

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council

Item ID

10646

Agenda Number

47.

Meeting Date:

12/15/2011

Department:

Solid Waste Services

Subject

Approve a resolution adopting the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding of this Master Plan is through the annual budget approval processes.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

**Purchasing
Language:**

**Prior Council
Action:**

Adoption of Resolutions 20050519-044; 20060112-028; and 20090115-050 related to Zero Waste.

**For More
Information:**

Bob Gedert, 512-974-1926; Tammie Williamson, 512-974-1997; or Jessica King, 512-974-7678

**Boards and
Commission
Action:**

Recommended for adoption by the Solid Waste Advisory Commission at its October 19 meeting.

MBE / WBE:

No MBE /WBE application for this action.

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

This action item requests adoption of the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan and indicates City Council support of the long-range activities and services identified in the Plan. City Council approval is still required for any changes to existing ordinances or policies regarding control over pricing, collection and disposition of solid waste and recyclable materials. Adoption does not imply approval of any policies outlined, nor does it imply approval of the proposed rates or expenditures identified in the Plan. Any changes to rates or annual expenditures will continue to be reviewed through the annual budget approval process.

BACKGROUND

Since 2005, the Austin City Council has consistently supported Zero Waste as a policy goal for the City of Austin through adoption of the United National Environmental Accords (Resolution 20050519-44), adoption of Zero Waste as guiding principals for the delivery of solid waste services (Resolution 20060112-028), and adoption of the Zero Waste Strategic Plan (Resolution 20090115-050). During adoption of the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, the City Council

acknowledged and supported the Department's development of the Master Plan, a long range planning tool to implement the Strategic Plan.

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

The Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan projects future Department activities and services for the next 30 years, as an implementation action plan. The Master Plan looks at the Department in its entirety, laying a framework of how the Department provides services to its customers and empowers the Austin community to achieve Zero Waste. Having the Master Plan in place supports the coordinated growth of the Department's facilities and functions and helps avoid ad-hoc development of its infrastructure.

Implementation plans for each proposed project, service, or policy will be developed within the context of the Master Plan, each one in synergy with the other to ensure consistency between the service message and physical development of the service program.

The Department will analyze its progress and update its implementation tasks every five years, and provide an annual status report to the public and City Council. The Master Plan will be reviewed and updated in 2020 and 2030.

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Development of the Master Plan began in summer 2009 during stakeholder workshops to solicit input about the Master Plan's scope of work. In April 2010, Council approved hiring a consultant to perform research and help develop the Master Plan. The Department and its consultants developed the Master Plan over the course of 18 months, from April 2010 to September 2011. The Department and its consultants held two workshops and one two day interactive charrette with the public. From April 2011 to September 2011, Staff reviewed all input and related documents and began drafting the Master Plan. Staff also met with and gathered input from six boards and commissions, including the Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC), Sustainable Food Policy Board, Water/Wastewater Commission, Resource Management Commission, Environmental Board, and the City Council's Emerging Technologies Committee.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION (SWAC) RECOMMENDATION

Throughout development of the Master Plan, Department staff provided updates and accepted input from SWAC. Starting in July 2011, staff provided SWAC and the public with advance drafts of each Master Plan section as they became available. Advanced drafts were provided on three separate dates in July, August, and September along with four monthly presentations by the Director detailing the major components of each section. Staff released the final draft document on September 28, 2011.

SWAC met two times to discuss and consider written and verbal input regarding the Master Plan. On October 19, 2011, SWAC recommended adoption of the plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adopting the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan.

A presentation to Council by Director Bob Gedert occurred at the November 3rd City Council meeting.

The full Master Plan has been electronically posted for public review, and a printed copy was delivered to each Council Member for their review.