



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Richard McHale
Director
Austin Resource Recovery

Date: February 7, 2024

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

Multifamily Composting

ARR hosted a February 6 webinar for Austin Apartment Association property manager members. ARR will offer additional webinar opportunities to educate property managers across the city about the new multifamily composting rules.

Brownie Drive

ARR sent three educational mailers addressing compost and recycling contamination and has one more planned. ARR has provided these materials in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. ARR also promoted/participated in an Austin Code-led cleanup in the area on January 20. We will continue to monitor proper recycling and composting in the neighborhood, and we will address any ongoing issues as needed.

Recognition

- Assistant Director Gena McKinley was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Recycling Coalition, a non-profit organization that is focused on the promotion and enhancement of recycling in the United States.
- Assistant Director Ron Romero was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Texas Public Work Association, a non-profit organization that is focused on local government public work and solid waste activities.
- Director Richard McHale was given the 2023 Phil Parmer Volunteer Service Award from the Capital Area Planning Council of Governments in appreciation for leadership and dedication to regional environmental and solid waste planning.

Historic Preservation Plan

The Planning Department will be providing a briefing regarding the Equity-Based Preservation Plan. This presentation is scheduled for the April 2024 ZWAC meeting. This is of interest as topic deferred in the November 2023 meeting.

Compensation Update

With the Director's approval, ARR HR worked with HRD Compensation and received approval on a few priorities to help combat hard-to-fill positions.

I. Shift Differential Expansion Approval

For employees who work the overnight shift in Litter Abatement, ARR was approved to pay the shift differential for the entire shift instead of partially paying the shift differential because the shift crosses over to the morning.

II. Employee Referral Incentive

To encourage employee referrals and attract qualified candidates, ARR created an employee Referral Incentive. Eligible employees who successfully refer candidates meeting the specified criteria will have the option to choose between two attractive incentives:

One-time Lump Sum Payment:

Amount: \$300.00 per referred employee

Administrative Leave (ADL):

12 hours of Administrative Leave per referred employee

III. Employee Retention Incentive

The retention incentive began on 5/12/2022 as per the following:

Up to \$3,000 Retention Incentive based on continuous employment in one of the approved titles: (Current approved Operations titles: ARR Operator Associate, ARR Operator Trainee, ARR Operator, ARR Operator Senior, and ARR Crew Leader)

- \$500 – First payout after 6 months
- \$500 – Second payout at 12 months
- \$1000 - Third payout at 2-years
- \$1000 – Fourth payout at 3-years

IV. Pay Parity Adjustments Due to Living Wage Increase

With the FY24 living wage adjustment to \$20.80, it was identified that some employees (14) in the ARR Operator Family of jobs had salaries that would fall below the compensation offered to new hires. HRD approved compensation adjustments for the affected ARR Operators.

Austin Resource Recovery EPA Grant

City of Austin staff met with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff in late January to discuss the grant award for the Austin Reuse Warehouse. The EPA anticipates having the Cooperative Agreement/Terms and Conditions ready for City execution in March 2024. In anticipation of this City staff will present a Request for Council Action (RCA) to City Council on February 29. This will formally amend the department budget to accommodate the grant award. City staff is in the early stages of scheduling a grant “big check” press conference, with the EPA, at City Hall on March 27 to formally announce the grant to the public.



ARR Solicitation Updates

As of January 26, 2024
ZWAC Meeting February 7, 2024

❖ Preparing for Council:

- 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 ARR service area. [New contract.](#)
- Refuse, Recycling, and Organic Carts (CO-OP): The Contractor shall deliver residential refuse, recycling, and organic 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.](#)
- Zero Waste Youth Education Program (RFP): This contract provides outreach and zero waste education services for students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. [Link to the current contract.](#)

❖ Published:

- Rigid Plastics Recycling Services: This contract is for the pickup, handling, transporting, recycling, processing, reusing, or reselling, and disposal of Plastics collected by ARR from citizens residing in Austin and Travis County. [Link to the current contract.](#)

❖ Expected to be Published Within 90 days:

- Compost Processing Services: This contract shall provide all skills, manpower, equipment, supplies, vehicles, transportation, utility services, and all resources necessary to successfully accept, screen, sort, and process, as well as to successfully market, sell, analyze, and report on, the amount of Compost Materials delivered to the Contractor by the City. [Link to the current contract.](#)
- Latex Paint Recycling: Contractor shall recycle Latex Paint to increase the City's rate of diversion and shall create marketable product that can be sold to offset the cost of creating that product. [Link to the current contract.](#)

