather. As of February 28, over 39,000 service requests from 3-1-1 have been received.

The City is utilizing existing department contracts with private haulers to support disaster debris removal representing about seventy crews (per day) collecting seven days per week. Multiple passes will continue across the city in the coming weeks. ARR continues to receive assistance from other City departments including Parks and Recreation, Watershed Protection, and Public Works.

Some city parks (Circle C Ranch Metro Park, Bolm District Park, and Old Manor Road) are being utilized as temporary storage areas for material collected by contractors. These are not public drop-off locations. The use of these locations helps the department speed up storm debris collection efforts by providing a nearby place for debris to be emptied. Trucks fill up quickly on routes and a regional transfer location allows collection trucks to return to the field quicker.

When limbs and branches are unloaded at these park sites, the debris is ground down into a mulch. A secondary truck then transports the material to Hornsby Bend for processing into Dillo Dirt. When this storm debris collection event concludes, contractors will be required to restore the sites to their original condition. ARR and Parks and Recreation staff will participate

in site inspections for final approval of restoration activities and site closure.

### **Quality Assurance - Mapping and Routing**

The Quality Assurance Geographic Information Systems team developed maps using storm debris service requests reported to 311 and provided routing instructions for crews servicing storm debris. The department is routing based on the volume of service requests in an area but will collect all storm debris properly placed at the curb on that same street regardless of whether a service request was submitted at a specific address. A public-facing version of this map is in development.

### **Recycling and Reuse Drop Off Center (RRDOC) and Hornsby Bend Facilities**

Hornsby Bend resumed full operations on February 3. 5040 residential customers dropped off material in February. The department's previous record for a full month was 1343. Hornsby Bend brush processing staff work after-hours and weekends to support collections staff bringing material to the facility.

### **Safety and Operations Support**

Department supervisors, managers, and safety staff continue to drive routes in front of crews to identify hazards such as low-hanging wires, fallen trees, and fallen wires.

### **Public Information**

The Public Information team has been actively engaged in storm outreach and engagement since January 30. The department has coordinated with traditional media outlets by participating in multiple press conferences, developing press releases, and responding to media requests for interviews and information. A press release communicating storm debris timelines was released on February 17. A press conference was held on the morning of March 1 to provide an operational update about storm debris removal.

The department website is updated daily, and social media has been used extensively (Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram). The team is responding to resident questions on e-mail and social media. The department is also utilizing a mobile app and messaging system to inform residents.

### **Support for Residents with Physical Limitations or Financial Needs**

Residents with physical limitations or financial needs requiring help cleaning up winter storm debris can request volunteer assistance through the Austin Disaster Relief Network. Complete the form at [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com).

For more information on storm debris collection and proper setout guidelines visit **[AustinTexas.gov/StormDebris](http://AustinTexas.gov/StormDebris)**.



ARR Solicitations Update  
As of February 24, 2023  
ZWAC Meeting March 8, 2023

❖ **Solicitations in Evaluation or Negotiation:**

- N/A.

❖ **Published Solicitations:**

- N/A.

❖ **Upcoming Solicitations and Agreements Expected to be Posted Within 90 days:**

- **Landfill Gas Collection Services (RFP):** Contractor to provide greenhouse gas monitoring services, all required reporting (including leachate, methane gas collections, control system operations, and regulatory guidance), and expertise, including maintenance, improvement, additional infrastructure, and repair services at the closed City of Austin ("City") landfill located at 10108 FM 812, Austin, Texas 78719 ("FM 812 Landfill"). The Contractor shall also provide non-routine and emergency services associated with the monitoring service requirements as needed and as determined by the City. [Link to the current contract.](#)
- **Supplemental Brush and Bulk Collection Services (IFB):** This contract is for supplemental brush and bulk debris removal, hauling, and disposal at designated debris management sites throughout Travis County. New contract.
- **Sustainable Vehicle Wraps and Installation Services (IFB):** The Contractor shall provide high-performance non-PVC polymer vehicle wraps with lower environmental impact than PVC-based materials and installation services on various vehicles. New Contract.
- **Refuse and Recycling Collection Carts (CO-OP):** This contract is for the purchase and delivery of residential refuse, recycling, and organics carts with lid graphics and radio-frequency identification tags. These carts are crucial for the collection of residential garbage, recycling, and organic waste. [Link to the current contract.](#)

**Definitions:**

CCO (Capital Contracting Office): Administers the procurement of professional and construction services.

