



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Richard McHale
Acting Director
Austin Resource Recovery

Date: May 10, 2023

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

Winter Weather Storm Update 2023

Austin Resource Recovery has completed its third and final pass through the city to collect storm debris from customers as a result of the February 2023 winter storm. Crews drove along all streets and picked up debris properly set at the curb. In addition, over 40,000 storm debris service requests were submitted through Austin 3-1-1. All existing 3-1-1 service requests for storm debris collection are now being closed.

Customers should contact Austin 3-1-1 to request a new special collection if they still have debris to be collected. Customers can enter a service request online or download the Austin 3-1-1 mobile app at austin311.org. Crews will respond to service requests through June 30, 2023. After June 30, standard City operations for curbside collections will resume.

Austin and Travis County residents can also drop off debris such as tree limbs, branches, shrubs and leaves at [Austin Water's Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant](#) at 2210 FM 973 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The facility has accepted over 4,166 tons of storm debris through 8,922 customer drop-offs.

ARR collected an unprecedented amount of debris from the 2023 winter storm. Crews have collected over 169,637 tons of debris in over 23,668 truckloads during the past three months. That is enough debris to fill Q2 stadium more than four times. ARR typically collects around 6,000 tons of material in an entire year of semiannual large brush collections.

Sites that were used as temporary storm debris storage areas to help speed up debris collection efforts are being restored. Grass seed and hydromulch have been added to Circle C Ranch Metro Park, and the grass will need time to grow. However, the walking trail has been fully restored. All storm debris has been removed from the Bolm District Park and Old Manor Road, and the sites were cleared of any litter and illegal dumping that was there prior to storm operations. The storm debris material brought to these sites was ground into mulch and transported to Austin Water's Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant, where it will be used to create Dillo Dirt™.

Storm debris collection information and updates can be found at austintexas.gov/stormdebris.

FEMA

FEMA's post-disaster grants, referred to as Public Assistance (PA) grants, cover disaster recovery and response costs. These grants have a cost-share with a 75%/25% split. In other words, FEMA covers 75% of eligible costs, and local jurisdictions are expected to pay the remaining 25%. While the default cost share split is 75%/25%, the reimbursement rate provided by FEMA is dependent on the severity of the disaster. Moreover, the cost share rate is decided by FEMA once the President declares a disaster. Hurricane Harvey, for instance, had a 90%/10% split while COVID PA had a cost share of 100%/0% (from Jan 20, 2020 – July 1, 2022). FEMA has additional guidelines in place that can affect final reimbursement. These eligibility guidelines are listed on Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at [2 CFR](#) and [44 CFR](#) as well as the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(PAPPG\)](#).

Mattress Recycling

According to the Product Stewardship Institute, “Americans send more than 50,000 mattresses to the landfill each day and less than 5% are recycled.” The different components of mattresses, foam padding, fabric/fibers, metal, and wood, all can be at least partially recycled, depending on condition. Any amount of the mattress being recycled would help. Even if only the metal springs were recycled, it would greatly reduce required landfill space needed for disposal.

Previous mattress recycling attempts made by ARR received no response to the Request for Proposal (RFP). ARR then proceeded with a Request for Information (RFI) where potential recyclers answered questions posed by the Department. The responses were used to update the scope of work for a new RFP. With this information, ARR hopes this RFP will have successful results.

The mattress recycling scope of work is currently in the final internal review process. It has been delayed because of a combination of factors including lack of vendor interest, staffing shortages resulting from Covid, and compounded by the winter storm as everyone was concentrating on response efforts. Pending next fiscal year budget approval, the solicitation process could take place later this fiscal year.

Curbside Compost Collection

The spring heavy season for Curbside Compost began in February, which is about a month earlier than normal due to the winter storm. Heavy season typically continues into the month of May. Staff have removed nearly 15,000 tons of compostable material since February. During non-peak season, employees will remove approximately 7,200 tons over a three-month period.

ARR is also reinstating the 15-item limit starting May 1st. A customer can place up to 15 extra items outside of the compost cart, which can include bags, bundles and personal containers. The item limit was suspended in February due to the winter storm.

Multi-Family Composting Public Stakeholder Meeting

The ZWAC URO Committee was scheduled to meet on May 25 to consider amendments to the code related to multi-family composting. Due to recent changes in ZWAC membership, and to ensure progression of this policy development process, the format of this meeting has been revised to be a public stakeholder meeting. A URO Committee vote is not a requirement to bring forward recommendations to ZWAC.