❖ Expected to be Published Within 90 days: Continued

- Curbside Textiles Collection Program: The Contractor shall provide everything necessary to successfully collect, grade, sort, and bale soft textile recyclables ("Textiles") and shall sell the Textiles collected through the Program to secondary markets for repurposing, resale, and/or reuse. The Contractor may also collect, grade, and sort other recoverable materials ("Recoverable Materials"), excluding electronics and automobiles, that are not currently recycled through a curbside service by ARR (e.g., housewares, small appliances, books, or furniture) and shall sell Recoverable Materials collected through the Program to secondary markets for repurposing, resale, and/or reuse. [Link to the current contract.](#)

- Daily Drop-off of Unacceptable Bulk Waste Materials Collected through Dumpster or Roll-off Service:
This contract will fill a Materials coverage gap in the City's current landfill contract where material collected via dumpsters or roll-off services are not accepted. This contract will not include Class I Industrial Waste. [New 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.

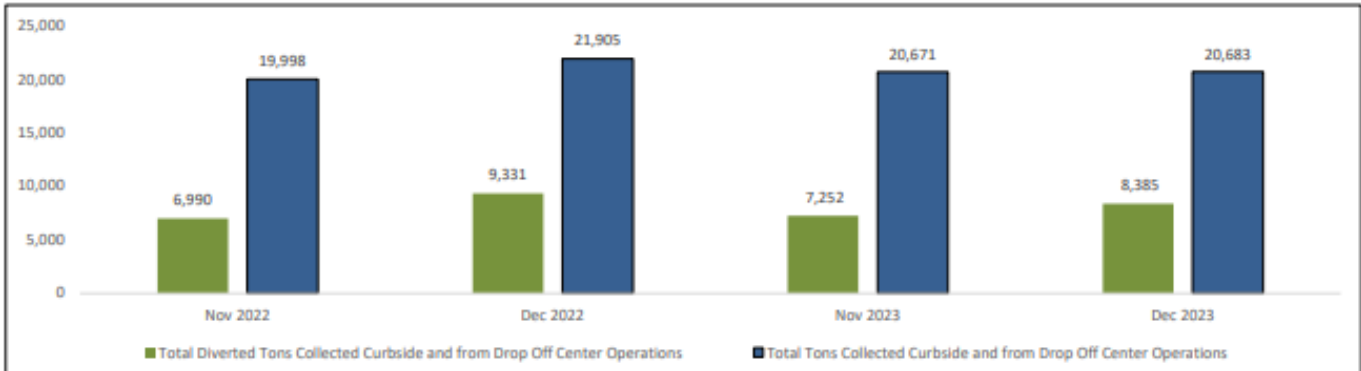
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

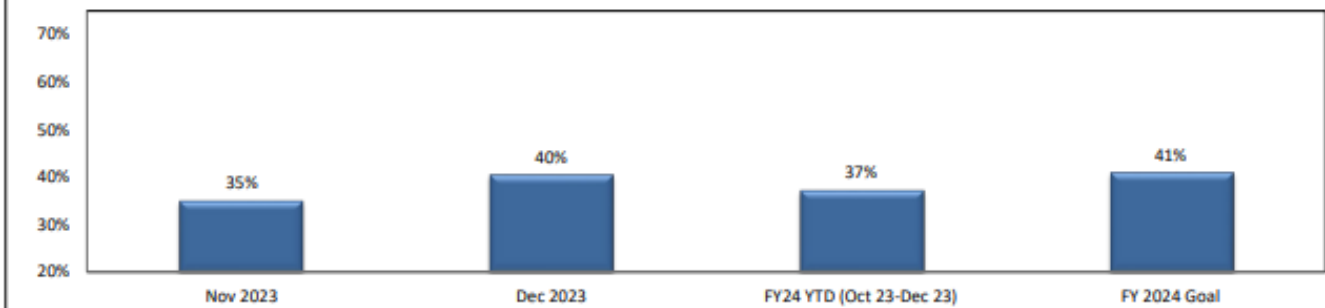
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
Description of Services		FY 2022	FY 2023	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	FY23 YTD (Oct 22-Dec 22)	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	FY24 YTD (Oct 23-Dec 23)	FY 2024 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of Curbside Trash	134,125	132,867	11,578	11,285	33,174	11,770	10,948	33,794	137,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,197	8,383	590	431	1,690	720	446	1,920	11,444
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	613	540	38	42	122	38	27	100	580
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,474	10,553	802	815	2,567	891	877	2,765	11,269
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	154,409	152,343	13,008	12,574	37,552	13,419	12,299	38,579	160,293
*Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit										
Tons Diverted	Tons of Curbside Recycling	45,974	53,839	3,926	4,039	11,460	3,655	3,623	10,813	50,731
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,607	1,528	51	161	324	147	147	407	1,500
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons Recycled/Reused	341	384	23	30	80	26	23	69	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	1,788	1,691	55	180	360	143	160	428	1,715
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	43,548	44,445	2,693	4,824	9,975	2,989	3,990	9,825	51,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	168	221	19	11	44	30	10	49	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	5,636	175,089	293	253	947	418	585	1,772	7,009
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	47	58	4	8	16	1	0	6	40
	Tons of Carts Recycled	172	124	0	17	25	15	16	38	200
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	97,333	275,466	6,990	9,331	22,828	7,252	8,385	22,930	110,950
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		251,742	427,809	19,998	21,905	60,380	20,671	20,683	61,509	271,243
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		38.32%	63.42%	34.84%	42.21%	37.51%	34.70%	40.16%	36.90%	40.62%
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup		24.32	23.76	25.04	24.36	23.91	26.35	23.32	24.45	24.58
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		212,139	215,063	213,606	213,955	213,471	206,287	216,851	212,672	214,346
Pounds of Recycled Materials Collected per Customer per Pickup (every other week)		16.77	19.37	17.08	17.55	16.62	16.48	15.53	15.74	18.31
Pounds of Curbside Compost Collected per Customer per Week		7.94	8.00	5.86	10.48	7.23	6.74	8.55	7.15	9.20
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		210,876	213,758	212,311	212,640	212,175	204,913	215,485	211,304	213,130
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA		51	71	6	6	18	7	6	19	30

