



**To:** Zero Waste Advisory Commission

**From:** Sam Angoori, P.E., Interim  
Director Austin Resource  
Recovery Department

**Date:** May 9, 2018

**Subject:** **Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

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### **Scrap Cart Contract**

Austin Resource Recovery recently resolicited the scrap cart contract, which requires a vendor to recycle damaged and unusable trash, recycle and compost carts. The new contract was awarded to **Polymers Technologies, LLC** and executed on April 10, 2018. This is a revenue generating contract; the contract's initial term is 36 months with two 12-month options.

### **Alkyd/Oil Based Paint**

In June, ARR will present a contract to ZWAC for the Alkyd/Oil Based Paint from the Household Hazardous Waste Facility to be recycled. Currently, the material is disposed of through the current hazardous waste vendor, but recently, the technology to recycle some of this material became available in the United States. There isn't much cost difference, but the material will be recycled rather than disposed of, and Austin is believed to be the first HHW program in the US to have their oil based paint recycled. In fiscal year 17, the program received 297,089 pounds of this material. So far in FY18, the amount is 145,148 pounds.

### **Plastic Drinking Straw Reduction**

Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) continues to monitor the development of plastic drinking straw policy across the United States. Efforts to reduce plastic straw consumption are encouraged and align with ARR's master plan and zero waste goals.

In the past year, a handful of American cities - primarily coastal - have developed or amended ordinances with an aim to reduce plastic straw consumption. Focused on reducing litter at beaches, Fort Myers, FL and Malibu, CA banned plastic drinking straws from distribution at restaurants. Along similar lines, Davis, CA and San Luis Obispo, CA passed ordinances that require restaurants to provide customers with straws "upon request only."

This summer, Seattle's prohibition on the distribution of disposable plastic straws by food service providers will go into effect. In partnership with a non-profit focused on ocean pollution, a massive public education campaign called "Strawless in Seattle" was launched prior to this last year. As a result, over 200 major regional retailers voluntarily moved to reusable or compostable straws. Similar to "Strawless in Seattle," numerous plastic straw campaigns have been launched across the country including: Straw Wars, Straws Suck, The Last Plastic Straw, and One Straw Less. These campaigns focus on education, public awareness, and voluntary compliance to reduce plastic straw usage by citizens and businesses.

ARR's Business Outreach Team actively promotes reduced distribution of plastic drinking straws. When advising businesses on ways to increase diversion, they encourage practices such as shifting to compostable straws or "upon request only" policies.

Per discussion with other City departments, there is currently no data on plastic straw litter in Austin. Given the findings of the waste composition study completed in 2015 and the rollout of curbside composting collection services to an additional 38,000 households this summer, ARR remains focused on reducing contamination in the recycling stream and educating customers on the new Curbside Composting collection services.

Soon, ARR will conduct another waste composition study which might provide an opportunity to track and quantify straws. Additionally, the City's Watershed Protection Department has indicated a willingness to study this issue with ARR, and has discussed the possibility of tracking the amount of straw litter during creek clean-up efforts. Both of these initiatives would produce valuable information that can guide and inform ARR on the extent of straw discards in Austin so that the department can take appropriate steps to ensure our City's zero waste goal can be met.

### **URO Requirements: Organics Diversion**

The URO requires businesses with a food permit to provide employees ways to keep organic materials out of the landfill. By October 2018, all food-permitted businesses (approximately 6,000) will be affected. The URO also specifically states: "the department shall by rule encourage owners of affected premises to follow the [EPA's] hierarchy of beneficial use of scrap food, which beginning with the most beneficial, is: (1) feeding hungry people."

To promote food recovery for people, ARR employs a multi-pronged approach.

