



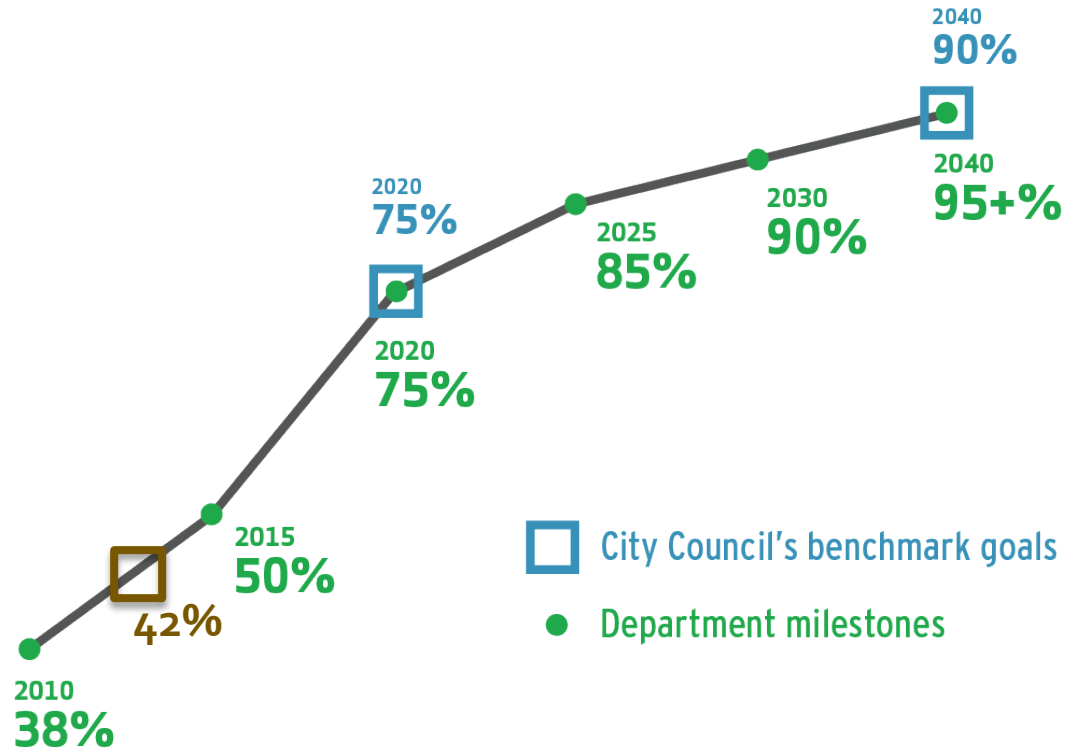
# Austin - Travis County Food Policy Board

## Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Organics Diversion

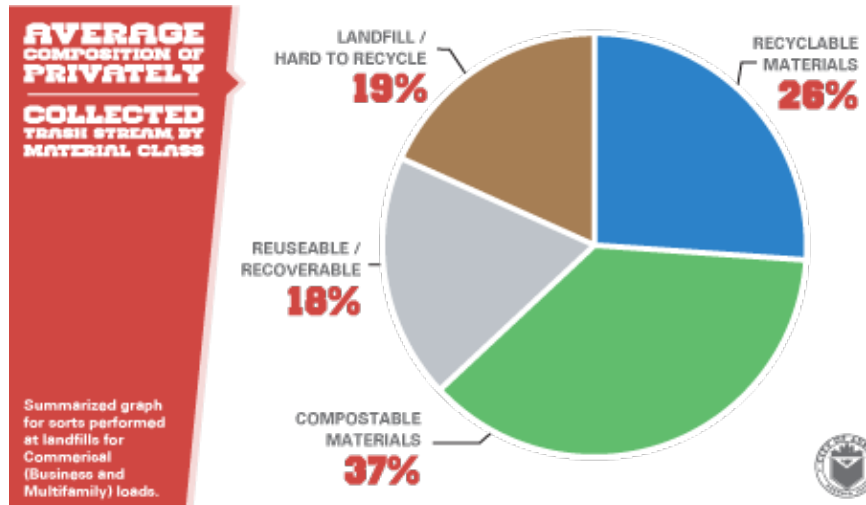
Jason McCombs, Principal Planner  
City of Austin – Austin Resource Recovery – Strategic Initiatives  
September 17, 2018



# Austin's Zero Waste Goal



# Austin's Waste Composition



## Key Findings of the 2015 Community Diversion Study:

- ▶ Austin diverts 42% of material from the landfill;
- ▶ 80% of discarded material could have been reused, donated, or recycled;
- ▶ Organic/Compostable materials make up 37% of materials sent to local landfills;
- ▶ Businesses and apartments generated 85% of the discards in our community; and
- ▶ Single family homes generated 15% of the discards in our community.

More information at: [austintexas.gov/2015diversionstudy](http://austintexas.gov/2015diversionstudy)

# Organic Diversion in Austin



Universal Recycling Ordinance

Organics Diversion requirements for food permit holders (restaurants, grocery stores, etc.)

