



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Richard McHale
Interim Director
Austin Resource Recovery

Date: August 9, 2023

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

MoveOutATX

MoveOutATX 2023 was undertaken July 28 – 31 in the west campus area of Austin near the University of Texas. This year's program partnered with 8 reuse organizations to receive material at 8 donation stations. One of the donations stations included the Free Furniture Market. This market, which debuted in 2023, featured a new "evening shopping period" that was well attended. Based on preliminary data, the event overall has tracked similar to participation rates in 2022. Staff anticipates having official data available in September.

Shoal Creek Conservancy "Shopping Cart Corral"

Shoal Creek Conservancy hosted the inaugural "Shopping Cart Corral" on July 29 in partnership with Austin Watershed Protection Department and Austin Resource Recovery. This effort was inspired by the 2022 Trash in Creeks study completed by Watershed Protection, that identified over 500 shopping carts found throughout Austin's creeks. On July 29 volunteers gathered at five locations along Shoal Creek to remove shopping carts from the waterway. Shoal Creek Conservancy intends to share data from the event at a future date.

Brownie Drive Transition to Cart Services

A community of four-plexes serviced by Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) transitioned from dumpster to cart service in June. Notifications were sent to property owners and residents prior to this transition. The dumpsters were removed, and carts were delivered the week of June 19, 2023, and the first day of service was June 29, 2023. During cart delivery, staff attached general information about ARR services to the carts and left notifications of delivery on residents' doors.

ARR hosted a multi-department community event on June 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to support community members in this transition. 125 participants attended the event and ARR staff engaged an additional 30 community members on foot in the neighborhood during the event. Booths were hosted by ARR, CODE, Mobile Court, Animal Services, APD, Austin Energy, PARD, APL and Austin FC. Food was provided through vendors Ditty Dog hotdog cart, Mom & Pops Paletas and Water Monster. ARR provided information on services and handed out kitchen compost collectors.

The City will continue to educate residents about how to properly use their new carts through mailers sharing tips targeting contaminants seen in the area. Additional outreach will be done as needed.

Composting and Food Recovery Outreach Campaigns

Multiple public outreach campaigns are being run this summer from May thru September with a focus on compost, food recovery and reducing compost contamination. While variations in outreach exist based on audience these campaigns were advertised online (Nextdoor, Facebook and LinkedIn) in print publications (El Mundo and Edible Austin), on CapMetro busses and billboards around Austin.

The top banner is split into two sections. The left section has a green background with yellow text that reads "Your food is too good to waste." and "Learn more" with a link to [AustinTexas.gov/FoodRecovery](https://austintexas.gov/foodrecovery). It features images of a "Kernel Corn" can, pineapples, and tomatoes. The right section has a dark green background with large yellow and white text that reads "DONATE YOUR BUSINESS' EXCESS FOOD" and "AustinTexas.gov/FoodRecovery". It features images of various food items like corn, eggs, tomatoes, and a milk carton, along with the City of Austin logo.

The bottom banner is a green arrow pointing downwards. Inside the arrow, it says "IF IT GROWS IT GOES IN THE GREEN CART" with an illustration of a green trash can. To the right of the arrow, there are images of food scraps like meat, bones, and vegetable peels. Below the arrow, it says "Learn more at [AustinTexas.gov/Composting](https://austintexas.gov/composting)" and includes the Austin Resource Recovery logo.

Annual Curbside Customer Mailer

Each year, Austin Resource Recovery send out a large-scale mailer to educate curbside customers about zero waste and the circular economy. This year the focus of this mailer was focused on replacing single use plastic with more sustainable options. This mailer was delivered to residents in May 2023.

The mailer has a blue and yellow color scheme. At the top, it shows images of a reusable water bottle, a reusable cup, and a reusable bag. Below these images, the text reads "REPLACE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS". At the bottom left, it says "Please RECYCLE! THIS MAILER!". At the bottom right, it says "AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY". In the center, there is a "PERMIT TO U.S. POSTAGE PAID" stamp from Austin, TX.