CO-OP (Cooperative Contract): A contract that has been competitively bid and issued by another government or purchasing alliance with the intention of sharing it with other governmental entities.

ILA (Interlocal Agreement): A collaborative contract between local government entities (for example, ARR and a county, state, or school district) to provide more efficient and less costly services, where any payments are made from current revenues.

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.

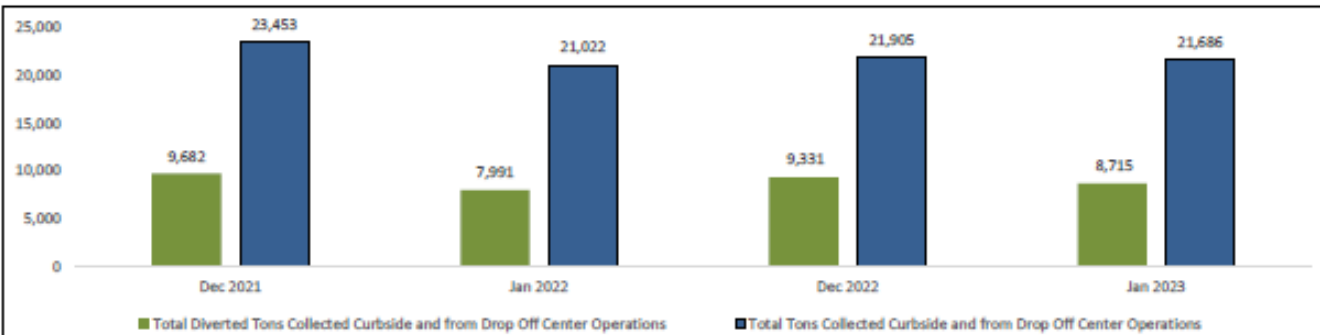
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

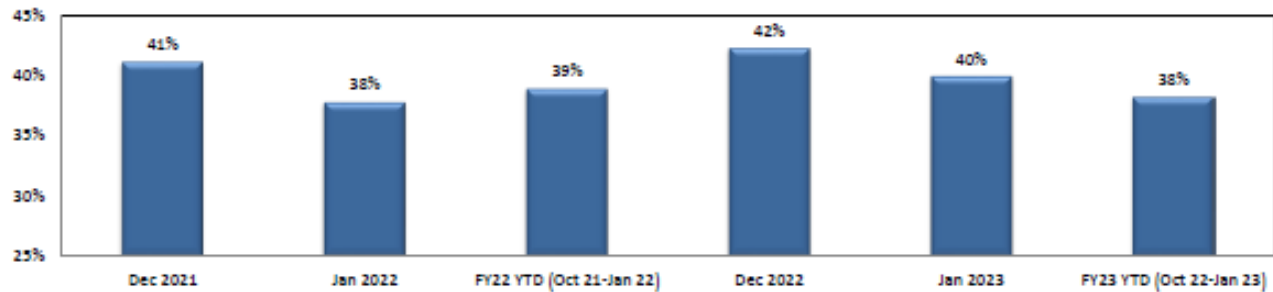
# Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
		FY 2021	FY 2022	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	FY22 YTD (Oct 21-Jan 22)	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	FY23 YTD (Oct 22-Jan 23)	FY 2023 Goal
Description of Services										
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	138,955	134,125	12,073	11,334	46,004	11,285	11,353	44,526	137,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	11,651	8,197	564	661	2,842	431	730	2,420	11,444
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	765	613	57	52	201	42	51	173	580
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,321	11,474	1,077	984	3,922	815	838	3,404	10,803
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	162,693	154,409	13,770	13,032	52,969	12,574	12,971	50,523	159,827
*Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit										
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	51,709	45,974	4,329	4,050	16,398	4,039	3,998	15,458	51,197
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,323	1,607	113	152	534	161	141	465	1,500
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	563	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	222	341	31	16	79	30	39	119	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	1,784	1,788	135	141	555	180	154	515	1,715
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	56,481	43,548	4,696	3,374	14,931	4,824	4,191	14,166	51,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	323	168	8	28	66	11	25	69	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	8,339	5,636	485	385	1,999	253	326	1,273	7,009
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	42	47	3	3	12	8	5	21	40
	Tons of Carts Recycled	163	172	26	9	71	17	17	42	200
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		118,841	97,333	9,682	7,991	34,032	9,331	8,715	31,543	111,416
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		281,534	251,742	23,453	21,022	87,000	21,905	21,686	82,066	271,243
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		41.96%	38.32%	41.04%	37.69%	38.82%	42.21%	39.85%	38.13%	40.62%
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup		25.52	24.32	26.38	24.74	25.14	24.36	24.50	24.06	24.58
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		209,419	212,139	211,210	211,444	211,177	213,955	213,999	213,603	214,346
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)		19.10	16.77	19.03	17.79	18.03	17.55	17.36	16.81	18.48
Pounds of Curbside Compost collected per customer per week		10.43	7.94	10.32	7.41	8.21	10.48	9.10	7.70	9.20
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		208,209	210,876	209,973	210,187	209,931	212,640	212,761	212,321	213,130
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter		31	51	5	4	15	6	7	25	30

## Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



## Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

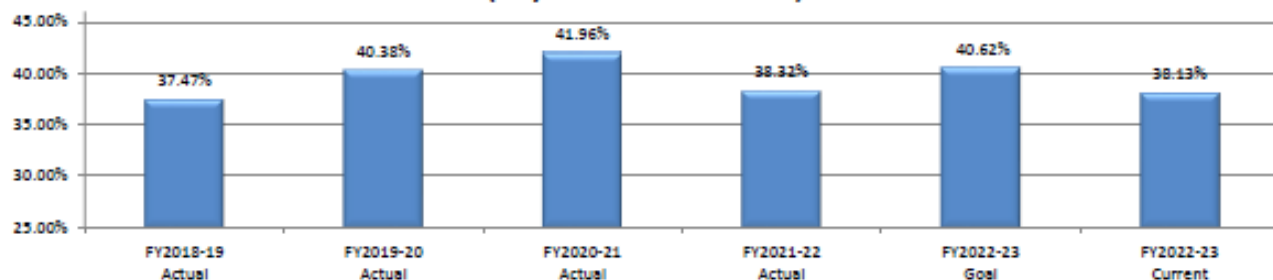


### Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2018-19 Actual	FY2019-20 Actual	FY2020-21 Actual	FY2021-22 Actual	FY2022-23 Goal	FY2022-23 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	37.47%	40.38%	41.96%	38.32%	40.62%	38.13%
Community Diversion Rate	*	*	*	*	*	*

\*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 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020
Commercial Tons Landfilled**	1,079,312	1,401,619	1,359,207
Commercial Tons Recycled**	402,292	470,786	435,875
Commercial Organics Tons**	80,906	102,215	81,436

\*\* 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 Meeting - February 2023**  
**Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report**  
FY23: October thru January  
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 Value	Net Amount Due/(Owed)	\$ per ton value	Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2022	TDS	1,594.08	\$16,460	\$79,704	(\$63,244)	(\$63,244)	(\$39.67)	\$23.89	\$38,083
	BRI	2,841.29	\$160,521	\$278,446	(\$117,925)	(\$117,925)	(\$41.50)	\$23.89	\$67,678
	Total	4,435.37	\$176,981	\$358,150	(\$181,169)	(\$181,169)			\$105,961
November 2022	TDS	1,439.59	\$14,760	\$71,980	(\$57,219)	(\$57,219)	(\$39.75)	\$23.89	\$34,392
	BRI	3,288.63	\$179,414	\$322,285	(\$142,872)	(\$142,872)	(\$43.44)	\$23.89	\$78,565
	Total	4,728.22	\$194,174	\$394,265	(\$200,091)	(\$200,091)			\$112,957
December 2022	TDS	1,033.19	\$10,266	\$51,660	(\$41,394)	(\$41,394)	(\$40.06)	\$23.89	\$24,683
	BRI	3,821.65	\$220,505	\$374,521	(\$154,016)	(\$154,016)	(\$40.30)	\$23.89	\$91,299
	Total	4,854.84	\$230,770	\$426,181	(\$195,410)	(\$195,410)			\$115,982
January 2023	TDS	2,405.61	\$24,910	\$120,281	(\$95,370)	(\$95,370)	(\$39.65)	\$23.89	\$57,470
	BRI	2,429.71	\$140,628	\$238,112	(\$97,483)	(\$97,483)	(\$40.12)	\$23.89	\$58,046
	Total	4,835.32	\$165,538	\$358,392	(\$192,854)	(\$192,854)			\$115,516
February 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
March 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
April 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
May 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
June 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
July 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
August 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
September 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
FY23 Totals		18,853.75	\$767,463	\$1,536,987	(\$769,524)	(\$769,524)			\$450,416