

**Bob Gedert, ARR Department Director**  
**Organics Collection Discussion**



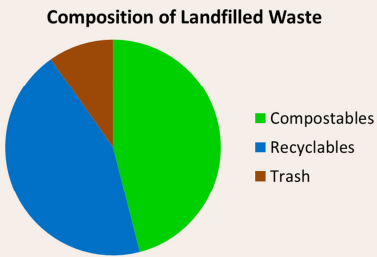
**Public Utilities Council Committee**  
**August 19, 2015**



# Organics = 46.3% of Landfill Municipal Solid Waste

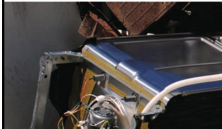


DEFINING  
ZERO  
WASTE



## Residential Organics Disposed in the Landfill

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Yard Trimmings          | 6.6%  |
| Food Waste              | 25.8% |
| Food Spoiled Paper      | 12.3% |
| Wood (non-construction) | 1.5%  |
|                         | 46.3% |



Source: CBI Residential Waste Characterization Study – Austin, TX - 2014



## Residential Services

### Transitioning to food waste collection 2 cart service vs. 3 cart service

#### Current Yard Trimmings Collection – FY14

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Yard Trimmings<br>(Leaves, Grass, Branches, Brush) | 27,357 Tons<br>Composted |
| Food Waste   | Landfilled               |
| Food Spoiled Paper                                 | Landfilled               |
| Wood (non-construction)                            | Landfilled               |
| 27,357 Tons  |                          |



#### Proposed Residential Organics Program

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Yard Trimmings          | 30,000 Tons |
| Food Waste              | 32,000 Tons |
| Food Spoiled Paper      | 15,000 Tons |
| Wood (non-construction) | 2,000 Tons  |
| 79,000 Tons             |             |





# **Curbside Organics**

## **Proposed Collection Service**

### **Transition to Single-Stream Organics**

**Add yard trimmings, food scraps  
and compostable paper to  
NEW Green 32 gallon Organics Carts**

**Continue to Promote Residential  
Backyard Composting**





# Curbside Organics

## Proposed Collection Service

### Resident Education

- Literature and Instructions
- Community Meetings
- Container Labeling
- Do's and Don'ts Literature
- Call 3-1-1 for info
- [www.AustinRecycles.com](http://www.AustinRecycles.com)



**ORGANICS ONLY / PILOT PROGRAM**  
**SÓLO ORGÁNICOS / PROGRAMA PILOTO**

**CARTS AT THE CURB BY 6:30 A.M.**  
CONTENEDORES EN EL BORDO PARA LAS 6:30 A.M.

**YARD DEBRIS**  
ESCOMBROS DE YARDA

3-5 in.

**SOILED PAPER**  
PAPEL SUCIO

**ALL FOOD CONTAINERS MUST BE EMPTY BEFORE PLACING THEM IN THE CART.**  
Todos los contenedores de alimentos deben ser vacíos antes de colocarlos en el carrito.

**FOOD SCRAPS**  
PEDACITOS DE ALIMENTO

**PLACE ALL FOOD SCRAPS IN A PAPER BAG.**  
Spanish spanish spanish spanish

**DO NOT PUT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THIS CART**  
No poner los siguientes desperdicios en este carrito

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RECYCLABLES</b><br>TREES<br>PLASTIC BAGS<br>STYROFOAM<br>METAL<br>TREATED WOOD<br>PAINTED WOOD<br>LIQUIDS | Reciclables<br>Árboles<br>Bolsas de plástico<br>Espuma de poliestireno<br>Metal<br>Madera tratada<br>Madera pintada<br>Líquidos |
|--|---|

Materials will be contaminated and must be set aside. Materiales deben considerarse en sucios y separarse del resto.

