



MEMORANDUM

To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Cathy Gattuso, ZWAC Organics Management Committee Chair and
Sam Angoori, P.E. Interim Director, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR)

Subject: Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee 2017 Summary

Date: February 14, 2018

The purpose of this memo is to summarize actions of the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Committee of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) for calendar year 2017 as required by current bylaws.

Background

The URO Committee was created in 2009 as part of the original development process of the Universal Recycling Ordinance, which was adopted by Council in 2010. The URO Committee remained active through two amendment process in 2012 and 2014.

The URO Committee is intended through bylaw, to review the URO and to hold meetings with stakeholders as they develop recommendations to Council to fully implement the URO throughout the city, city facilities, and public spaces.

Status

The Universal Recycling Ordinance remains on schedule for full implementation across the city in October 2018. The URO currently affects over 9,600 properties and 700 food permit holders within the City. The final phase of implementation in 2018 is anticipated to incorporate over 6,000 food permit holders.

Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach Team continues to work cooperatively with the community and provide education, resources, and rebates to business and multifamily properties to find innovative solutions to divert material from the landfill and meet the requirements of the ordinance.

The URO Committee met three (3) times in 2017.

February 17, 2017: The committee participated in a facilitated discussion on food donation for people, food donation infrastructure, and connecting businesses to non-profits for food donation. No action was taken by the committee.

May 5, 2017: The Committee was briefed on the topic of contamination by representatives of Balcones Resources, New Gen Strategies and Solutions, and Burns and McDonell. No action was taken by the committee.

September 27, 2017: The Committee was briefed on organics collection at multifamily properties in other municipalities and multifamily collection in Austin (primarily recycling), and participated in a facilitated discussion on the opportunities and challenges for organics collection at multifamily properties. No action was taken by the committee.

The URO Committee will continue to monitor and provide recommendations regarding the ongoing implementation of the ordinance.