For more information visit: [austintexas.gov/uro](http://austintexas.gov/uro)



Residential Curbside Composting

Compost cart collection (single family homes)

For more information visit: [austintexas.gov/austincomposts](http://austintexas.gov/austincomposts)

# Austin Resource Recovery's Outreach Teams



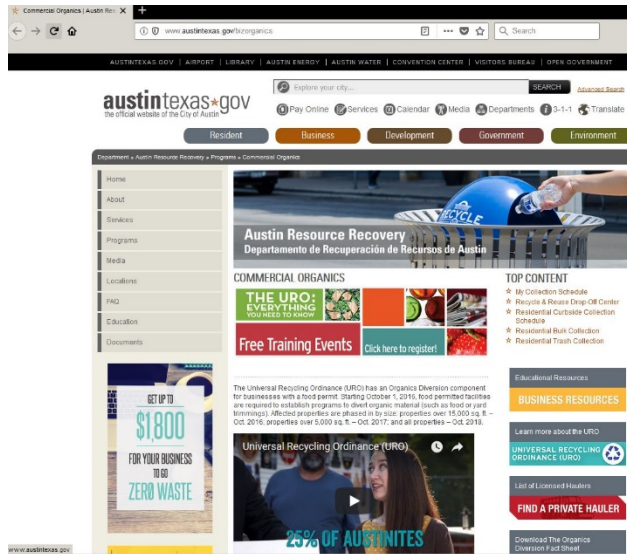
Austin Resource Recovery's Public Information team has eight employees, including neighborhood liaisons, graphics designers, social media managers, and traditional media points of contact, who provide education and outreach information related to City, service, departmental, or master plan activities.



Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach is a team of eight employees who monitors master plan programs and related ordinances. This team offers educational resources, technical assistance, and site specific information and guidance to commercial and multifamily properties and permit holders within city limits.

# Community Engagement and Outreach

## URO Organics Diversion



Web page: [austintexas.gov/bizorganics](http://austintexas.gov/bizorganics)



Flyers and Handouts



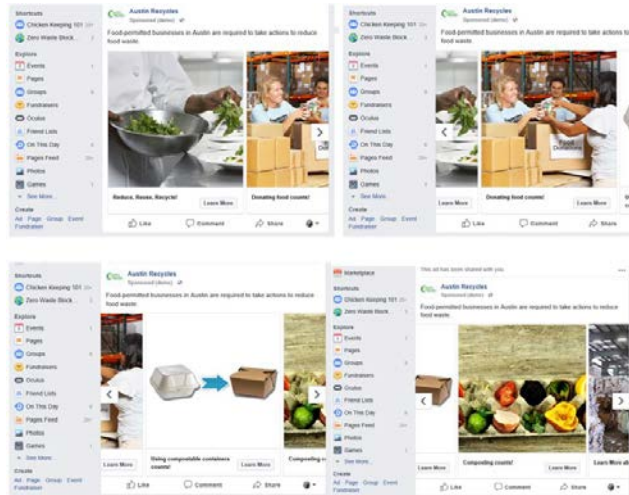
Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO)

Social Media Video



# Community Engagement and Outreach

## URO Organics Diversion



Facebook Advertising

### BUSINESS RECYCLING CASE STUDIES

#### Austin Resource Recovery Business Case Studies

The Case Studies presented below showcase local businesses that have found effective means to implement recycling, composting or other zero waste practices with Austin Resource Recovery staff guidance. If you'd like to receive advice on starting or improving a program at your business, contact our Business Outreach team at [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-9727.



#### Nature's Treasures

**Challenges.** Nature's Treasures previously self-hauled waste from their operations, including a retail store, a retail store and a community event center for classes, fairs and rentals. Nature's Treasures staff was aware of the URO, and looking for guidance on how to make it cost-effective for the business.

[Read More](#)



#### Piazza Navona Condominiums

**Challenges.** Piazza Navona Condominiums' door-to-door (valet) trash and recycling program was struggling. A low participation rate from student residents, and services did not align with hauler services. Additionally, valet services were offered 3 times per week, but its two trash dumpsters were serviced daily, adding costs. Obtaining resident contact information was challenging since most units were leased by owners.

[Read More](#)

Business Case Studies



Direct Mailing

### ORGANICS DIVERSION REQUIREMENTS

Businesses are required to implement options to reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfills. Organic waste includes things like wasted or expired food, napkins, food scraps and paper towels.

**WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY?**  
Beginning **October 1, 2018**, all businesses in Austin with a food permit must meet the requirements.

**DO I HAVE TO REPORT ANYTHING?**  
Yes, you will need to submit an online Organics Diversion Plan at [austintexas.gov/odp](http://austintexas.gov/odp) to show you are meeting all ordinance requirements by **February 1** each year.