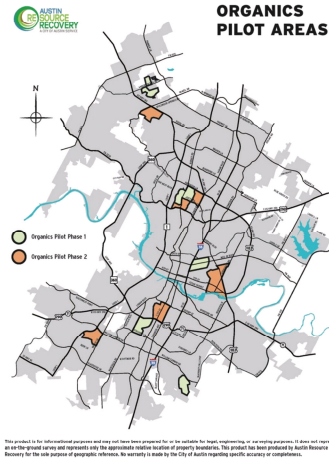
**PLACE YOUR CARTS 5 FEET APART**  
SEPARAR LOS CONTENEDORES POR 5 PIES

CITY OF AUSTIN • 3-1-1 • [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com)



## Curbside Organics Collection Pilot

- Began January 2013
- 14,000 Households
- Ten geographic areas = Two areas serviced per day
- Weekly curbside service for yard trimmings and food scraps
- City deployment in planning stage





## **Curbside Organics Collection Pilot**

### **Learned Lessons**

- **Varied Set Out Rates**
- **Routing Challenges**
- **Contamination Challenges**
- **The “Yuck” Factor**
- **Processor Challenges**
- **Customer Education – Varied Needs**
- **Truck Styles – Automated vs. Semi-Auto**
- **Container Sizing – 96 Gal Cart too large**



## **Curbside Organics Pilot Evaluation**

### **Learned Lessons Applied to Proposed Program**

- Residents favor 32 gallon cart size
- 14.5 pounds of Organics /week/household
- Establish new program service areas each year based on geography to increase route efficiencies
- Redesign cart label to address contamination concerns
- Experimented with 3 truck styles: selected vehicle type for material & route flexibility
- Research acceptable compostable bags for residents to carry food waste to bin





## Curbside Organics Recommendation

- Based on collection rate of 14.5 lbs/wk/household
  - Project a city-wide diversion of 79,000 tons / year by 2020
  - Program annual costs is estimated at \$9.3 million in 2020  
Minus \$1.1 million in landfilling expense savings  
= Net Program annual costs at \$8.2 million per year
  - Collection program adds 15% to residential diversion rate
- With the Organics Collection Program fully deployed, the city will reach Austin's adopted zero waste goal of 75% diversion by 2020
- Based on the 75% diversion target, staff recommends implementation of the Residential Organics Collection Program – phased in over 5 years.



## **Curbside Organics Collection**

### **City-Wide Roll-Out**

#### **Proposed Expansion Specifications**

- **Weekly Service**
- **Co-mingled carts and paper bag collection**
- **32 gal Green Organic carts**
- **Literature, Instructions, Website,  
Community Meetings, Door-to-Door**
- **Semi-Automated Rear Loader Trucks**
- **Processing: Competitive Bid Contracts**
- **Five Year Roll-out Schedule**



# Curbside Organics Collection

## City-Wide Roll-Out

### Proposed Five Year Plan

| Household Counts<br>Per Fiscal Year                       | FY16    | FY17    | FY18    | FY19    | FY20    |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Traditional Yard Trimmings<br>Household Count             | 182,000 | 147,800 | 99,300  | 50,900  | 0       |
| Household Conversion to<br>Full Organics Service / Year   | 14,000  | 54,000  | 106,000 | 158,000 | 210,000 |
| Total Households Serviced                                 | 196,000 | 201,800 | 205,300 | 208,900 | 210,000 |
| % of Total Households with<br>Organics Collection Service | 7%      | 27%     | 52%     | 76%     | 100%    |

#### Diversion Rate Impacts per Fiscal Year

|                              |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Previous Year Diversion Rate | 40% | 44% | 51% | 59% | 67% |
| Additional Recycling Growth  | +4% | +4% | +4% | +4% | +4% |
| Additional Organics Growth   | +0% | +3% | +4% | +4% | +4% |
| Residential Diversion Rate   | 44% | 51% | 59% | 67% | 75% |



