



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission
From: Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery Department
Date: January 14, 2015
Subject: **Director's Report to ZWAC**

Travis County Interlocal Agreement Annual Report

An Interlocal Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin was signed in January 2014. The agreement offers the ability of both governmental units to coordinate zero waste activities and share expenses to fund public education campaigns. The 30 year agreement also enables the synchronization of programs to coordinate consistent services and programs toward achieving the zero waste goals. Upon adoption of the agreement, City Council requested an annual report to ZWAC in January of each year.

Travis County has prioritized the many opportunities to implement Zero Waste through this agreement, based on available staffing levels:

Waste Diversion Programs:

ARR and Travis County shared information on how they each conduct site assessments, including demonstration of the process. They have scheduled two of five planned additional site assessments for 2015. In addition, Travis County is negotiating for conducting waste audits with its current recycling service provider and included similar provisions in its current trash Request for Bids to be awarded in January.

Office Stream Recycling:

All County offices have had access to single-stream recycling services since April 2013. The County submitted URO Recycling Plan data to ARR in 2013 for all its facilities and plans to submit Diversion Plan data in 2015.

Construction:

Per their respective resolutions, large City or County construction projects are required to meet at least LEED Silver certification requirements, which include earning credits for diverting construction material and using recycled-content products. City and County staff plan to facilitate additional information exchange between appropriate departments.

Facility Use Agreements:

The Travis County Conservation Coordinator has had initial discussions of this topic with other County departments. When appropriate, the City will share diversion standards.

Specialty Material:

The City and County each have contracts for recycling scrap tires and scrap metal.

Employee and Public Education Campaigns:

The County provides information on single-stream recycling at New Employee Training. In addition, The County's website on conservation provides resources for County employees and the public on area recycling facilities, HHW, and other green initiatives and includes links to several City information sources and programs.

The County is analyzing investigations of illegal dumping to identify regional educational needs.

Community Drop-off and Reuse Facilities:

The County developed a drive-time analysis of its list of private, city, and county recycling locations and will conduct additional research to identify underserved areas.

The City and County are rewriting the household hazardous waste Interlocal Agreement, which will need approval by the ZWAC, the Austin City Council, and the Travis County Commissioners Court.

Travis County sponsored 4 drop-off sites for Christmas trees, complementing Austin's drop-off site near Zilker Park and its curbside collection service.

Organics Pilot & Citywide Expansion

I have requested, and received, a staff report on the two-year Organics Pilot, with staff recommendations regarding full city roll-out. The purpose of this Organics Report is to learn from the pilot of 14,000 households, make changes to the organics collection program that reflect learned lessons and plan for city-wide roll-out. This report offered excellent insight on the citizen participation, education challenges, equipment needs, and routing considerations.

14,320 homes were selected to represent the City demographics across all five service days of the week. Residents were instructed to utilize the 96-gallon green cart for yard trimmings and household food waste. Staff is currently conducting a post pilot survey of the pilot households to gauge public acceptance of the program.

Contamination became a concern throughout the pilot, and staff monitored the location and type of contamination issues. Non-compostable plastic bags and glass were the main contaminate concerns. With visual inspection and changing types of public communication, the issue was resolved to the satisfaction of the compost processor. A staff recommendation is to "certify" a type of compostable bag that is acceptable to the end processor, to address the public resistance to handling food waste (the "yuck factor"). Due to contamination, staff recommends the deployment of rear loaders with tippers rather than the multi packs currently being used. Crews can then see the loads as they are being dumped into the hopper and reject the contamination at the curb.

Organic Cart weekly set-out rate was around 30%, as compared to 62% yard trimmings set-out in the nearby neighborhoods. Staff observation is that many customers resisted the large size of the 96-gallon carts. The Organic routes captured 5.85 lbs more per household than yard trimmings only collection. The increase in diversion is promising, but represents only 50% of household food waste available.

A key finding from staff observations is that the expansion of the service should offer a selection of cart sizes, or to offer a dual service of a small organics cart and continued collection of leaves and yard trimmings in paper bags. Other key findings of the Organics Pilot include the establishment of 1300 household daily routes, offering a smaller cart size, and purchasing dual collection vehicles that can service organic carts and paper leaf bags.

The preliminary cost estimates of the pilot note the added collection cost of food waste at approximately \$2.00 per household per month. A full cost analysis will be calculated. Staff are currently working on several cost models for city-wide roll-out of the service.