The mailer is divided into three main sections: REFUSE, REUSE, and RECYCLE. The REFUSE section has a blue background with a white hand icon and text that says "REFUSE" and "Simple shifts away from unnecessary items can reduce the materials heading to landfills." The REUSE section has a blue background with a white bottle icon and text that says "REUSE" and "For items that cannot be refused, consider creative ways to reuse them instead of disposal." The RECYCLE section has a blue background with a white recycling symbol icon and text that says "RECYCLE" and "Recycle the plastic you can't avoid." At the bottom, there is a QR code and a link to [AustinTexas.gov/plastic](https://austintexas.gov/plastic).



ARR Solicitations Update
As of July 25, 2023
ZWAC Meeting August 9, 2023

❖ **Solicitations in Evaluation or Negotiation:**

- [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.](#)
- [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.](#)

❖ **Published Solicitations:**

[N/A.](#)

❖ **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.](#)
- [Rental of Refuse Trucks \(CO-OP\)](#): The Contractor shall provide the rental of collection trucks for refuse, recycling, organics, brush, and bulk collections services on an as-needed basis. 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.](#)
- [Reverse Pitch Challenge – Planning and Hosting Services \(RFP\)](#): The Contractor shall plan and host sustainability and circular economy-related pitch programs and events annually to support circular economy entrepreneurial and industry development [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.

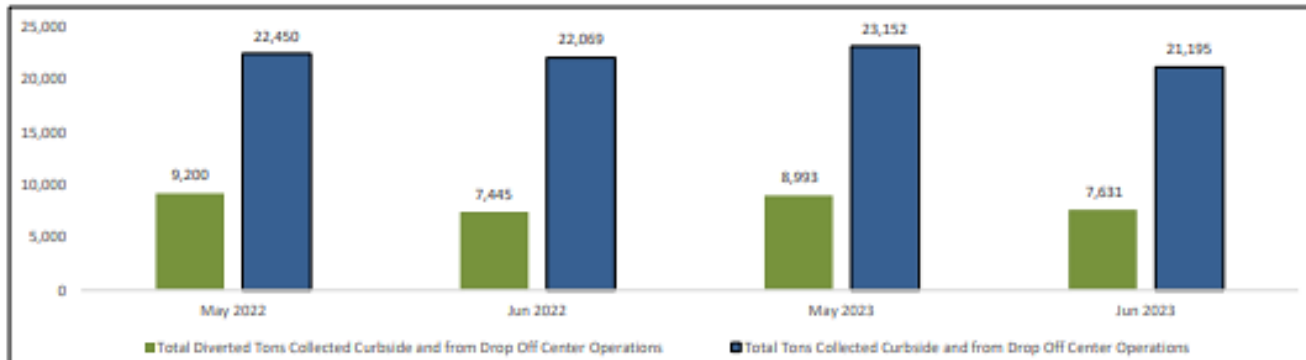
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