**PROMOTION & INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES.** ARR staff provides detailed information and resources regarding food donation guidelines, liability protection, tax deduction benefits and information about local food donation organizations via ARR's website, printed materials, trainings, presentations, and during site visits conducted with businesses. In all presentations on organics diversion, staff includes information on the "hierarchy of beneficial use" and promotes food donations. ARR has published more online resources about food donation than about composting or other diversion options. Staff is also exploring participation as an "endorser" in the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge Program to further solidify ARR's commitment to promoting food recovery.

**REBATES.** Staff actively promotes the Zero Waste Business Rebate for food recovery efforts and is targeting the most likely businesses that would implement food recovery to encourage them to apply. To see food recovery implemented and exhaust FY18 rebate funds, staff has set goals on the number of rebate applications we hope to process.

**PUBLIC EVENTS.** Last fall, ARR co-hosted the Feeding the 5000 event in conjunction with other food recovery partners to foster more awareness and acceptability about food recovery. Staff anticipates another public event by the end of FY18 to increase awareness about food waste.

**FOOD RECOVERY WORKING GROUP.** In 2017 Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board recommended that Council dedicate funding for food recovery in FY18. However, the request was not approved. As a result, the Board's Food Recovery Working Group identified priorities for 2018 that were not dependent on funding:

1. Addressing challenges with the permitting of food pantries.
2. Advancing a Food Rescue Policy for the Austin Convention Center.

Currently, Austin Public Health's permit requirements for food pantries are the same as those required

for restaurants and grocery stores. This type of permitting is time consuming and costly, and as a result, many food pantries are not permitted. Local food recovery organizations are unsure if food pantries would have the financial means to meet all of the food permit requirements. The Working Group has identified this as a challenge area, and are exploring next steps to ensure that food recovery can continue and grow in Austin.

As a focus area, the Working Group is working with the Austin Convention Center to better understand current practices around food recovery. The ultimate goal of the Working Group is to advance a Food Rescue Policy.

**ADDITIONAL DATA NEEDS.** Austin Resource Recovery, along with the Office of Sustainability and Austin Public Health agree that more information is needed regarding the type of food that is being discarded. For example, it is not known how much wasted food is edible or nutritious, which is critical to understanding the impact that increased food donations can make on addressing public health issues. ARR is coordinating with these departments to develop a study on the type and quantity of food being wasted in Austin.

As a starting point, ARR has dedicated a temporary staff position to evaluate the state of Austin's food recovery network and its ability to disperse increased levels of food donations, research effective food recovery efforts in comparable communities, and identify any other relevant information necessary to ensure that the most effective policies and programs are implemented. (A temporary employee was hired because permanent staff is fully dedicated to implementing and administering the existing requirements of the URO.) This work is expected to be complete by end of summer.



ARR Solicitations Update  
ZWAC Meeting Date: May 9, 2018

**ARR Solicitations under Development (in alphabetical order):**

1. **Consultant for Affordability Study:** RFQ – Consultant to conduct a comprehensive, data driven benchmarking study of public and private solid waste collection operators in Texas that includes background information on efforts relating to sustainability, Zero Waste commitments, landfill diversion goals, climate, and other components outlined by the City. This study has been directed by City Council Resolution Number 20180201-068. This is a new Contract.

**ARR Agreements for Review (in alphabetical order):**

1. **Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Travis County Constable's Office for Security Officer Services:** – Travis County, through the Constable's Office, shall provide security officer services to Austin Resource Recovery's Litter Control Operations crew. This is a new Agreement.

**No Requests for Information (RFI) are scheduled to be issued in the next 30 days:**

**Definitions:**

Request for Proposals (RFP): Formal request for a supplier to provide a solution and cost estimate to a complex need.