The staff recommendations include a slow roll-out to full city-wide implementation, spread through three or four fiscal years. The cost models will aid in the formation of the FY2015-16 budget forecast.

The current assumption, if deemed affordable, is to establish 30-35 daily organics routes by 2019. A phased in approach over several fiscal years is desirable due to the truck, cart and staffing needs.

An additional consideration is the “accommodation” of back yard composters that do not need the enhanced food waste collection, as well as consideration of private sector food waste collection options. These alternatives raise the question of providing an “opt-out” option for ARR customers. Department Rules will need to be revised to allow for exceptions to city-wide city service. Draft rules are being developed and will be presented to ZWAC for consideration.

I will bring these issues forward for ZWAC consideration in February.

URO Enforcement Enhancement

I have requested a staff report to explore various forms of “enhanced implementation strategies”, to include the ARR notification processes, ARR compliance check processes, and the handoff to Code for the enforcement process. I believe that staff is implementing the ordinance as directed by the established rules, as adopted by Council, with the given resources available.

I have come to the conclusion that the current implementation strategy does not meet the expectations of City Council, ZWAC, and numerous stakeholders that have testified before ZWAC. The concerns I have heard indicate differing expectations of how the ordinance is to be implemented. Specifically, the concerns raised note the expectation of “enhanced enforcement” of the ordinance, after the designated phase in date. There are significant concerns raised regarding the “Good faith efforts” approach and the complaint-driven enforcement process.

It is my objective to seek common ground on meeting the expectations of our stakeholders, and plan the new implementation strategy into the last half of FY15 budget year, as well as impacting the FY16 budget. The recommendations of this report may include increased financial resources, and also may involve proposed rule changes to reflect the new strategies selected.

The end goal is to plan and provide new resources and new direction toward a more proactive implementation strategy. The goal, as expected by many stakeholders, is 100% compliance documented within one year of the properties phase in date. In other words, those properties that have a phase in date of Oct 1st, 2014 must be fully compliant by Sept 30th, 2015 and staff can verify full compliance of all properties within that phase in year. The objective is to explore several “enhanced implementation strategies” that include variations of the notification process, compliance check process, and enforcement processes.

Meetings with staff have yielded good discussion regarding the challenges of implementing the URO. In particular, staff resources are a major limitation, and any implementation enhancement will require additional funding. Options are being explored and a menu of changes may require ordinance and rule revisions.

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Staff Hires and Promotion Updates

New Employee	Promotion, Temp to Regular, Retirement	Title/ Division
Lorenzo Thornton		ARR Operator
Jesse Corpus		ARR Operator
William McLaughlin		Temporary, ARR Admin Support
James Sorrells		ARR Operator
Yvonne Tabares		Human Resources Advisor
Maxine White		Temporary, ARR Admin Support
Michele Bondy		Temporary, ARR Admin Support
Spencer Bunton		ARR Operator
Edward Guerrero		ARR Operator
Steven Hilbig		ARR Operator
Eddie Arnold		Temporary, Service/Maintenance
Zachary Lopez		Temporary, Service/Maintenance
Anthony Rodriguez		Temporary, Service/Maintenance
	Dante Burns (temp to regular)	ARR Operator Associate
	Dayne Williams (temp to regular)	ARR Operator
	Michael Hodges (retirement)	ARR Crew Leader
	Samuel Anderson (retirement)	ARR Supervisor
	Vidal Maldonado (retirement)	Division Manager, Operations
	Gregory Smith (Promotion)	ARR Supervisor
	Cedric Armstrong (Promotion)	ARR Crew Leader
	Paul Gomez (Promotion)	ARR Crew Leader
	Robert Williams (Promotion)	Training Instructor

New Employee	Promotion, Temp to Regular, Retirement	Title/ Division
	Sir Derrick Lott (Promotion)	ARR Crew Leader
	Gregory Spence (Promotion)	ARR Crew Leader

Positions Currently to be Filled

Position	# Open	Manager	Posting Status
Financial Specialist	1	Jessica Frazier	Interviews Scheduled
Planner Senior	1	Jessica Edwards	Interviews Scheduled
Temporary, Admin Senior	1	Jessica King	Interviews Scheduled
Public Information Specialist	1	Jessica King	Screening Applications
Public Information Specialist Sr.	1	Jessica King	Position to be posted
Administrative Specialist	1	Jessica King	Screening Applications
Program Specialist	1	Bob Gedert	Screening Applications
OSH Specialist Senior	1	Jeff Dilbert	Screening Applications
ARR Crew Leader	1	Ron Romero	Position to be posted
ARR Operator	3	Ron Romero	Screening Applications
ARR Operator, Senior	3	Ron Romero	Screening Applications
ARR Operator, Senior	1	Donald Hardee	Position to be posted
Environ. Program Specialist	1	Donald Hardee	Position to be posted
ARR Crew Leader	4	Richard McHale	Positions to be posted
ARR Operator, Senior	1	Richard McHale	Position to be posted
Temporary, ARR Associate	2	Richard McHale	Position posted

