

# Consumption Working Group Environmental Plan Proposals

April 22, 2024

Proposal	Benefit	Cost
<p><b>ARR Fleet Electrification:</b> Replace all 300 heavy duty Austin Resource Recovery vehicles (flatbed trucks and refuse trucks) with electric vehicles. Install appropriate heavy-duty charging infrastructure to charge these vehicles.</p> <p>Plan: Austin Climate Equity Plan.</p>	<p>Nearly 1 million (968,400) tons CO2 emissions avoided. air pollution reduction (health benefits), reduced maintenance, lower heat exposure for ARR workers (better AC during hot weather)</p>	<p>\$204.5M for trucks and \$60 million for chargers to be phased in over 8 years. Funding is available from TCEQ now, and prices are likely to decrease over time, but we need to apply for grant funding now to cover getting started. May be biannual (every other year) opportunity in the future.</p>
<p>Circular economy &amp; waste reduction programs</p> <p>A recent greenhouse gas inventory conducted by the Office of Sustainability indicates that Scope 3 emissions (emissions that result from the production and transportation of the products and services we use) are larger than the Scope 1 and 2 emissions that have traditionally been part of the GHG inventory. The Austin Resource Recovery has several programs to address this issue by encouraging reducing and reuse and use of more sustainable materials, but these programs are funded at such a low level they are essentially pilot projects. Considerable additional investment is needed to address this outsized source of emissions from the Austin community.</p>	<p>GHG reduction, plastic pollution reduction, reduce need for new landfill, local economic development, save on ARR tipping fees</p>	<p>\$10.4-\$15.4 million one time and \$5.35 million per year</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Zero Waste Business Incentives and Rebates:</a> This program provides incentives to businesses to reduce waste, including switching from plastic or styrofoam containers to reusable or compostable. Current program provides a one-time incentive up to \$3,000 and is only providing about \$5,000/year. The incentive should be restructured to help businesses address ongoing costs (multi-year incentive) and funding should be allocated for additional staff to do outreach to businesses (including all restaurants) (\$1 million/year).</li> <li>• ARR zero waste education: Expand to reach the full Austin community, not just ARR customers, including with a paid canvassing team. (increase from \$410,000/yr to \$4 million/year)</li> <li>• Furniture collection for Reuse Warehouse: Current plan is for drop-off only. Funds are needed to enable pick-up to increase diversion from landfill. (\$400,000)</li> <li>• Deconstruction Warehouse: To divert salvaged construction materials from the landfill. (\$10-15 million)</li> <li>• Fix-it Clinics: Expand and host more (\$500,000/year),</li> <li>• Circular Austin Accelerator and Circular Austin Showcase competition: Expand outreach and an increased number and value of awards for competition winners would increase effectiveness in building a circular economy in Austin. (increase award from a total of \$12,000 to \$100,000/yr);</li> <li>• MoveOutATX: Increase the number of events from 1 to 4 per year. (\$50,000/year?)</li> </ul> <p>Plan: Austin Resource Recovery Comprehensive Plan &amp; Austin Climate Equity Plan (Food and Product Consumption Goal 2, Strategy 4)</p>		
<p><b>Low-carbon concrete fund:</b> Concrete represents the largest of Austin’s purchasing emissions, with potential surcharges for truly carbon neutral cement ranging as high as an additional \$18/cubic yard, but with costs falling as new technology scales up. This fund would pay for additional testing, program fees, and</p>	<p>GHG reduction: 200,000 MT of CO2/year</p>	<p>\$2 million/year</p>

<p>surcharges to cover both city and non-city owned buildings of 1.1 M cubic yards of concrete. Plan: Austin Climate Equity Plan.</p>		
<p><b>Pro-climate, pro-health foods:</b> Replacing animal products with plant-based foods is one of the most cost effective ways to reduce GHG emissions. Funds would be used to provide education and incentives to the Austin community to enable better choices. Plan: Austin Climate Equity Plan &amp; Austin/Travis County Food Plan.</p>	<p>GHG reduction, air and water pollution reduction, water use reduction, improved public health</p>	<p>\$1 million/year</p>
<p><b>Sustainable purchasing and carbon accounting :</b> Austin can't get to net-zero without measuring our progress. Today, staff make tradeoffs between doing the work and accounting for that work. Additional staff, consultant, and software money can add capacity and speed up this critical work. Plan: Austin Climate Equity Plan</p>	<p>Unlocks GHG reduction</p>	<p>\$1 million</p>
<p><b>ARR Transfer Station:</b> a transfer station to host electric truck chargers is necessary to enable full ARR fleet electrification Plan: Austin Resource Recovery Comprehensive Plan, Austin Climate Equity Plan</p>	<p>Unlocks GHG and air pollution reduction from transportation electrification</p>	<p>~\$100 million</p>
<p><b>City-owned composting facility:</b> Emissions from Austin's waste like methane and nitrous oxide decay quickly in the atmosphere, but have a large short-term impact. Looking at waste using 20-year global warming potential puts landfill waste as our 3rd largest source of emissions (right behind energy &amp; transport), or well over 1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Purchasing and operating a municipal composting facility will help avoid the landfilling of organic waste and save money. Plan: Austin Climate Equity Plan</p>	<p>GHG reduction, air pollution reduction, reduced costs: 66,130 MT CO<sub>2</sub>E ( 1.3 MT CO<sub>2</sub>E/ton of feedstock)</p>	<p>\$1.5M for startup costs with savings of \$1,222,980 / year for 51,000 tons of waste</p>