# Curbside Organics Collection City-Wide Roll-Out Estimated Program Expenses

New Program Expenses Added per Year for first five-years

| Organics Program Expansion                                      | FY16            | FY17               | FY18               | FY19               | FY20               |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel & Operations<br>(additional each year)                | \$35,000        | \$1,603,000        | \$1,833,000        | \$1,565,000        | 1,241,000          |
| Vehicles & Carts<br>(Debt Financed additional per yr)           | \$61,000        | \$382,000          | \$692,000          | \$739,000          | \$592,000          |
| <b>New Expenses each year</b>                                   | <b>\$96,000</b> | <b>\$1,985,000</b> | <b>\$2,525,000</b> | <b>\$2,304,000</b> | <b>\$1,833,000</b> |
| <b>Rate Impact for new cost<br/>(Added to Monthly Base Fee)</b> | <b>\$ 0.04</b>  | <b>\$ 0.90</b>     | <b>\$ 1.13</b>     | <b>\$ 1.01</b>     | <b>\$ 1.02</b>     |
| <b>Projected annual rate<br/>adjustment – typical customer</b>  | <b>0.2%</b>     | <b>3.7%</b>        | <b>4.5%</b>        | <b>3.8%</b>        | <b>3.8%</b>        |
| <b>Annual Organics Diversion</b>                                | <b>+0%</b>      | <b>+3%</b>         | <b>+4%</b>         | <b>+4%</b>         | <b>+4%</b>         |

Projected Rate Impacts reflect only Organics Expansion Program and do not reflect other potential program growth.



# Curbside Organics Collection City-Wide Roll-Out

## Estimated Impact on Utility Rates

| Average Cost of Service  | FY15           |
|--|----------------|
| Trash Collection & Landfill Disposal                           | \$11.06        |
| Recycling Collection with Processing Contracts                 | \$ 7.46        |
| Yard Trimmings & Brush Composting (Current without food waste) | \$ 5.34        |
| Bulky Waste Pickup   | \$ 1.28        |
| <b>Total Cost of Service (Current Curbside Services)</b>       | <b>\$25.14</b> |

| Organics Expansion First 5 Year Rate Impacts              | Rate Impacts  |
|---|---------------|
| FY16 rate increase above current Cost of Service          | \$0.04        |
| FY17 rate increase  | \$0.90        |
| FY18 rate increase  | \$1.13        |
| FY19 rate increase  | \$1.01        |
| FY20 rate increase  | \$1.02        |
| <b>Total rate increase over 5 years</b>                   | <b>\$4.10</b> |
| <b>Additional Diversion Gained when fully implemented</b> | <b>15%</b>    |

Projected Rate Impacts reflect only Organics Expansion Program and do not reflect other potential program growth.



# Curbside Organics Collection City-Wide Roll-Out

## Timeline

- ZWAC Discussion 2/11/15 and 4/8/15
- Five-year Budget Forecast – Council 5/6/15
- Public Utilities Council Committee 8/19/15
- Council FY16 Budget Discussions

If adopted; the Implementation Schedule  
would include the following:

- Community Input Meetings
- Adoption of City-Wide Roll-Out Schedule
- FY16: Planning / Equipment Purchases
- FY17-FY20 Phase-In: 52,000 Household per year



## **Curbside Organics Collection Cost / Benefit Summary**

### ■ **Cost of Proposed Organics Collection**

- FY16: \$0.04 increase = 0.2% rate increase
- Over 5 years: \$4.10 increase = ave 3.2% annual increase for first five years to implement city-wide

### ■ **Benefits of Organics Collection**

- 15% advancement on Diversion Goals
- Meet the 2020 goal of 75% Diversion
- Significant Progress toward 90% Zero Waste Goal
- Landfill savings = \$1.1 million per year
- Significant Green House Gas Reductions

- **Director Recommendation**  
**Implement the Organics Collection  
over a Five Year Roll-Out Schedule**

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**Organics Collection Discussion**



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