

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin Resource Recovery Department has come forward with a master plan to help the City of Austin achieve Zero Waste; and

WHEREAS, the master plan has the objective of making the highest and best use of recovered materials, but must make reasonable allowances for cost, technical feasibility, and public acceptability; and

WHEREAS, the master plan is intended to be a living document that allows for inclusion of emerging technologies and best practices, and

WHEREAS, the master plan includes pilot programs to assess the effectiveness, cost, technical feasibility, and public acceptability of new ideas for reaching this goal; and

WHEREAS, there are several additional pilot projects not included in the master plan that will be undertaken to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Resource Recovery Department plans to collect food waste at single-family residences through use of a household organics cart, scheduled for implementation in 2015, but has no plan to collect food waste at multi-family residences that include most of Austin's residential households; and

WHEREAS, many residents of multi-family buildings find it difficult to compost food waste due to the lack of personal yard space and the inconvenience of conveying food waste to centralized composting facilities; and

WHEREAS, many residents dispose of food waste by flushing it down the kitchen sink, where it enters the wastewater stream and is eventually used to produce methane fuel gas and compost at the city's Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant; and

WHEREAS, fats, oil, and grease, when flushed down the sink, can dramatically increase the potential for clogging wastewater lines; and

WHEREAS, a community engagement and education campaign on proper use of food waste disposal units may be effective at both increasing the proportion of food waste reused and reducing the potential for clogging wastewater lines; and

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of current residences in Austin have a food waste disposer, as well as almost all new residential construction;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is hereby directed to implement an additional pilot program to assess the efficacy of food waste disposers in diverting the organics from landfills, and to fully explore additional options for residentially-generated food scraps. The City Manager should work together with outside stakeholders to ensure that the cost to the city for this pilot is minimized, and should work together to ensure adequacy and accuracy of collected performance data.

This pilot will have numerous measurable benchmarks, including impacts to wastewater conveyance and solid waste management, and will include:

-one or more multi-family apartment buildings in which each residential unit has at least one food waste disposer (provided that a minimum of 100 units are included in the study);

-a pre-pilot waste sort to determine the amount of food scraps typically generated by the building(s), and also to determine how much fats, oils and greases (FOG) are put into the wastewater system before the pilot;

-a three-to-six month period of education/training/engagement on correct use of disposers, what to do with food material that must not go into disposers; as well as concurrent provision of apartment-sized composters with educational material in order to encourage composting on an apartment-sized scale; and

-a post-pilot waste sort to gauge overall effectiveness of correct disposer use, combined with composting to the extent possible, in diverting food scraps from landfills, including how much FOG are being put into the system after the pilot to assess correct use of disposers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report results within one year from pilot start date, which shall occur within 2012.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk