

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	23209	Agenda Number	7.
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Meeting Date:	4/25/2013	Department:	Solid Waste Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 15-6 (Solid Waste Service), regarding regulating of recycling and composting.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action:

On November 4, 2010 Council approved the Universal Recycling Ordinance. On September 27, 2012 the Austin City Council approved revised administrative rules for Chapter 15-6 that included implementation details to support the Universal Recycling Ordinance.

For More Information:

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

Boards and Commission Action:

On February 13, 2013, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) voted 4-0-1 to support adoption of amendments to Chapter 15-6 of the Austin City Code for Solid Waste Services, primarily affecting Article 5, Universal Recycling. Commissioner Perdue recused himself from the vote and Commissioners Cofer and Paine were absent.

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

This action seeks Council approval to amend City Code Chapter 15-6 Solid Waste Services, Article 5 - Universal Recycling, to apply to properties not previously included, add provisions to address food scrap composting, and clarify existing provisions of the current ordinance. New properties impacted by the proposed amendments include food service, retail, manufacturing, and industrial properties. These amendments do not affect single-family residential homes.

BACKGROUND

On November 4, 2010 the Austin City Council adopted the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) as part of Austin's Zero Waste goal to achieve a 90 percent reduction in landfill waste disposal by 2040. The current URO applied to multi-family residential properties, commercial office buildings, and institutions and required property owners to

provide access to recycling services for at least five materials (paper, plastic resins PETE and HDPE, aluminum, cardboard, and glass), to educate employees and tenants, and to submit an annual Recycling Plan to Austin Resource Recovery. Each year, the URO affects gradually smaller office, institutional, and multifamily properties. However, the URO did not address compostable materials or other properties such as food service, retail, manufacturing, and industrial properties.

PROCESS

Over the past 20 months, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission's Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee and Austin Resource Recovery staff conducted 11 public meetings with stakeholders to consider amendments to the Universal Recycling Ordinance that expanded the types and sizes of affected properties to include food service, retail, manufacturing, and industrial properties. Discussion also included the best use of food scraps and requiring food service establishments to divert compostable materials.

In September 2012, the ZWAC approved the intent document which set the framework for the proposed ordinance.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES:

Effective Date: October 1 of	Multi-Family Properties (dwelling units)	Commercial Properties (square feet of floor space)		
		Offices, Institutions	Food Service, Retail, Manufacturing or Industrial	Compostable Materials Food Service Businesses**
2012	>75*	>100,000*		
2013	>50*	>75,000*		
2014	>25*	>50,000*	>50,000	
2015	>10	>25,000*	>25,000	
2016	All	>5,000	>5,000	>5,000
2017		All	All	All

* Affected by Phase 1 of existing URO

** Food Service Business – establishment that serves non-prepackaged food and is required to hold food permit.

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

On February 13, 2013, the Commission voted in favor of the proposed amendments, with some modifications, by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Perdue recusing himself and Commissioners Cofer and Paine absent.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the ZWAC-approved amendments to Chapter 15-6 of the Austin City Code for Solid Waste Services primarily affecting Article 5. Universal Recycling Ordinance, which includes modifications to the definition of composting facilities, as requested by the ZWAC (see Attachment A).