The public along with ZWAC Commissioners are encouraged to attend this public stakeholder meeting at 2:30pm on May 25 at the Yarrowborough Library (2200 Hancock Drive). This meeting will allow opportunity for Commissioners to listen and participate in stakeholder discussions to inform future consideration of these amendments at a full ZWAC meeting. A maximum of 5 ZWAC Commissioners may attend the May 25 meeting as not to form quorum.

Deliverables Timeline Update

To ensure consistent messaging, all commission deliverables will be reviewed by the CMO's office prior to posting. This new process requires all items to be submitted and approved for posting sooner than had been previously accustomed. Reminders will be provided to ensure all deadlines are met.



ARR Solicitations Update
As of April 24, 2023
ZWAC Meeting May 10, 2023

❖ **Solicitations in Evaluation or Negotiation:**

- N/A.

❖ **Published Solicitations:**

- [Landfill Gas Collection Services \(RFP 1500 BJT1030\)](#): 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.](#)

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

- [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. [Link to the current contract.](#)
- [Refuse and Recycling Collection Carts \(CO-OP\)](#): The Contractor shall deliver 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.](#)
- [Rental of Refuse Trucks \(CO-OP\)](#): The Contractor shall provide rental of collection trucks for refuse, recycling, organics, brush, and bulk collections services on an as-needed basis. New contract.
- [Mattresses Collection and Recycling Pilot Program \(IFB\)](#): The Contractor shall develop and implement a mattress and box spring collection and recycling pilot program. New Contract.
- [Zero waste youth education program \(RFP\)](#): The Contractor shall provide outreach and zero waste education services for students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. [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.

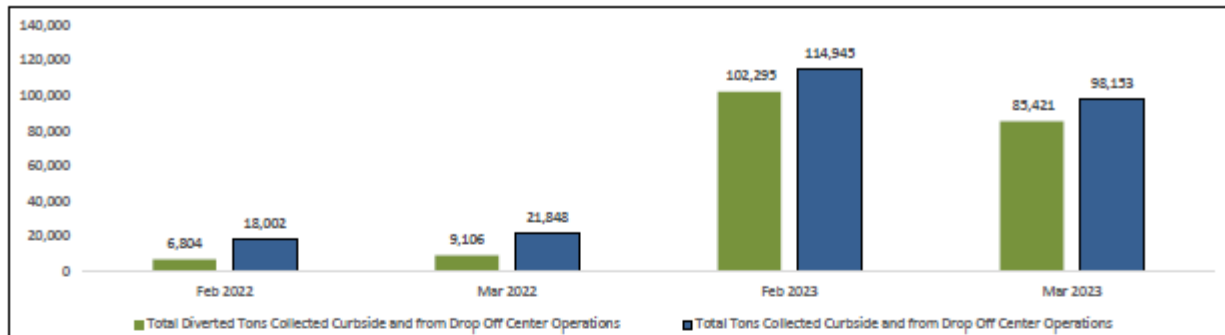
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

