To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Richard McHale, Director, Austin Resource Recovery

Date: November 17, 2026

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

Transfer Station

Locating a property for a transfer station remains a priority for Austin Resource Recovery. However, few parcels larger than five acres have come onto the market in recent years. The department will continue its search for suitable properties.

Annual Business Planning Retreat

Austin Resource Recovery held its annual Business Planning Retreat on November 16, 2026. Department leadership convened to review departmental performance, strategic priorities, and mid to long-range operational and financial planning. The session commenced with an analysis of key performance indicators, particularly the diversion rate, emphasizing the need to incorporate additional metrics such as per capita measures to provide a more complete assessment of program effectiveness. Departmental strategic goals were presented and discussed in alignment with organizational objectives. Capital discussions encompassed current and proposed facility and fleet projects, Operational topics focused on grant opportunities, enhancements to the collection model, and emerging technologies. Additional discussions included ongoing efforts in zero waste education and public engagement.

Zero Waste Business Rebate

The City of Austin's Zero Waste Business Rebate is an incentive for businesses to improve their waste reduction and diversion practices. Eligible businesses can receive up to $3,000 for reducing waste beyond the minimum requirements of the Universal Recycling Ordinance. The City of Austin offers rebates for commercial, food-permitted, and multifamily properties and businesses. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis and there is a limited amount of funding available for each category. The rebate application period is now open through July 2027.

Sustainable Building Materials Forum

The Sustainable Building Materials Forum: Design, (De)Construction, and the Circular Economy was held on November 13. It was a free, full-day event open to the public. It covered green building, green retrofits, and building deconstruction, while highlighting sustainable building initiatives in the Austin area and beyond. This event was collaboratively organized by Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Energy, Austin Planning, and Austin Parks and Recreation. The education forum was held and the Planning and Development Center. This training event was followed by hands-on technical training (provided by a contracted instructor) for local Austin demolition contractors who will be trained to deconstruct an old house in John Trevino Metropolitan Park. The hands-on deconstruction training takes place on November 16-20.

Circular Austin Applications Open

The City of Austin offers two pathways to support circular entrepreneurs and small to mid-sized businesses and nonprofits trying to move Austin closer to zero waste. The Circular Austin Accelerator program helps entrepreneurs improve their circular business ideas through workshops and technical assistance. The Circular Austin Showcase competition provides the opportunity for circular economy businesses and entrepreneurs to compete for a cash prize in May. Applications opened October 9. Applications close December 13. For more information visit https://austintexas.gov/circularshowcase

Fix-It Austin:

A partnership between Austin Resource Recovery and Austin Public Library to help residents fix broken items and learn repair skills. Learn more, volunteer or register at https://austintexas.gov/FixIt

- Bike Repair (District 4): On December 12, residents can bring their bikes to Windsor Park branch library where Yellow Bike volunteer mechanics will perform repairs and maintenance.
- Clothing Swap (District 4): On December 14, residents can bring clothing items they no longer need to Windsor Park branch library and swap them with others.

ARR Solicitation Updates

As of November 3, 2026
ZWAC Meeting November 19, 2026

❖ **Preparing for Council:**

- N/A

❖ **Published:**

- Education, Clean up and Beautification Services: Contractors to provide education, cleanup, beautification, and restoration services benefiting the public through a variety of programs and resources that inspire effective environmental stewardship among residents and improve Austin's environment and aesthetics. Link to current contract

❖ **Expected to be Published Within 90 days:**

- Post-Disaster Debris Removal and Disposal Services: Contractors to provide post-disaster debris removal and debris disposal services on public property such as parks, nature preserves, recreational facilities, rights-of-way ("ROW"), and drainage easements within City limits. Link to current contract
- Post-Disaster Debris Monitoring Services: Contractor to provide emergency field debris monitoring services, including related management and accounting services. Link to current contract