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

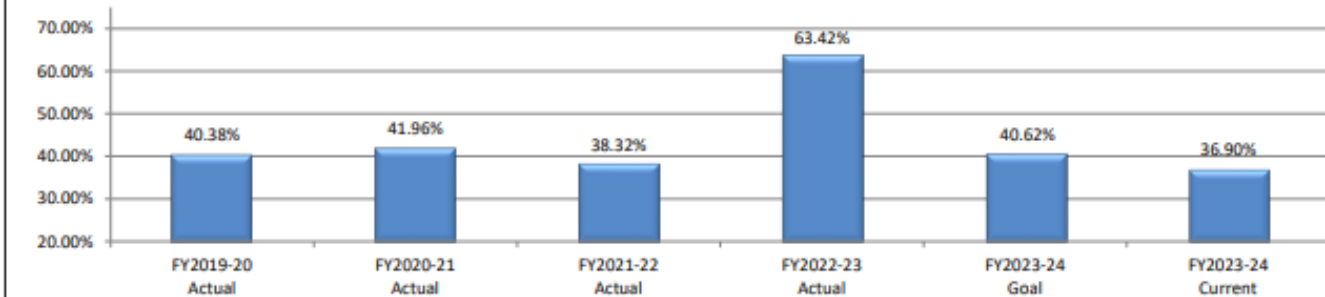


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2019-20 Actual	FY2020-21 Actual	FY2021-22 Actual	FY2022-23 Actual	FY2023-24 Goal	FY2023-24 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	40.38%	41.96%	38.32%	63.42%	40.62%	36.90%
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 2024
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report
FY24: October thru December
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 2023	TDS	2,178.64	\$25,471	\$108,932	(\$83,461)	(\$83,461)	(\$38.31)	\$23.89	\$52,048
	BRI	2,352.91	\$163,809	\$230,585	(\$66,776)	(\$66,776)	(\$28.38)	\$23.89	\$56,211
	Total	4,531.55	\$189,280	\$339,517	(\$150,237)	(\$150,237)			\$108,259
November 2023	TDS	1,943.57	\$26,244	\$97,179	(\$70,935)	(\$70,935)	(\$36.50)	\$23.89	\$46,432
	BRI	2,602.27	\$219,087	\$255,023	(\$35,936)	(\$35,936)	(\$13.81)	\$23.89	\$62,168
	Total	4,545.84	\$245,330	\$352,201	(\$106,871)	(\$106,871)			\$108,600
December 2023	TDS	1,942.49	\$27,749	\$97,125	(\$69,375)	(\$69,375)	(\$35.71)	\$23.89	\$46,406
	BRI	2,542.48	\$223,946	\$249,163	(\$25,216)	(\$25,216)	(\$9.92)	\$23.89	\$60,740
	Total	4,484.97	\$251,695	\$346,287	(\$94,592)	(\$94,592)			\$107,146
January 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
February 2024	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 2024	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 2024	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 2024	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 2024	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 2024	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 2024	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 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!	\$23.89	\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
FY24 Totals		13,562.36	\$686,306	\$1,038,006	(\$351,699)	(\$351,699)			\$324,005