



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Richard McHale
Director
Austin Resource Recovery

Date: September 13, 2023

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

Curbside Composting – Pet Waste

Austin Resource Recovery's Curbside Composting Collection Program collects food scraps, yard trimmings, food-soiled paper, and natural fibers and converts them into nutrient-rich compost. Because materials are processed in a commercial composting facility, extremely high temperatures are reached, allowing Austinites to compost items like meat, dairy, seafood, and bones that typically cannot be composted in a backyard. Austin Resource Recovery cart-based customers can include some pet-waste related items in their curbside compost bin such as paper or wood shavings used to line pet cages. Wood-based cat litter is acceptable; however, clay cat litter is not accepted as this material does not break down during the composting process. Pet waste is not currently accepted by the City. This is due to the common occurrence of dog waste in plastic bags. A majority of bags used to collect pet waste on walks are not compostable. Though some compostable bags do exist, they are not easily discernable from plastic bags leading to contamination challenges for the compost processor. Customers should dispose of pet waste by placing it in the trash cart for weekly collection. For a full list of acceptable items, please visit austinrecycles.com.

MoveOutATX

MoveOutATX 2023 took place July 28-31, 2023. The event provided eight drop-off stations for University of Texas west and north campus residents to bring donations, which were distributed among eight reuse organizations. This year featured the second annual Free Furniture Market, which offered donated furniture items to members of the public at no cost. In addition, staff piloted offering in-lobby donation collection for toiletries, cleaning supplies, and nonperishable food items.

Results:

- 22 tons of material diverted
- 935 lbs. of hygiene and cleaning supplies were collected by Austin Area Urban League, acting on behalf of Austin Public Health, and distributed at Bridge Shelter
- \$60,655.11 estimated economic value of material given a second life
- 634 pieces of furniture diverted: 549 pieces given to community members and 85 more processed by a participating reuse organization
- 856 visitors to the Free Furniture Market
- 1159 drop-offs at the donation stations

Circular Austin Showcase

The third annual Circular Showcase took place in partnership with Austin Young Chamber on August 29. This year's application process turned out double the entries of past years, likely due to the increase in the cash prize. Mason Arnold, owner of The Conscious Pet, claimed the \$12,000 first-place prize. The Conscious Pet partners with local restaurants to upcycle surplus food scraps into dehydrated dog food. The judges awarded [RE]verse Pitch Innovation Fellow, Kelly Rytlewski, founder of Heartening, second place and \$1,000 for her business concept turning surplus

pallets into outdoor furniture. This year's finalist also included: Diaperkind, Dispoze, Frontier Resource Recovery, Pyrocycling, Sleep Never, and Wanderlust Wine Co. Over 80 attendees came to the event.

Reddit AMA

Austin Resource Recovery PIO staff was available to answer questions about what goes in the green composting cart during a Reddit AMA on August 22.

The Reddit thread had:

- * 100 comments
- * 32.7k views
- * 84% upvote
- * 30.2k community karma
- * 24 shares
- * Staff answered around 50 questions from Austinites during and following the AMA.

Don't Bag Your Recyclables

In September, Austin Resource Recovery will launch a month-long recycling contamination campaign, reminding Austinites not to bag their recycling. 14 billboard posters and ads on Cap Metro buses will be featured.





ARR Solicitations Update
As of August 23, 2023
ZWAC Meeting September 13, 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.](#)

❖ **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.
- [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.](#)
- [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.](#)
- [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.](#)

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.

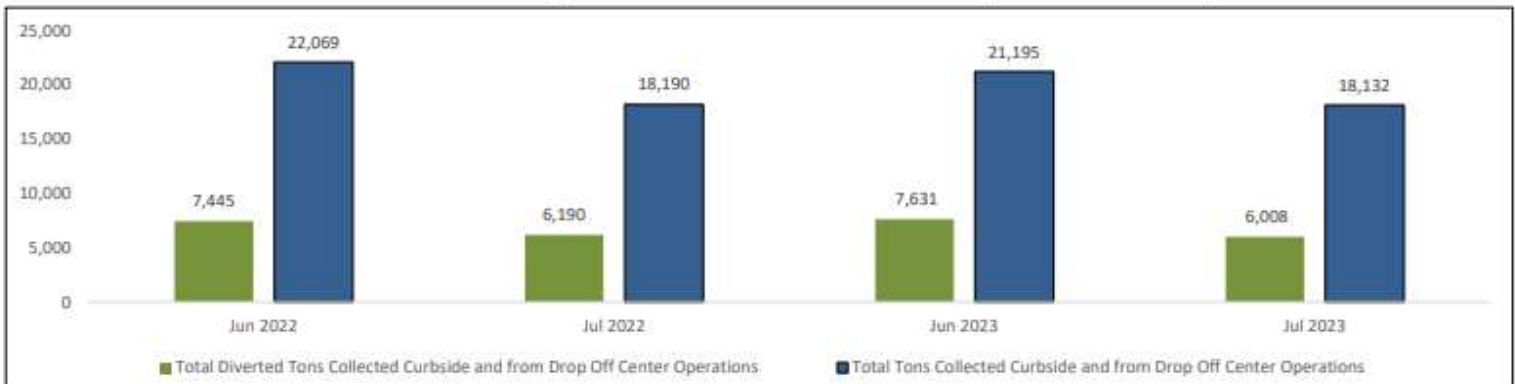
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

