



**To:** Zero Waste Advisory Commission  
**From:** Sam Angoori, P.E., Interim Director  
Austin Resource Recovery Department  
**Date:** November 8, 2017  
**Subject:** **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

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## **Residential Curbside Composting Update**

### **Project Summary:**

- The Curbside Composting program collects food scraps, yard trimmings and food-soiled paper from curbside customers so the material can be converted into compost. A 2015 study showed that almost half of all material residential customers send to the landfill is compostable material, which demonstrates the potential to divert much more material from the landfill.
- This service is included in the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan that was approved by Council in December 2011.
- Austin Resource Recovery started a pilot program in early 2013 and expanded the pilot to additional homes in February 2014.
- Staff designed the citywide program based on customer feedback and learnings from the pilot phase. Staff expects to provide the service to about 90,000 of its 194,000 curbside customers by the end Fiscal Year 2018.
- Extensive public education and outreach is planned to ensure that customers know how to properly participate in the new service. Outreach activities begin at least 3 months prior to new customers being added to the service, including direct mail, door-to-door outreach, and neighborhood-level workshops, presentations and trainings.
- Staff to conduct curbside compost setout study in December and waste characterization audit in first quarter of FY '18.

### **Budget:**

- Austin Resource Recovery estimates that a \$4/month rate increase will be required to fund the citywide expansion of the service. Total cost for the equipment and trucks for the service once it is fully expanded/rolled out is \$15.8 million and the ongoing annual operating expense for the 28 new FTEs and organics processing fees is approximately \$5.1 million. City Council approved a \$1/month rate increase in the FY 2017 budget. ARR staff proposed a \$0.85 increase to the base

fee for FY 18. In response to Council feedback, staff presented an alternate proposal to debt finance replacement vehicles for recycling and trash service in order to stretch the expense out over 7 years. Council voted to support the option to debt finance vehicles, therefore no rate increase was included in the FY 18 budget.

- Additional rate increases will be required in the future to continue to expand the service citywide.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Timeline:

Date	Milestone	Approximate Number of Customers Added
2013	Pilot Phase began	7,900
2014	Pilot Phase expanded	6,500
Oct. 2, 2017	Citywide expansion begins	38,000
Summer 2018	Citywide expansion continues	38,000 (planned)
2019*	Citywide expansion continues	52,000 (Projected)
2020*	All remaining curbside customers	55,000 (Projected)

\* Future expansions are contingent on City Council approval of expenses and rate increases during the annual budget process.

#### **Schedule for Master Plan update**

At the August ZWAC meeting staff provided a schedule for the Plan update and asked the Commissioners to review the existing Master Plan and to provide comments on their areas focus. This review process would narrow down the scope of work for the update and possibly reduce the consultant cost and save rate payers' money. Staff discussed the following schedule at the August 2017 ZWAC meeting:

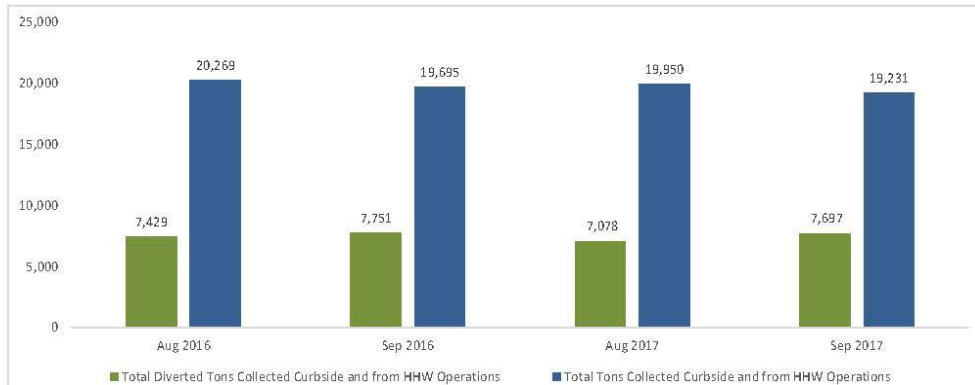
- August – December 2017 : Commissioners review the existing plan for areas of focus
- January 2018 : Discuss focus areas
- January – February 2018 : Develop scope of work for the project
- February – June 2018: work on Request for Proposal (RFP), send out the RFP in accordance with City of Austin's competitive solicitation process
- July 2018 : Staff returns to ZWAC with RCA
- August 2018 : Council approval to authorize and negotiate an agreement with the recommended consultant
- October 2018: consultant begins work, coinciding with the start of the FY 19.

## Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

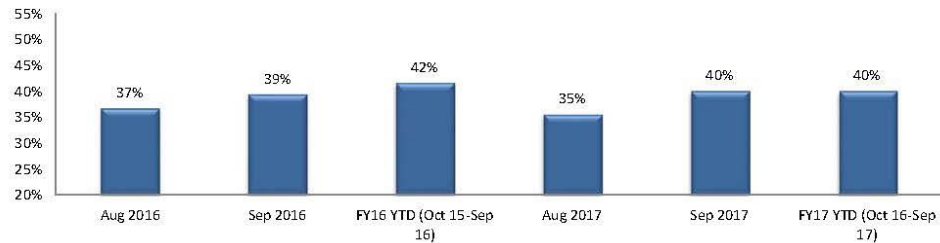
LAST FISCAL YEAR										CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
Description of Services	FY 2015	FY 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	FY16 YTD (Oct 15-Sep 16)	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	FY17 YTD (Oct 16-Sep 17)	FY 2017 Goal					
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	130,784	129,266	11,656	10,701	129,266	11,636	10,316	131,815	124,800				
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	9,525	11,869	1,149	1,194	11,869	1,187	1,178	11,179	7,581				
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	432	468	35	49	468	39	39	471	360				
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	140,741	141,603	12,840	11,944	141,603	12,872	11,533	143,465	132,741				
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	57,324	58,879	5,089	4,756	58,879	5,080	4,730	58,705	65,825				
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	311	436	41	35	436	43	40	465	270				
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	28,036	32,605	1,636	1,808	32,605	1,305	2,024	29,047	40,407				
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	171	276	12	12	276	9	14	161	142				
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	7,776	8,460	651	1,140	8,460	642	889	7,367	8,000				
Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	93,618	100,656	7,429	7,751	100,656	7,078	7,697	95,745	114,644					
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations	234,359	242,259	20,269	19,695	242,259	19,950	19,231	239,210	247,385					
Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations	39.95%	41.55%	36.65%	39.36%	41.55%	35.48%	40.03%	40.03%	46.34%					
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup	25.96	25.83	27.77	25.52	25.83	27.57	24.38	26.09	24.59					
Number of Trash customers	191,580	192,476	193,719	193,519	192,476	194,792	195,324	194,357	195,199					
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)	23.20	23.69	24.43	22.85	23.70	24.14	22.46	23.39	26.39					
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	5.67	6.56	3.93	4.34	6.56	3.10	4.80	5.79	6.21					
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	190,088	191,156	192,292	192,162	191,156	194,255	194,446	193,110	191,864					
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.33	4.33	52.00	4.33	4.33	52.00	52					
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter	62	39	2	3	39	3	3	44	67					
Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit	8,684	9,556	848	773	9,556	871	810	9,471	N/A					
Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	11	245	N/A					
Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	4,252	4,123	291	310	4,123	304	350	5,069	N/A					

## Statistical Reports

## Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations



### Percent of Waste Stream Diverted from Curbside and HHW Operations



#### Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2011-12 actual	FY2012-13 actual	FY2013-14 actual	FY2014-15 actual	FY2015-16 actual	FY2016 -17 Goal	FY2016-17 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	37.86%	39.64%	39.61%	40.11%	41.55%	50.00%	40.03%
Commercial / Industrial Waste Diversion	information not available*						
Institutional Waste Diversion	information not available*						

\* "Commercial, industrial, and institutional materials are not separately quantified and reported because licensed haulers do not separately collect and manage these materials (e.g., a commercial collection route can include both commercial businesses and institutional facilities)." (Page 51 - Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study)

### Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)