Zero Waste Advisory Commission - January 14, 2015

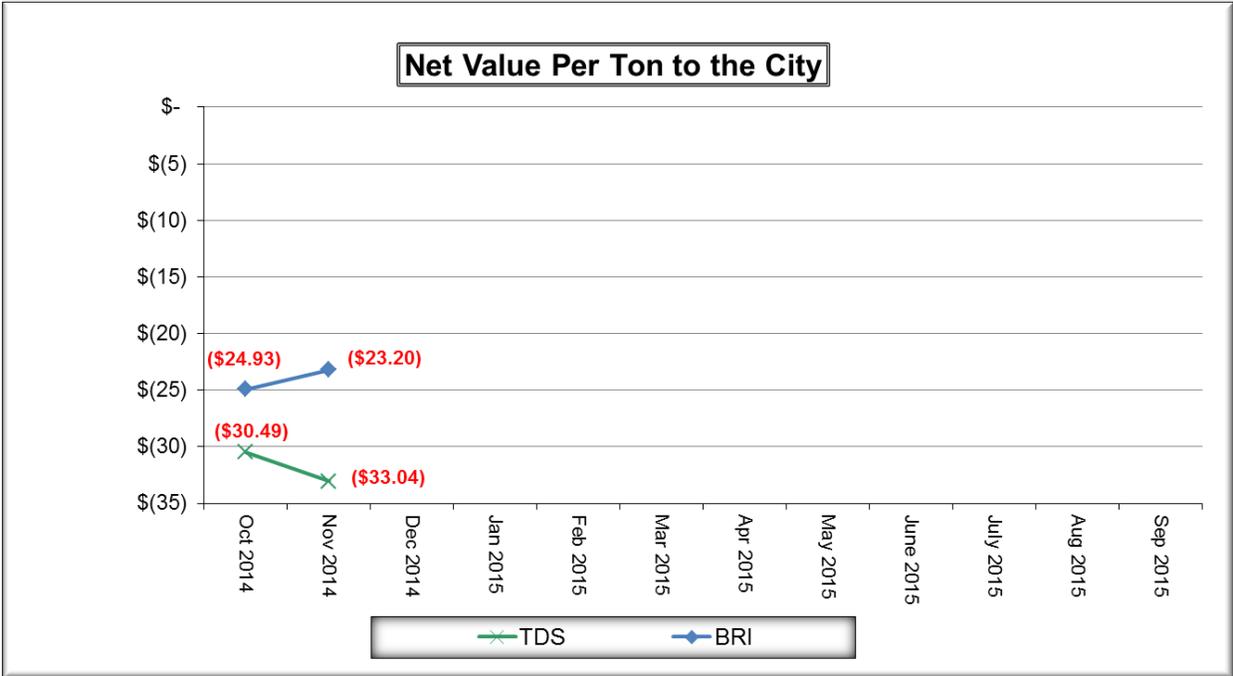
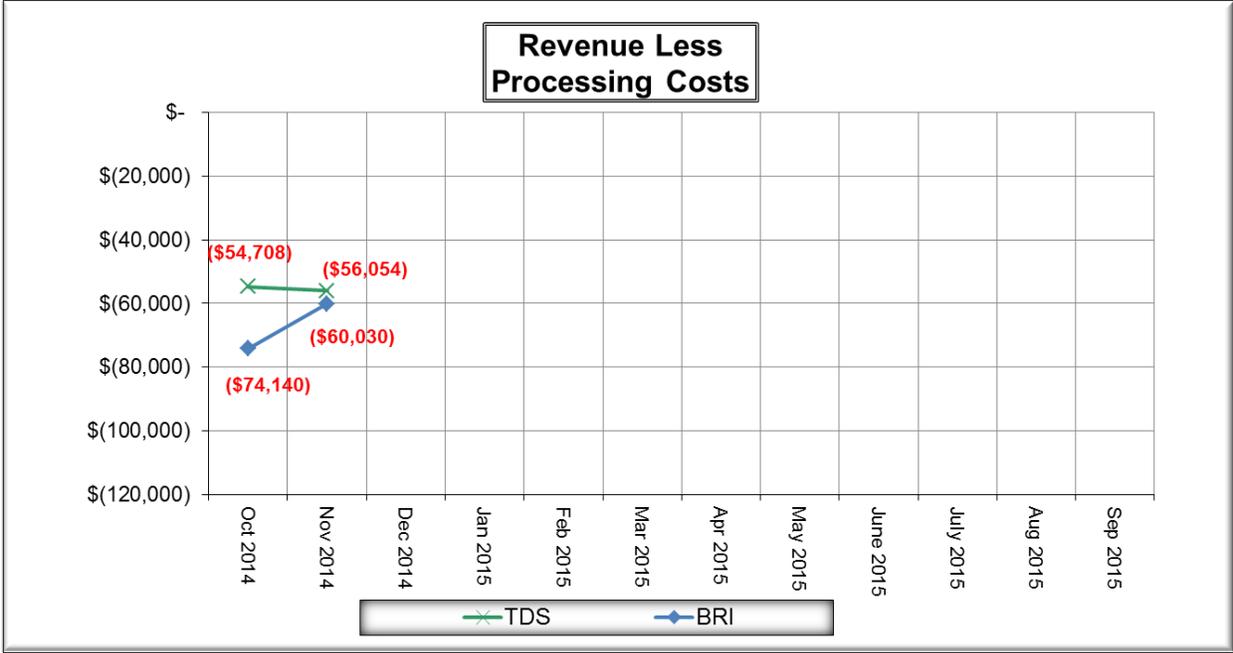
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report