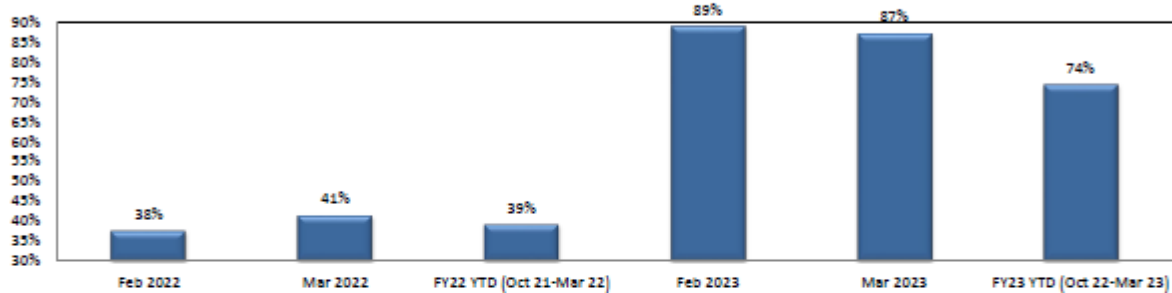
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR			
Description of Services		FY 2021	FY 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	FY22 YTD (Oct 21-Mar 22)	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	FY23 YTD (Oct 22-Mar 23)	FY 2023 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of Curbside Trash	138,955	134,125	10,050	11,693	67,746	11,249	11,722	67,496	137,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	11,651	8,197	231	12	3,085	619	150	3,189	11,444
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	765	613	43	48	292	32	61	266	580
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,321	11,474	875	989	5,786	750	798	4,952	10,803
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	162,693	154,409	11,198	12,742	76,909	12,649	12,731	75,904	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	3,543	3,994	23,935	3,579	3,951	22,988	51,197
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,323	1,607	89	145	769	98	114	677	1,500
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	563	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons Recycled/Reused	222	341	18	27	124	19	34	172	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	1,784	1,788	102	172	829	102	142	759	1,715
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	56,481	43,548	2,727	4,888	22,573	4,776	7,315	26,257	51,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	323	168	5	0	71	14	7	90	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	8,339	5,636	399	40	2,438	93,820	73,990	169,083	7,009
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	42	47	3	3	17	3	3	27	40
	Tons of Carts Recycled	163	172	25	8	104	0	15	56	200
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	118,841	97,333	6,804	9,106	49,968	102,295	85,421	219,260	111,416
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		281,534	251,742	18,002	21,848	126,877	114,945	98,153	295,163	271,243
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		41.96%	38.32%	37.53%	41.38%	39.07%	89.01%	87.06%	74.29%	40.62%
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup		25.52	24.32	21.93	25.45	24.65	24.18	25.20	24.26	24.58
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		209,419	212,139	211,508	212,081	211,383	214,732	214,708	213,975	214,346
Pounds of Recycled Materials Collected per Customer per Pickup (every other week)		19.10	16.77	15.56	17.49	17.52	15.48	17.09	16.63	18.48
Pounds of Curbside Compost Collected per Customer per Week		10.43	7.94	5.99	10.70	8.26	10.33	15.82	9.50	9.20
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		208,209	210,876	210,238	210,807	210,128	213,449	213,414	212,691	213,130
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA Rights-of-Way and the Animal Shelter		31	51	3	4	22	6	7	38	30

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

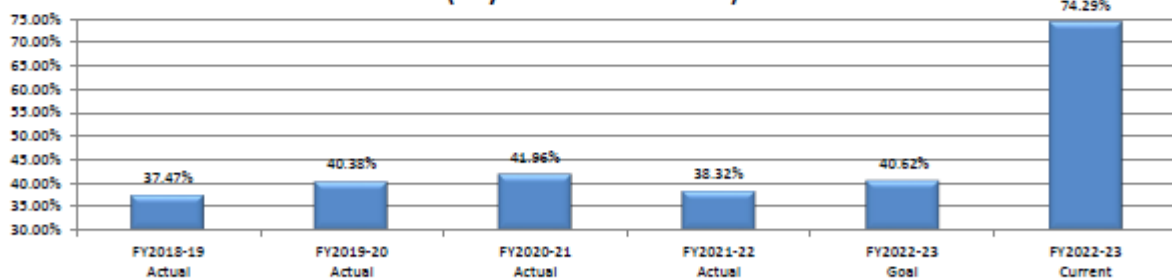


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

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%	74.29%
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 - May 2023

Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY23: October thru March

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 Value	Net Amount Due/(Owed)*		Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2022	TDS	1,594.08	\$16,460	\$79,704	(\$63,244)	(\$63,244)	(\$39.67)	\$23.89	\$38,063
	BRI	2,841.29	\$160,521	\$278,446	(\$117,925)	(\$117,925)	(\$41.50)	\$23.89	\$67,878
	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	2,131.33	\$23,276	\$106,567	(\$83,291)	(\$83,291)	(\$39.08)	\$23.89	\$50,917
	BRI	2,197.58	\$133,079	\$215,363	(\$82,283)	(\$82,283)	(\$37.44)	\$23.89	\$52,500
	Total	4,328.91	\$156,355	\$321,929	(\$165,574)	(\$165,574)			\$103,418
March 2023	TDS	1,048.32	\$12,226	\$52,416	(\$40,190)	(\$40,190)	(\$38.34)	\$23.89	\$25,044
	BRI	3,700.68	\$234,129	\$362,657	(\$128,528)	(\$128,528)	(\$34.73)	\$23.89	\$88,407
	Total	4,748.90	\$246,355	\$415,073	(\$168,718)	(\$168,718)			\$113,451
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		27,931.56	\$1,170,174	\$2,273,990	(\$1,103,816)	(\$1,103,816)			\$667,285