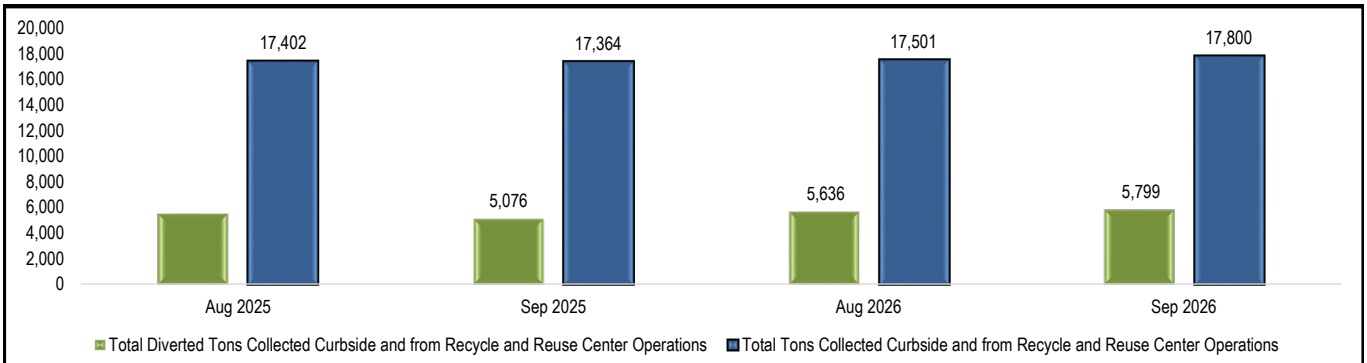
Definitions:

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.

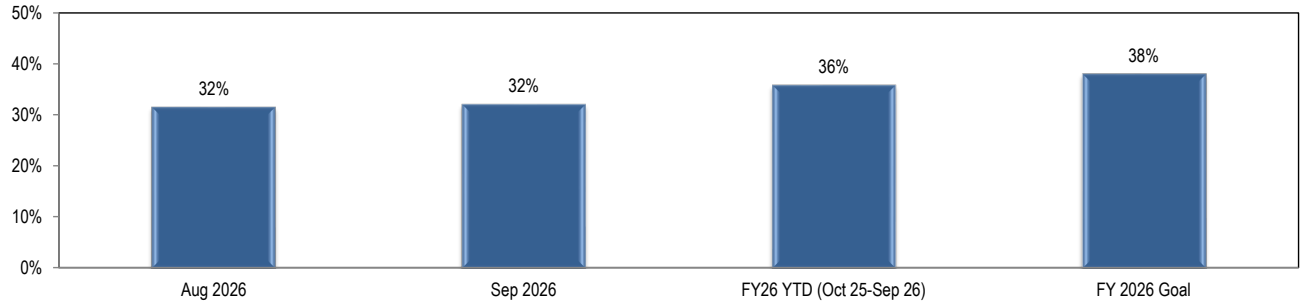
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Recycle and Reuse Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR-FY25				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR-FY26				
	Description of Services	FY2024	FY2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	FY25 YTD (Oct 24-Sep 25)	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	FY26 YTD (Oct 25-Sep 26)	FY 2026 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of Curbside Trash	136,713	138,105	10,564	11,016	138,105	10,707	10,736	135,890	136,579
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	9,366	5,993	596	532	5,993	545	627	7,692	8,874
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	484	452	35	40	452	38	36	469	389
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals [1]	10,610	9,963	705	700	9,963	574	602	8,231	11,095
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Recycle and Reuse Center Operations	**157,173**	**154,514**	**11,900**	**12,288**	**154,514**	**11,865**	**12,001**	**152,283**	**156,937**
[1] Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit										
Tons Diverted	Total Tons of Recyclables Collected	42,315	40,094	3,016	3,230	40,094	3,079	3,133	40,861	35,829
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,811	1,835	175	158	1,835	180	145	1,839	1,900
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons Recycled/Reused	344	388	29	31	388	41	45	394	325
	Tons of Recycle and Reuse Center Collections Recycled/Reused	**1,948**	**1,951**	**180**	**170**	**1,951**	**189**	**155**	**1,911**	**1,957**
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	42,716	38,971	1,907	1,379	38,971	2,006	2,110	38,227	43,199
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	206	272	25	19	272	31	35	322	268
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,713	9,357	348	256	9,357	329	343	5,012	6,349
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	46	42	3	3	42	2	3	36	46
	Tons of Carts Recycled	177	221	25	18	221	0	21	131	185
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Recycle and Reuse Center Operations	**94,122**	**90,908**	**5,503**	**5,076**	**90,908**	**5,636**	**5,799**	**86,500**	**87,833**
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Recycle and Reuse Center Operations		**251,294**	**245,422**	**17,402**	**17,364**	**245,422**	**17,501**	**17,800**	**238,782**	**244,770**
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		**37.04%**	**36.61%**	**30.97%**	**28.60%**	**36.61%**	**31.53%**	**32.05%**	**35.78%**	**38.00%**
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup		**24.39**	**25.16**	**22.40**	**23.35**	**25.16**	**22.63**	**22.72**	**24.13**	**23.91**
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		215,723	211,313	217,865	217,874	211,313	218,514	218,298	216,563	219,720
Pounds of Recycled Materials Collected per Customer per Pickup (every other week)		**15.19**	**14.70**	**12.89**	**13.80**	**14.70**	**13.12**	**13.37**	**14.63**	**12.63**
Pounds of Curbside Compost Collected per Customer per Week		**7.67**	**7.14**	**4.07**	**2.95**	**7.14**	**4.27**	**4.50**	**6.84**	**7.61**
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		214,366	209,968	216,176	216,199	209,968	216,736	216,515	214,875	218,266
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA Rights-of-Way and the Animal Shelter		55	73	6	6	73	5	5	63	59

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Recycle and Reuse 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	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Goal	2025-26 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	41.96%	38.32%	63.42%	37.04%	38.00%	35.78%
Community Diversion Rate	*	*	*	*	*	*

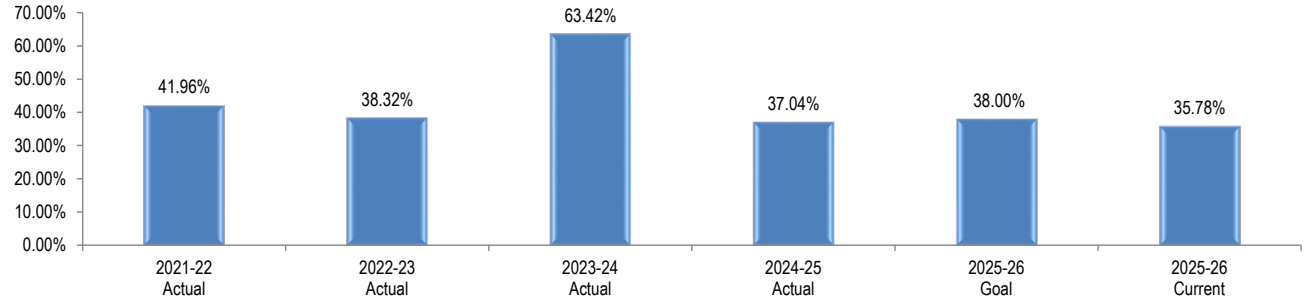
*As prescribed in the [1] 2023 Austin Resource Recovery Comprehensive Plan, the Department shall conduct a detailed waste assessment study every five years to determine progress toward our Zero Waste goal. This plan is an update to the [2] 2011 Master Plan (see link below).The first such study was published in [3] 2015, titled Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study (see link below). 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.

[1] 2023 Austin Recovery Comprehensive Plan

[2] 2011 Master Plan

[3] Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study

Residential Waste Diversion (City-serviced accounts)



Category of Waste Generation	CY23	CY24	CY25
Commercial Tons Landfilled**	897,211	1,277,232	1,391,368
Commercial Tons Recycled**	343,834	586,600	409,265
Commercial Organics Tons**	87,279	57,046	69,481

