



**To:** Zero Waste Advisory Commission

**From:** Ken Snipes  
Director  
Austin Resource Recovery

**Date:** August 12, 2020

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

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### **Recycling Residual Rate**

The last recorded recycling residual rate was 17.29%. Austin Resource Recovery and both vendors agreed to cancelling the Spring 2020 Recycling audit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An early Fall 2020 Recycling audit is still scheduled.

### **US Plastics Pact**

The City of Austin intends to join the U.S. Plastics Pact as a Not-for-Profit Activator, which will formally launch later this summer. Organized by The Recycling Partnership, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and World Wildlife Fund, the U.S. Plastics Pact is a collaboration that will bring together companies, government entities, NGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders to work collectively toward a common vision of a circular economy for plastics, as outlined by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy. This vision aims to ensure that plastics never become waste by eliminating the plastics we do not need, innovating to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable, and circulating all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment. The City of Austin joined the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment in 2018. More information is available in [the activator packet](#).

### **Economic Impact Study Update**

Austin Resource Recovery commissioned TXP, Inc. through a Master Agreement to update its 2015 study of the economic impact of recycling and reuse-related in Austin. The study scope was broadened to include a wider definition of industry activities that are recycling and reuse-related. Based on the new definition, in the past 5 years, total direct Austin circular economy employment rose from 2,670 to 3,156, while direct payroll climbed from \$74.5 million to \$165.8 million. The total current economic impact of the sector, including indirect and induced impacts, is \$1.1 billion in economic activity and the support of approximately 6,300 jobs. The study also included recommendations to increase the economic impact of the sector, which has been provided to the Zero Waste Master Plan consultants for review and incorporation as appropriate into the Master Plan Update. The new study is now available [online](#).



ARR Solicitations Update  
As of July 22, 2020  
ZWAC Meeting August 12, 2020

**Upcoming Solicitations Under Development (in alphabetical order):**

1. Education, Cleanup, and Beautification Services: RFP – Contractors qualified to provide education, cleanup, and beautification services that benefit the public by improving Austin’s environment and aesthetics through a variety of programs and providing resources and education that inspire Austin residents toward effective environmental stewardship. [Link to current contract](#).

**Solicitations Expected to be Posted Within the Next 90 Days:**

1. Daily Drop-Off of Material Collected Through Dumpster or Roll-Off Service: IFB – Contractor to receive daily collections of bulk materials from the City at their disposal facility or landfill. No existing contract.
2. Electronics Recycling: IFB – Contractor to pick up, transport, and recycle computers, monitors, televisions, and other devices that operate using electrical parts in an environmentally sound manner. [Link to current contract](#).
3. Post-Disaster Debris Removal Services: RFP – Contractor to provide emergency debris removal services in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) guidelines. No existing contract.
4. Post-Disaster Debris Monitoring Services: RFP – Contractor to provide emergency field debris monitoring services to include management and accounting services for monitoring the recovery efforts of the City's Post Disaster Debris Removal Contractor. No existing contract.

**Published Solicitations:**

**Solicitations in Evaluation or Negotiation:**

1. Recycling Processing for Non-Curbside Collections: [IFB 1500 SLW1043](#) – This posted on June 15, 2020 and closed on July 28, 2020. Contractor to provide single-stream recyclable material processing and marketing services to sort, process, store, market, and sell single-stream recyclable material. The Contractor shall be responsible for picking up the recyclable material collected at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center and receiving the recyclable material collected by ARR from City facilities. This is replacing two contracts: [In-House Recycling](#) and [RRDOC Recycling](#).
2. Routine Non-Residential (City facilities) Dumpster Collection Services: [IFB 7400 SLW1035](#) – Contractor to collect trash, recycling, brush, bulk, and compostable Materials from City of Austin facilities. Scope may also include special event and emergency service needs at City facilities on an as-needed basis. [RFI 1500 SLW6005](#) was issued in July 2019 related to these services. Solicitation posted March 9, 2020 and closed April 7, 2020. [Link to current contract](#)

**Definitions:**

CCO (Capital Contracting Office): Administers the procurement of professional and construction services.

CO-OP (Cooperative Contract): A contract that has been competitively bid and issued by another government or purchasing alliance with the intention of sharing it with other governmental entities.

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

RFI (Request for Information): Used to obtain industry input, feedback, or reactions from potential suppliers prior to issuing a solicitation.