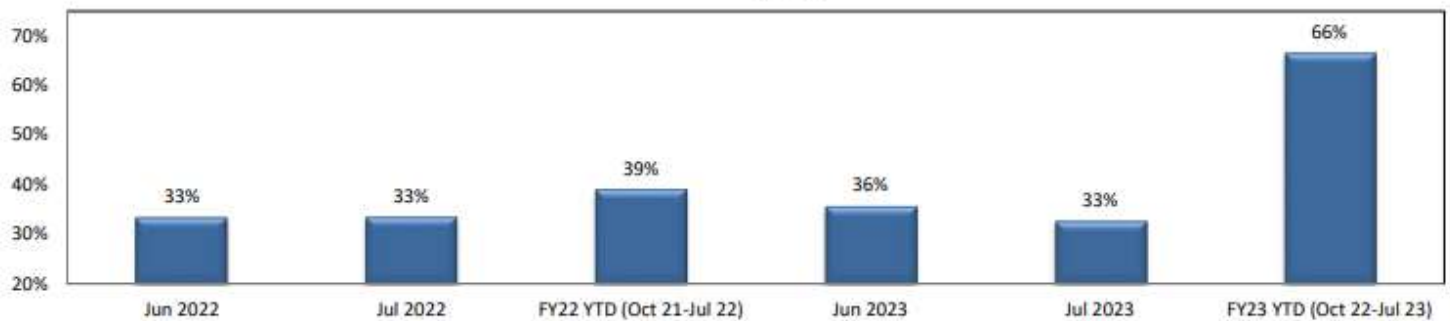
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
Description of Services		FY 2021	FY 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	FY22 YTD (Oct 21-Jul 22)	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	FY23 YTD (Oct 22-Jul 23)	FY 2023 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of Curbside Trash	138,955	134,125	11,432	10,240	112,036	11,353	10,393	111,852	137,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	11,651	8,197	2,144	834	6,536	1,192	832	6,599	11,444
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	765	613	64	52	501	55	36	450	580
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,321	11,474	985	873	9,543	964	863	8,756	10,803
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	162,693	154,409	14,624	11,999	128,616	13,564	12,124	127,658	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	3,715	3,313	38,686	3,489	3,155	36,740	51,197
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,323	1,607	135	176	1,344	161	142	1,235	1,500
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	563	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons Recycled/Reused	222	341	35	29	261	41	35	332	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	1,784	1,788	144	174	1,472	156	154	1,380	1,715
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	56,481	43,548	2,822	2,051	38,468	3,066	2,226	40,130	51,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	323	168	26	31	141	46	22	187	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	8,339	5,636	724	607	4,623	843	444	174,102	7,009
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	42	47	5	6	38	5	8	46	40
	Tons of Carts Recycled	163	172	9	8	147	26	0	124	200
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	118,841	97,333	7,445	6,190	83,575	7,631	6,008	252,709	111,416
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		281,534	251,742	22,069	18,190	212,192	21,195	18,132	380,367	271,243
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		41.96%	38.32%	33.40%	33.49%	39.06%	35.62%	32.63%	66.39%	40.62%
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup		25.52	24.32	24.79	22.16	24.41	24.23	22.15	24.04	24.58
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		209,419	212,139	212,883	213,247	211,879	216,236	216,594	214,735	214,346
Pounds of Recycled Materials Collected per Customer per Pickup (every other week)		19.10	16.77	16.20	14.43	16.96	14.98	13.53	15.89	18.48
Pounds of Curbside Compost Collected per Customer per Week		10.43	7.94	6.15	4.47	8.43	6.58	4.77	8.68	9.20
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		208,209	210,876	211,633	211,958	210,617	214,934	215,252	213,437	213,130
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA Rights-of-Way and the Animal Shelter		31	51	5	6	42	6	5	62	30

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

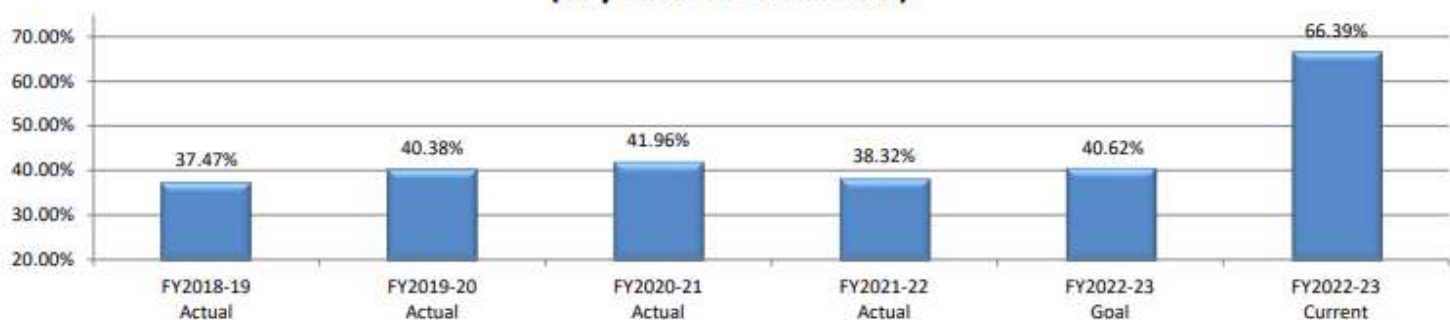


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

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%	66.39%
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 - August 2023

Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY23: October thru July *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)	(\$40.08)	\$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	3,369.89	\$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	1,866.64	\$21,387	\$93,332	(\$71,945)	(\$71,945)	(\$38.54)	\$27.43	\$51,202
	BRI	2,150.58	\$122,949	\$210,757	(\$87,808)	(\$87,808)	(\$40.83)	\$27.43	\$58,990
	Total	4,017.22	\$144,336	\$304,089	(\$159,753)	(\$159,753)			\$110,192
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		45,487.38	\$2,018,597	\$3,709,627	(\$1,691,030)	(\$1,691,030)			\$1,194,785