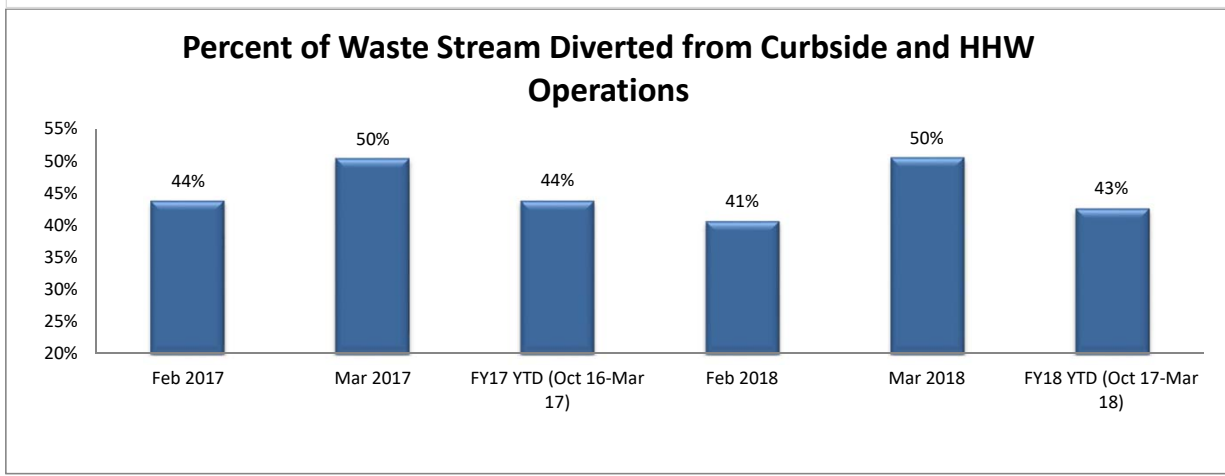
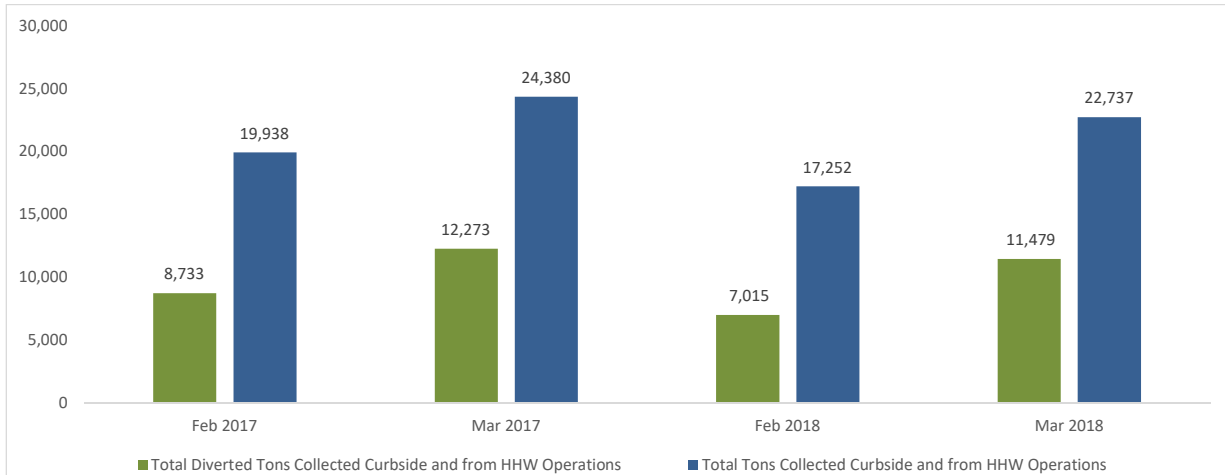
Invitation for Bid (IFB): Formal bidding documents inviting suppliers to submit pricing for goods or services.

Request for Quotation (RFQ): Informal request to suppliers to provide quotes on specific goods or services.

# Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations

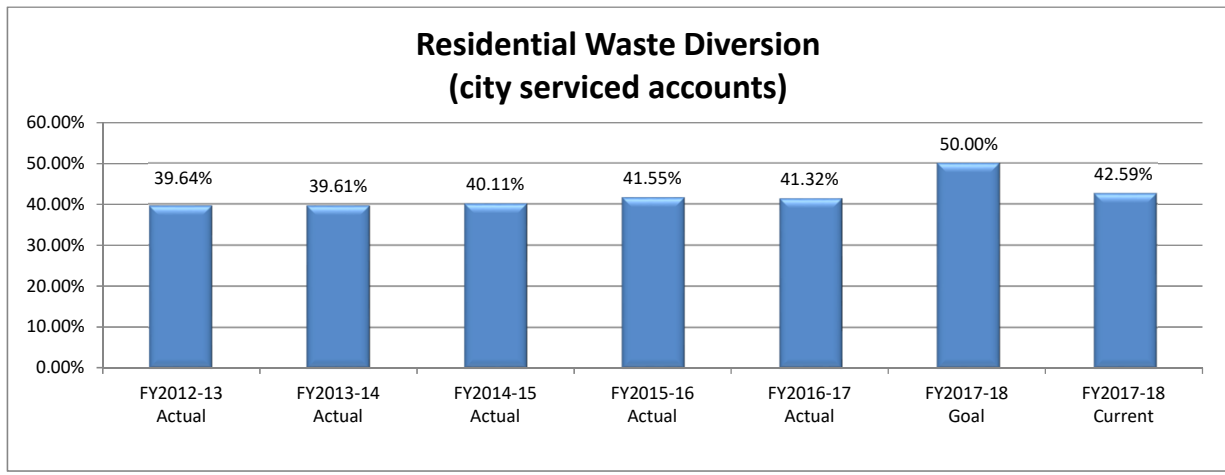
Description of Services	LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				FY 2018 Goal
	FY 2016	FY 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	FY17 YTD (Oct 16-Mar 17)	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	FY18 YTD (Oct 17-Mar 18)	
<b>Tons Disposed</b>									
Tons of curbside Trash	129,266	131,815	10,143	11,841	66,074	9,522	11,169	64,463	133,208
Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	11,869	11,179	1,023	219	4,302	685	35	3,728	10,900
HHW Operations Tons Disposed	468	471	39	47	220	30	54	222	476
<b>Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations</b>	<b>141,603</b>	<b>143,465</b>	<b>11,205</b>	<b>12,107</b>	<b>70,596</b>	<b>10,237</b>	<b>11,258</b>	<b>68,413</b>	<b>144,108</b>
<b>Tons Diverted</b>									
Tons of curbside recycling	58,879	58,705	4,547	5,139	29,768	4,308	5,012	29,549	60,000
HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	436	465	32	29	191	31	38	190	498
Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	32,605	34,316	3,540	6,248	21,368	2,173	5,955	17,945	41,525
Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	276	161	12	1	59	12	0	87	160
Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	8,460	7,367	603	857	3,649	490	473	2,984	8,000
<b>Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations</b>	<b>100,656</b>	<b>101,014</b>	<b>8,733</b>	<b>12,273</b>	<b>55,035</b>	<b>7,015</b>	<b>11,479</b>	<b>50,755</b>	<b>110,183</b>
<b>Total Tons Collected Curbside and from HHW Operations</b>	<b>242,259</b>	<b>244,479</b>	<b>19,938</b>	<b>24,380</b>	<b>125,631</b>	<b>17,252</b>	<b>22,737</b>	<b>119,168</b>	<b>254,291</b>
<b>Percent of Waste Stream Diverted by Curbside and HHW Operations</b>	<b>41.55%</b>	<b>41.32%</b>	<b>43.80%</b>	<b>50.34%</b>	<b>43.81%</b>	<b>40.66%</b>	<b>50.49%</b>	<b>42.59%</b>	<b>43.33%</b>
<b>Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup</b>	<b>25.83</b>	<b>26.09</b>	<b>24.18</b>	<b>28.12</b>	<b>26.24</b>	<b>22.10</b>	<b>25.85</b>	<b>25.04</b>	<b>25.89</b>
Number of Trash customers	192,476	194,357	193,587	194,395	193,696	198,842	199,442	198,011	197,876
<b>Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)</b>	<b>23.69</b>	<b>23.38</b>	<b>21.84</b>	<b>24.57</b>	<b>23.81</b>	<b>20.13</b>	<b>23.35</b>	<b>23.08</b>	<b>23.61</b>
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week	6.56	6.83	8.50	14.94	8.55	5.08	13.87	7.01	8.17
Number of Recycling and Yard Trimmings customers	191,156	193,110	192,185	193,082	192,330	197,609	198,181	196,979	195,520
Number of PAYT pickups	52	52	4.33	4.33	26.00	4.33	4.33	26.00	52
<b>Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>42</b>
Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit	9,556	9,471	693	781	4,593	735	848	5,047	9,927
Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	N/A	245	26	22	157	10	21	70	171
Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	4,123	5,059	490	747	2,982	904	2,064	7,036	20,221

## Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and HHW Operations



Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation							
Category of Waste Generation	FY2012-13 Actual	FY2013-14 Actual	FY2014-15 Actual	FY2015-16 Actual	FY2016-17 Actual	FY2017-18 Goal	FY2017-18 Current
<b>Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)</b>	39.64%	39.61%	40.11%	41.55%	41.32%	50.00%	42.59%
<b>Community Diversion Rate</b>	*	*	*	42.02%	*	*	*

\*As prescribed in the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan, the Department will conduct a detailed waste assessment study every five years to determine progress toward our Zero Waste goal. The first such study was published in 2015 and is titled Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study. The study focused on estimating diversion from both ARR-serviced properties and commercial properties. Commercial properties include retail businesses, food service establishments, professional offices, industrial properties, institutional facilities, government facilities, and multifamily properties five units and larger.



**Zero Waste Advisory Commission - April 4th, 2018**  
**Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report**

**FY18: October 2017 - February 2018**

**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 2017	TDS	2,189.11	\$115,337	\$198,114	(\$82,777)	(\$37.81)	\$21.99	\$48,139
	BRI	2,619.00	\$68,017	\$194,521	(\$126,504)	(\$48.30)	\$21.99	\$57,592
	<i>Total</i>	4,808.11	\$183,354	\$392,635	(\$209,281)			\$105,730
November 2017	TDS	1,836.05	\$83,079	\$166,163	(\$83,084)	(\$45.25)	\$21.99	\$40,375
	BRI	3,135.81	\$75,579	\$224,469	(\$148,890)	(\$47.48)	\$21.99	\$68,956
	<i>Total</i>	4,971.86	\$158,658	\$390,632	(\$231,974)			\$109,331
December 2017	TDS	1,905.47	\$86,947	\$172,445	(\$85,498)	(\$44.87)	\$21.99	\$41,901
	BRI	3,076.03	\$77,502	\$221,181	(\$143,679)	(\$46.71)	\$21.99	\$67,642
	<i>Total</i>	4,981.50	\$164,449	\$393,626	(\$229,177)			\$109,543
January 2018	TDS	2,469.47	\$114,108	\$223,487	(\$109,379)	(\$44.29)	\$21.99	\$54,304
	BRI	3,051.51	\$77,835	\$224,382	(\$146,547)	(\$48.02)	\$21.99	\$67,103
	<i>Total</i>	5,520.98	\$191,943	\$447,869	(\$255,926)			\$121,406
February 2018	TDS	1,731.32	\$75,379	\$156,684	(\$81,305)	(\$46.96)	\$21.99	\$38,072
	BRI	2,573.31	\$62,284	\$191,825	(\$129,541)	(\$50.34)	\$21.99	\$56,587
	<i>Total</i>	4,304.63	\$137,663	\$348,509	(\$210,846)			\$94,659
<b>FY18 Totals</b>		<b>24,587.08</b>	<b>\$836,067</b>	<b>\$1,973,271</b>	<b>(\$1,137,204)</b>			<b>\$540,670</b>