**HOW DO I REDUCE ORGANIC WASTE?**  
There are many options to meet the requirements: Prevent • Reduce • Donate • Compost

**Interested in a REBATE up to \$1,800? Call for details!**  
[austintexas.gov/bzorganics](http://austintexas.gov/bzorganics) | [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov) | (512) 974-9727

**NEW REQUIREMENT**

**AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Austin Energy Utility Bill Insert



Radio Advertising



# Community Engagement and Outreach

## URO Organics Diversion



Hello,

Beginning Oct. 1, 2018 all permitted food businesses in the City of Austin will be affected by Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance which requires that businesses provide employees with on-site access to diversion of organic materials like food scraps, expired foods, and soiled paper, from local landfills.

More information is available at [www.austintexas.gov/bizorganics](http://www.austintexas.gov/bizorganics).

The Austin Resource Recovery and Austin Public Health are partnering to host free trainings to help owners and managers of food-permitted businesses learn about local policies, compliance requirements, and best practices. Come and receive free educational resources.

**WHAT:** Health & Waste Requirements for Food-Permitted Businesses

**WHERE:** Manchaca Road Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 17th

**TIME:** 10:30-11:30 AM

[RSVP Here](#)

OR

**WHAT:** Health & Waste Requirements for Food-Permitted Businesses

**WHERE:** Old Quarry Library Branch, 7051 Village Center Dr.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 24th

**TIME:** 2:00-3:00 PM

[RSVP Here](#)

For more information about the event, please contact [info@owaste.org](mailto:info@owaste.org).



#### DESCRIPTION

Beginning Oct. 1, 2018 all food-permitted businesses will be affected by Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance which requires businesses to provide options to divert organic materials, such as food scraps, expired foods, and soiled papers from local landfills.

More policy information is available at [www.austintexas.gov/bizorganics](http://www.austintexas.gov/bizorganics)

This is a free training for the owners and managers of food-permitted businesses featuring the Austin Resource Recovery and Public Health Departments. Access free educational resources and learn about local policies, business requirements, compliance options, and best practices.

**WHAT:** City Policies and Resources for Food-Permitted Businesses

**WHERE:** Old Quarry Library Branch, 7051 Village Center Drive

**WHEN:** Monday, September 24, 2018

**TIME:** 2:00-3:00 PM

For more information about the event or for additional information about the Universal Recycling Ordinance, visit [www.austintexas.gov/bizorganics](http://www.austintexas.gov/bizorganics) or contact [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov)

#### DATE AND TIME

Mon, September 24, 2018  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CDT  
[Add to Calendar](#)

#### LOCATION

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library  
7051 Village Center Drive  
Austin, TX 78731  
[View Map](#)



Follow Austin Resource Recovery on Facebook or Twitter for regular training updates.

Schedule a training by contacting:  
[commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov)







# Austin Resource Recovery's (ARR) Role in Enforcement

Austin Resource Recovery will monitor approximately 14,000 properties or food permit holders in FY19.

Annual Diversion Plans (ADP) and the Organics Diversion Plans (ODP) are submitted beginning in October of each year for multifamily properties, commercial properties, and food permit holders. Online at: [austintexas.gov/uro](http://austintexas.gov/uro).

Notice of ordinance infractions is complaint driven. Anonymous complaints can be sent to [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-9727.

Properties or permit holders who do not submit online plans by February 1st are randomly audited by staff.

Austin Code is the department responsible for the enforcement of the Universal Recycling Ordinance. ARR monitors the process, provides education, provides technical support, and refers non-compliant responsible parties to Austin Code.



# Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) Coordination with Austin Public Health (APH)

ARR provides flyers to the APH permitting office for distribution from the main desk on an ongoing basis.

APH directs permit applicants from their main desk to ARR to answer questions related to the URO on an ongoing basis.

ARR partnered with APH for three public education events on: August 6, 2018 (Recycled Reads); September 17, 2018 (Manchaca Library), and September 24, 2018 (Old Quarry Library, 2pm). For more information contact: [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov).

ARR presented on URO organics requirements to APH staff in April of 2017.

ARR staff joined APH inspectors on site inspections in July of 2016.

ARR presented to the Central Texas members of the Texas Environmental Health Association in May of 2016.

APH participated as an important stakeholder in the development of the organics amendments to the URO in 2014.



# URO Resources

## INFORMATION

More information about the Universal Recycling Ordinance is available at:  
[austintexas.gov/uro](http://austintexas.gov/uro) and [austintexas.gov/bizorganics](http://austintexas.gov/bizorganics)

## SIGNAGE

Free recycling and organics diversion signage is available at:  
[austintexas.gov/signmaker](http://austintexas.gov/signmaker)

## EDUCATION

Free recycling and organics diversion education is available at:  
[austintexas.gov/uroresources](http://austintexas.gov/uroresources)

Free site specific information, guidance, and training is available as part of Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach services, to help establish or expand recycling and diversion programs.

Email [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov) for more information.



AUSTIN  
SOURCE  
RECOVERY  
A CITY OF AUSTIN SERVICE