FY 2014-15: October - November, 2014

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources, Inc. (BRI)

Month and Year	Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments			Net Value to the City \$ per ton value	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
			Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Amount Due/(Owed)		Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2014	TDS	1,794.16	\$109,458	\$164,166	(\$54,708)	(\$30.49)	\$21.01	\$37,695
	BRI	2,973.81	\$161,505	\$235,645	(\$74,140)	(\$24.93)	\$21.01	\$62,480
	<i>Total</i>	4,767.97	\$270,963	\$399,811	(\$128,848)			\$100,175
November 2014	TDS	1,696.79	\$99,202	\$155,256	(\$56,054)	(\$33.04)	\$21.01	\$35,650
	BRI	2,587.55	\$146,047	\$206,077	(\$60,030)	(\$23.20)	\$21.01	\$54,364
	<i>Total</i>	4,284.34	\$245,249	\$361,333	(\$116,085)			\$90,014
FY 2014-15 Totals		9,052.31	\$516,211	\$761,144	(\$244,933)			\$190,189

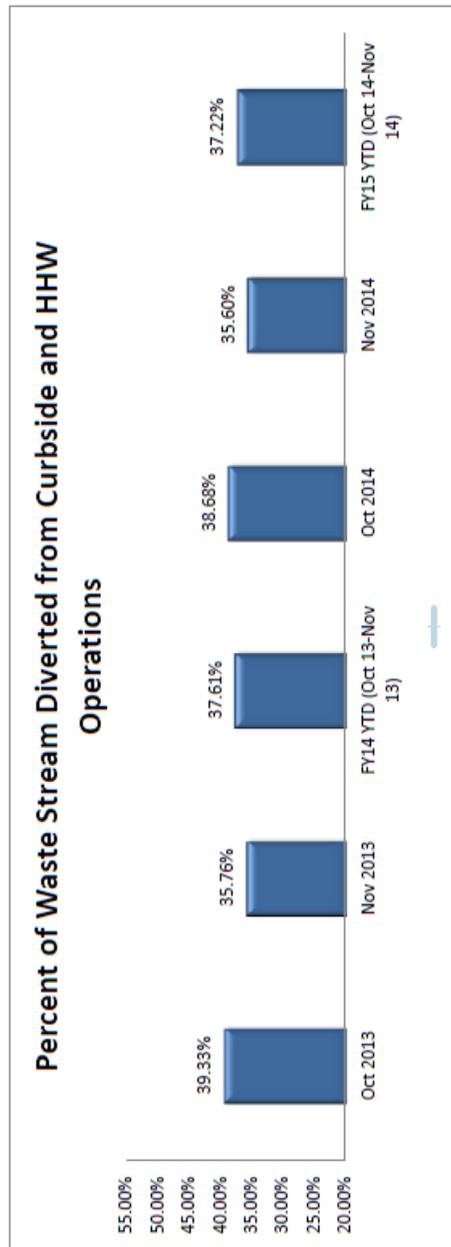
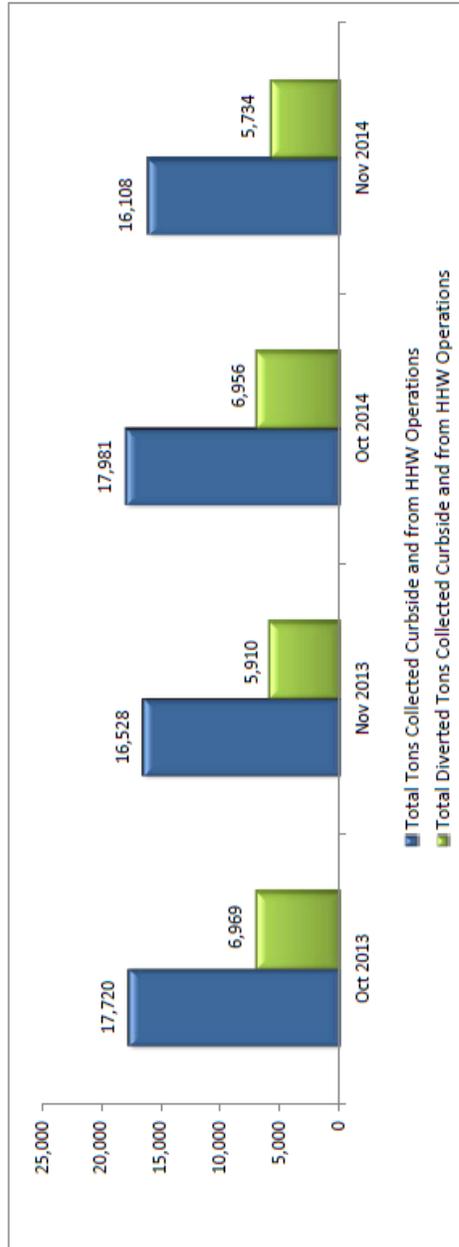
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Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

	LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				FY 2015 Goal
	FY 2014	FY 2014 Goal	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	FY14 YTD (Oct 13-Nov 13)	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	FY15 YTD (Oct 14-Nov 14)	
Tons of curbside Garbage	127,924	123,000	9,615	10,155	19,770	10,282	9,785	20,067	123,000
Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,892	7,000	1,099	422	1,521	704	576	1,280	8,459
HHW Operations Tons Disposed	442	390	37	41	77	39.59	13	53	330
Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	137,258	130,390	10,751	10,618	21,368	11,026	10,374	21,400	131,789
Tons of curbside recycling	55,494	64,000	4,750	4,220	8,970	4,905	4,288	9,193	60,000
HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	296	150	30	21	51	30.71	11	42	220
Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	77,357	31,000	1,339	1,247	2,586	1,305	1,003	2,308	29,037
Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	176	783	28	5	33	13	11	24	180
Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,692	6,200	822	417	1,239	702	421	1,123	8,066
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	90,015	102,133	6,969	5,910	12,879	6,956	5,734	12,690	97,503
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	227,273	232,523	17,720	16,528	34,247	17,981	16,108	34,089	229,292
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.61%	44%	39.33%	35.76%	37.61%	38.68%	35.60%	37.22%	43%
Pounds of Garbage collected per customer per pickup	25.96	24.64	23.55	25.01	24.28	24.96	23.58	24.26	24.64
Number of Garbage customers	189,543	192,000	188,551	187,522	188,037	190,300	191,705	191,002	193,800
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	22.79	25.64	23.59	21.07	22.33	24.00	20.83	22.41	25.64
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.62	6.21	3.32	3.11	3.22	3.19	2.44	2.81	6.21
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	187,286	192,000	186,026	184,974	185,500	188,776	190,156	189,466	193,800
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.33	4.33	9	4.33	4.33	9	52
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	61	55	6.00	7.00	13	7.00	6.00	13	58

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations



Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation						
Category of Waste Generation	FY2009-10 actual	FY2010-11 actual	FY2011-12 actual	FY2012-13 actual	FY2013-14 actual	FY2014-15 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	37.32%	38.57%	37.86%	39.64%	39.61%	37.22%
Commercial / Industrial Waste Diversion	information not available*					
Institutional Waste Diversion	information not available*					
*Non-residential waste diversion to be inventoried in 2015						