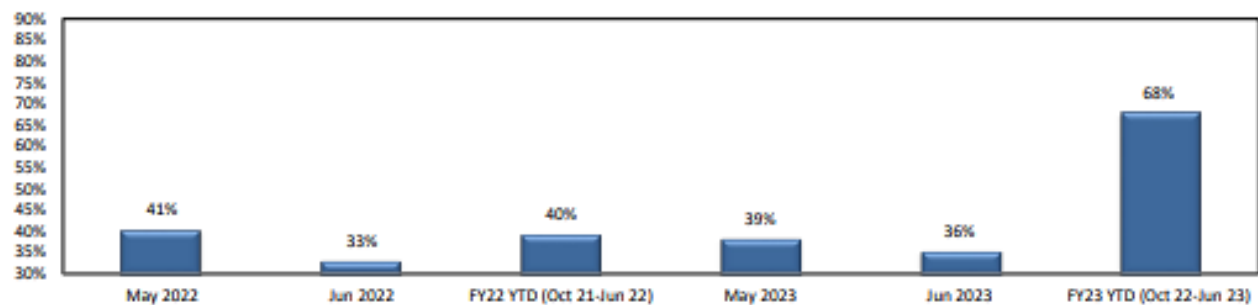
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR			
		FY 2021	FY 2022	May 2022	Jun 2022	FY22 YTD (Oct 21-Jun 22)	May 2023	Jun 2023	FY23 YTD (Oct 22-Jun 23)	FY 2023 Goal
Description of Services										
Tons Disposed	Tons of Curbside Trash	138,955	134,125	11,742	11,432	101,796	12,178	11,353	101,459	137,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	11,651	8,197	464	2,144	5,702	882	1,192	5,767	11,444
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	765	613	46	64	449	45	55	414	580
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,321	11,474	998	985	8,670	1,053	964	7,894	10,803
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	162,693	154,409	13,250	14,624	116,617	14,159	13,564	115,534	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	3,948	3,715	35,373	3,797	3,489	33,585	51,197
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,323	1,607	149	135	1,167	120	161	1,094	1,500
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	563	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons Recycled/Reused	222	341	35	35	232	47	41	297	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	1,784	1,788	172	144	1,297	145	156	1,226	1,715
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	56,481	43,548	4,200	2,822	36,417	3,967	3,066	37,904	51,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	323	168	13	26	110	22	46	165	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	8,339	5,636	853	724	4,017	1,042	843	173,658	7,009
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	42	47	5	5	32	4	5	39	40
	Tons of Carts Recycled	163	172	9	9	139	17	26	124	200
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		118,841	97,333	9,200	7,445	77,385	8,993	7,631	246,700	111,416
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		281,534	251,742	22,450	22,069	194,002	23,152	21,195	362,234	271,243
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		41.96%	38.32%	40.61%	33.40%	39.58%	38.53%	35.62%	68.07%	40.62%
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup		25.52	24.32	25.53	24.79	24.66	26.08	24.23	24.25	24.58
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		209,419	212,139	212,303	212,883	211,727	215,551	216,236	214,529	214,346
Pounds of Recycled Materials Collected per Customer per Pickup (every other week)		19.10	16.77	17.27	16.20	17.24	16.36	14.98	16.15	18.48
Pounds of Curbside Compost Collected per Customer per Week		10.43	7.94	9.18	6.15	8.87	8.55	6.58	9.12	9.20
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		208,209	210,876	211,053	211,633	210,468	214,217	214,934	213,235	213,130
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA Rights-of-Way and the Animal Shelter		31	51	5	5	36	8	6	57	30

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

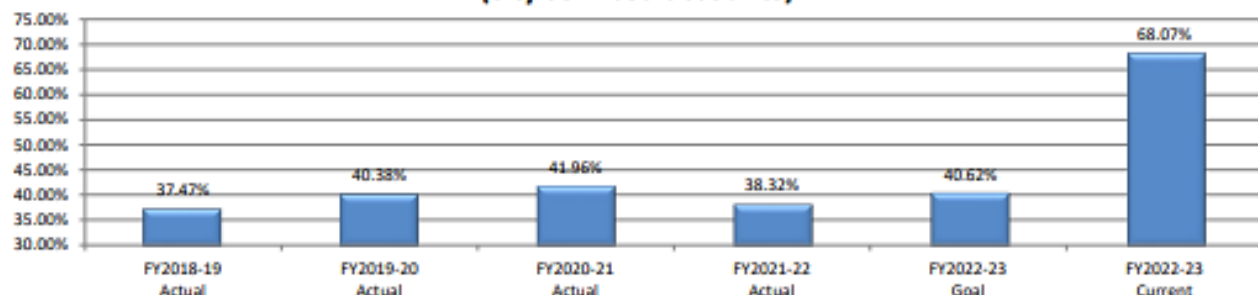


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

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%	68.07%
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 - July 2023

Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY23: October thru May *REVISED*

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)	\$26.00	\$41,446
	BRI	2,841.29	\$160,521	\$278,446	(\$117,925)	(\$117,925)	(\$41.50)	\$26.00	\$73,874
	Total	4,435.37	\$176,981	\$358,150	(\$181,169)	(\$181,169)			\$115,320
November 2022	TDS	1,439.59	\$14,760	\$71,980	(\$57,219)	(\$57,219)	(\$39.75)	\$26.00	\$37,429
	BRI	3,288.63	\$179,414	\$322,285	(\$142,872)	(\$142,872)	(\$43.44)	\$26.00	\$85,504
	Total	4,728.22	\$194,174	\$394,265	(\$200,091)	(\$200,091)			\$122,934
December 2022	TDS	1,033.19	\$10,266	\$51,660	(\$41,394)	(\$41,394)	(\$40.05)	\$26.00	\$26,863
	BRI	3,821.65	\$220,505	\$374,521	(\$154,016)	(\$154,016)	(\$40.30)	\$26.00	\$99,363
	Total	4,854.84	\$230,770	\$426,181	(\$195,410)	(\$195,410)			\$126,226
January 2023	TDS	2,405.61	\$24,910	\$120,281	(\$95,370)	(\$95,370)	(\$39.65)	\$26.00	\$62,546
	BRI	2,429.71	\$140,628	\$238,112	(\$97,483)	(\$97,483)	(\$40.12)	\$26.00	\$63,172
	Total	4,835.32	\$165,538	\$358,392	(\$192,854)	(\$192,854)			\$125,718
February 2023	TDS	2,131.33	\$23,276	\$106,567	(\$83,291)	(\$83,291)	(\$39.08)	\$26.00	\$55,415
	BRI	2,197.58	\$133,079	\$215,363	(\$82,283)	(\$82,283)	(\$37.44)	\$26.00	\$57,137
	Total	4,328.91	\$156,355	\$321,929	(\$165,574)	(\$165,574)			\$112,552
March 2023	TDS	1,048.32	\$12,226	\$52,416	(\$40,190)	(\$40,190)	(\$38.34)	\$26.00	\$27,256
	BRI	3,700.58	\$234,129	\$362,657	(\$128,528)	(\$128,528)	(\$34.73)	\$26.00	\$96,215
	Total	4,748.90	\$246,355	\$415,073	(\$168,718)	(\$168,718)			\$123,471
April 2023	TDS	1,049.69	\$13,407	\$52,485	(\$39,078)	(\$39,078)	(\$37.23)	\$26.00	\$27,292
	BRI	3,185.63	\$214,322	\$312,191	(\$97,869)	(\$97,869)	(\$30.72)	\$26.00	\$82,826
	Total	4,235.32	\$227,729	\$364,676	(\$136,947)	(\$136,947)			\$110,118
May 2023	TDS	1,480.23	\$19,428	\$74,012	(\$54,584)	(\$54,584)	(\$36.88)	\$26.00	\$38,486
	BRI	3,359.89	\$230,822	\$330,249	(\$99,427)	(\$99,427)	(\$29.50)	\$26.00	\$87,617
	Total	4,850.12	\$250,250	\$404,261	(\$154,011)	(\$154,011)			\$126,103
June 2023	TDS	1,537.41	\$20,545	\$76,871	(\$56,325)	(\$56,325)	(\$36.64)	\$27.43	\$42,171
	BRI	2,915.75	\$205,563	\$285,741	(\$80,178)	(\$80,178)	(\$27.50)	\$27.43	\$79,979
	Total	4,453.16	\$226,108	\$362,612	(\$136,504)	(\$136,504)			\$122,150
July 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$27.43	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$27.43	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
August 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$27.43	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$27.43	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
September 2023	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$27.43	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$27.43	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
FY23 Totals		41,470.16	\$1,874,260	\$3,405,538	(\$1,531,277)	(\$1,531,277)			\$1,084,592