

## Multifamily Diversion and Contamination

ZWAC Universal Recycling Ordinance Subcommittee  
September 27, 2017



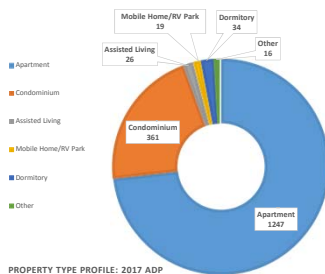
## Universal Recycling Ordinance



Approximate dwelling units affected each year:

- FY 2015 = 165,000
- FY 2016 = 180,000
- FY 2017 = 190,000

## What is a 'Multifamily' property?



Multifamily Properties include:

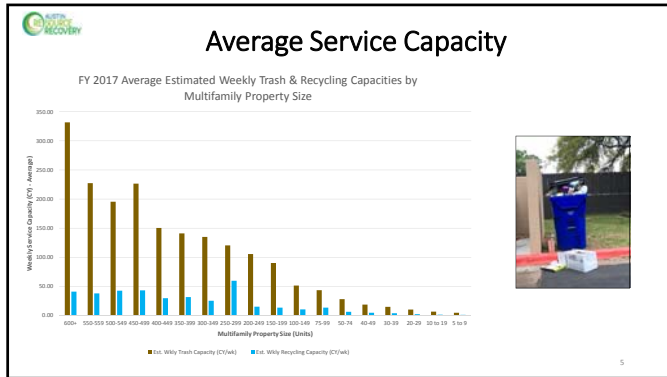
- Apartments
- Dormitories
- Mobile Home Parks
- Condominiums
- Assisted Living Facilities

PROPERTY TYPE PROFILE: 2017 ADP

## Multifamily Properties in Austin

- Multifamily properties must provide **6.4 gallons of recycling per dwelling unit/week**
- Commonly see trash dumpster with recycling cart(s)
  - Commercial properties required to provide 1 to 1 ratio, typically see dumpsters side-by-side





**Common Challenges at Multifamily Properties**

Overflowing recycling carts

- Residents want to do right thing
- Will place recyclables by container if full

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**Common Challenges at Multifamily Properties**

Overflowing recycling carts

- Cardboard boxes not flattened

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**Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study: Lid-Lifting Observations**

Randomly selected areas for field observations

**Lid-Lifting Observation Form**

Re-TRAC

Site:

Investigator:  Date:

Address:

Area:

Area 1:  Area 2:  Area 3:  Area 4:

Container Observation Description Table

Area	Container Type	Container Status	Container Contents	Container Condition
Area 1	Recycling	Full	Cardboard boxes, paper, plastic	Good
Area 2	Recycling	Full	Cardboard boxes, paper, plastic	Good
Area 3	Recycling	Full	Cardboard boxes, paper, plastic	Good
Area 4	Recycling	Full	Cardboard boxes, paper, plastic	Good

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**Lid Lifting Observations**

70% of trash containers had recyclable materials

- Cardboard or paper

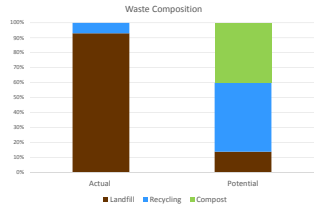
One third of recycling containers had contamination

- Plastic film and mixed residuals



**2013 Foundation Communities Waste Characterization**

- Paper and plastics make up the majority of the recyclables in the waste stream
- Visual estimate: 40% of waste stream made up of food scraps and soiled paper



Category	Landfill (%)	Recycling (%)	Compost (%)
Actual	~90	~10	0
Potential	~10	~40	~50

**Compost Infrastructure in Austin**

- URO Organics should lead to more composting options for business community
- Composting requires significant education and outreach resources



**Diversion Opportunities at MF properties**

- Rebates available
- Community Gardens, Farmers Markets
- Partner with Reuse businesses
- Education





## Thank You! Questions?

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**Deep dive into the full Diversion Study at:**

- [www.austintexas.gov/2015DiversionStudy](http://www.austintexas.gov/2015DiversionStudy)



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