** 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 - November 2026
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report
FY26: October thru September
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 2025	TDS	1,672.37	19,175.46	83,618.50	($64,443.04)	($64,443.04)	($38.53)	$28.90	$48,331
	BRI	2,392.88	175,434.72	234,502.39	($59,067.67)	($59,067.67)	($24.68)	$28.90	$69,154
	Total	$4,065	$194,610	$318,121	($123,511)	($123,511)			$117,486
November 2025	TDS	1,566.17	$17,597	$78,309	($60,711)	($60,711)	($38.76)	$28.90	$45,262
	BRI	2,132.32	$167,354	$208,967	($41,613)	($41,613)	($19.52)	$28.90	$61,624
	Total	3,698.49	$184,952	$287,275	($102,324)	($102,324)			$106,886
December 2025	TDS	2,080.32	$29,061	$104,016	($74,955)	($74,955)	($36.03)	$28.90	$60,121
	BRI	2,422.34	$201,397	$237,389	($35,992)	($35,992)	($14.86)	$28.90	$70,006
	Total	4,502.66	$230,458	$341,405	($110,947)	($110,947)			$130,127
January 2026	TDS	1,714.82	$24,016	$85,741	($61,725)	($61,725)	($36.00)	$28.90	$49,558
	BRI	2,673.99	$235,835	$262,051	($26,216)	($26,216)	($9.80)	$28.90	$77,278
	Total	4,388.81	$259,850	$347,792	($87,942)	($87,942)			$126,837
February 2026	TDS	1,835.61	$26,718	$91,781	($65,062)	($65,062)	($35.44)	$28.90	$53,049
	BRI	1,846.81	$173,113	$180,897	($7,784)	($7,784)	($4.21)	$28.90	$53,373
	Total	3,682.42	$199,831	$272,678	($72,846)	($72,846)			$106,422
March 2026	TDS	2,117.57	$32,942	$105,879	($72,936)	($72,936)	($34.44)	$28.90	$61,198
	BRI	1,926.51	$182,543	$188,798	($6,255)	($6,255)	($3.25)	$28.90	$55,676
	Total	4,044.08	$215,485	$294,676	($79,191)	($79,191)			$116,874
April 2026	TDS	1,739.69	$28,758	$86,985	($58,227)	($58,227)	($33.47)	$28.90	$50,277
	BRI	2,414.69	$237,708	$236,639	$1,069	$802	$0.33	$28.90	$69,785
	Total	4,154.38	$266,466	$323,624	($57,157)	($57,425)			$120,062
May 2026	TDS	2,074.25	$37,053	$103,713	($66,659)	($66,659)	($32.14)	$28.90	$59,946
	BRI	1,988.75	$200,532	$194,898	$5,634	$4,226	$2.12	$28.90	$57,475
	Total	4,063.00	$237,585	$298,610	($61,025)	($62,434)			$117,421
June 2026	TDS	2,605.76	$38,653	$130,288	($91,635)	($91,635)	($35.17)	$29.93	$77,990
	BRI	1,545.44	$157,795	$151,453	$6,342	$4,756	$3.08	$29.93	$46,255
	Total	4,151.20	$196,447	$281,741	($85,294)	($86,879)			$124,245
July 2026	TDS	1,960.41	$31,035	$98,021	($66,986)	($66,986)	($34.17)	$29.93	$58,675
	BRI	2,024.72	$208,905	$198,422	$10,483	$7,862	$3.88	$29.93	$60,600
	Total	3,985.13	$239,939	$296,443	($56,503)	($59,124)			$119,275
August 2026	TDS	2,444.87	$37,575	$122,244	($84,669)	($84,669)	($34.63)	$29.93	$73,175
	BRI	1,206.38	$135,623	$118,225	$17,398	$13,048	$10.82	$29.93	$36,107
	Total	3,651.25	$173,198	$240,469	($67,271)	($71,620)			$109,282
September 2026	TDS	2,182.43	$34,995	$109,122	($74,127)	($74,127)	($33.97)	$29.93	$65,320
	BRI	1,552.25	$179,141	$152,121	$27,020	$20,265	$13.06	$29.93	$46,459
	Total	3,734.68	$214,135	$261,242	($47,107)	($53,862)			$111,779
	FY26 Totals	**48,121.35**	**$2,612,958**	**$3,564,075**	**($951,117)**	**($968,104)**			**$1,406,695**