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

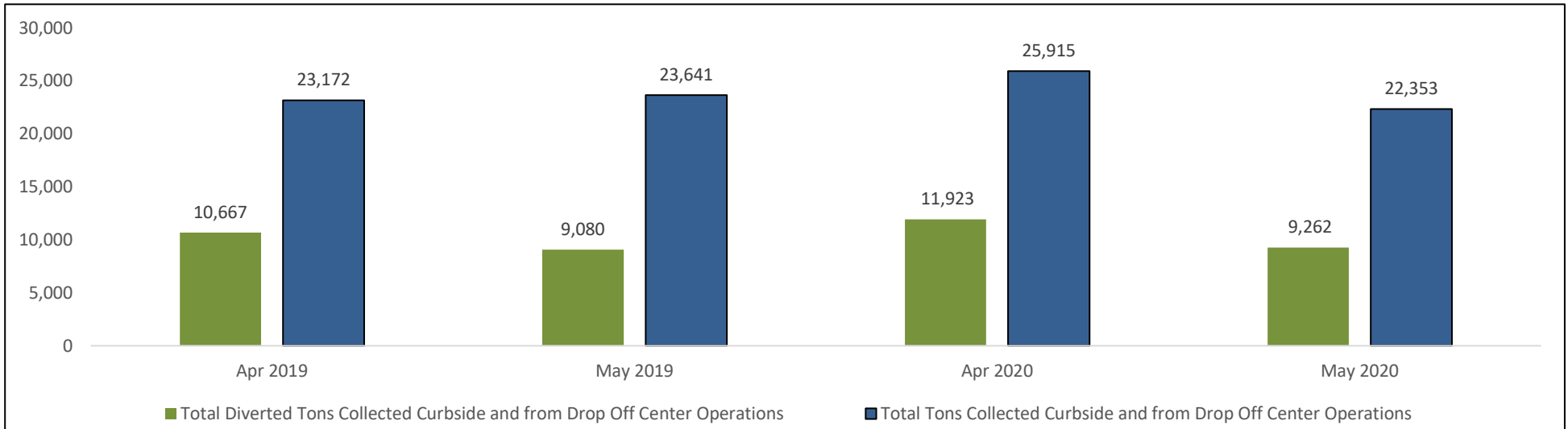
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

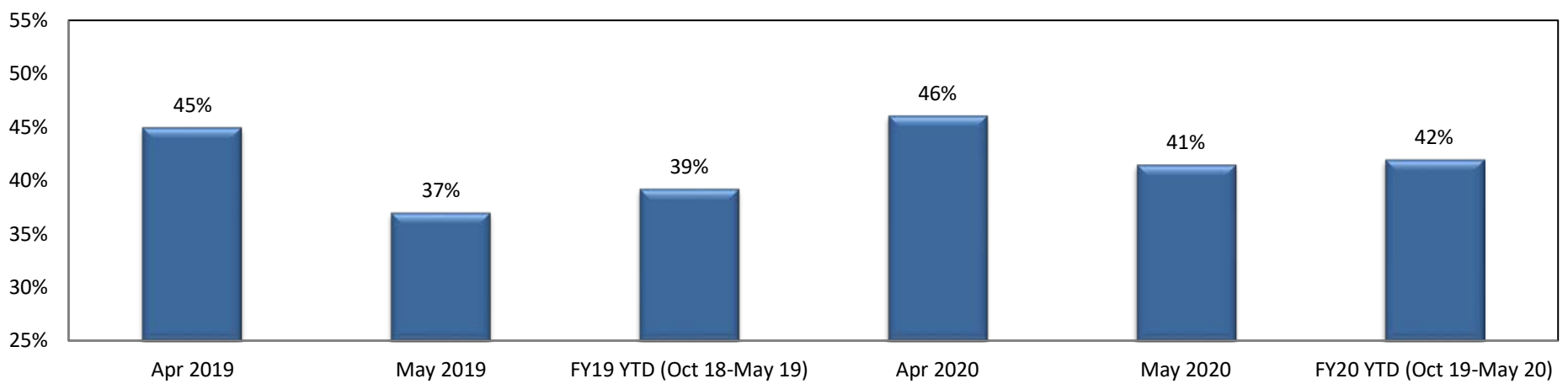
# Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR			
		FY 2018	FY 2019	Apr 2019	May 2019	FY19 YTD (Oct 18-May 19)	Apr 2020	May 2020	FY20 YTD (Oct 19-May 20)	FY 2020 Goal
Description of Services										
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	128,829	130,307	11,327	11,970	87,867	12,631	12,029	88,383	132,546
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	10,231	11,040	215	1,515	6,010	315	44	4,477	10,248
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	528	517	40	63	336	0	0	229	560
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	10,642	11,761	924	1,013	7,761	1,046	1,018	7,350	10,670
	<b>Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations</b>	<b>150,230</b>	<b>153,625</b>	<b>12,505</b>	<b>14,561</b>	<b>101,974</b>	<b>13,992</b>	<b>13,091</b>	<b>100,439</b>	<b>154,024</b>
*Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit										
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	48,005	47,528	4,063	4,330	32,705	4,825	4,690	33,892	50,250
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,986	2,259	174	201	1,481	0	0	1,074	2,600
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	1,505	2,595	274	350	1,819	0	0	1,583	2,500
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	469	477	52	46	314	0	0	196	560
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	3,759	5,073	491	571	3,469	0	0	2,752	5,450
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	32,244	37,265	5,482	3,543	28,657	6,741	4,529	35,404	37,500
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	201	257	9	26	146	6	0	100	210
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	6,292	6,447	597	583	3,810	324	43	2,874	7,373
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	150	77	9	8	72	0	0	0	157
	Tons of Carts Recycled	154	166	17	18	116	33	0	132	175
	<b>Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations</b>	<b>90,805</b>	<b>96,813</b>	<b>10,667</b>	<b>9,080</b>	<b>68,975</b>	<b>11,923</b>	<b>9,262</b>	<b>75,154</b>	<b>101,115</b>
Tons of Curbside Compost Collected**		14,414	22,040	2,833	2,093	16,376	5,314	3,696	28,061	31,300
**"Tons of Curbside Compost Collected" is included in the "Tons of Yard Trimmings Collected"										
<b>Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations</b>		<b>241,035</b>	<b>250,438</b>	<b>23,172</b>	<b>23,641</b>	<b>170,949</b>	<b>25,915</b>	<b>22,353</b>	<b>175,593</b>	<b>255,139</b>
<b>Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR</b>		<b>36.77%</b>	<b>37.47%</b>	<b>44.95%</b>	<b>36.98%</b>	<b>39.19%</b>	<b>46.02%</b>	<b>41.44%</b>	<b>41.94%</b>	<b>38.05%</b>
<b>Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup</b>		<b>24.84</b>	<b>24.78</b>	<b>25.83</b>	<b>27.25</b>	<b>25.15</b>	<b>28.37</b>	<b>26.98</b>	<b>24.89</b>	<b>24.92</b>
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		199,448	202,292	202,384	202,716	201,583	205,465	205,804	204,833	204,549
<b>Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)</b>		<b>18.62</b>	<b>18.17</b>	<b>18.64</b>	<b>19.83</b>	<b>18.82</b>	<b>21.80</b>	<b>21.16</b>	<b>19.20</b>	<b>18.99</b>
<b>Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week</b>		<b>6.25</b>	<b>7.12</b>	<b>12.57</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>8.25</b>	<b>15.23</b>	<b>10.21</b>	<b>10.03</b>	<b>7.09</b>
Number of Yard Trimmings/Organics Customers		198,325	201,174	201,210	201,600	200,483	204,317	204,640	203,677	203,508
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter		36	30	2	2	20	2	3	22	32

## Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



### Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

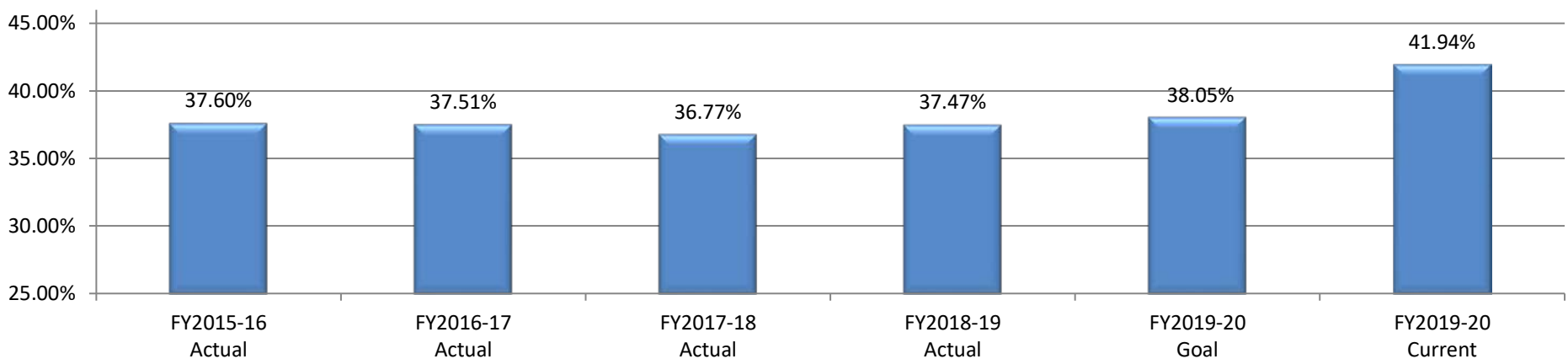


### Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2015-16 Actual	FY2016-17 Actual	FY2017-18 Actual	FY2018-19 Actual	FY2019-20 Goal	FY2019-20 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	37.60%	37.51%	36.77%	37.47%	38.05%	41.94%
Community Diversion Rate	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. According to Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study, Residential Waste Diversion Rate (city serviced accounts) represents approximately 15% and the Community Diversion Rate (accounts serviced by private waste haulers) represents approximately 85% of the total citywide wastage.

### Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)



Category of Waste Generation	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018
Commercial Tons Landfilled**	1,152,661	1,708,484	1,079,312
Commercial Tons Recycled**	360,244	722,573	402,292
Commercial Organics Tons**	206,165	97,173	80,906

\*\* Numbers reported here are compiled from self-reported data submitted by licensed private waste haulers via semi-annual tonnage reports required under Section 15-6-3 of the City Code on a calendar year basis and as such, ARR does not attest to the accuracy of these amounts. These numbers reflect data from 100-200 licensed haulers (number of haulers varies over time), and include haulers servicing dumpsters, roll-offs, construction and demolition debris, landscaping debris, and metal scrap. These numbers do not reflect all data sources included in Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study.

**Zero Waste Advisory Commission - August 12th, 2020**  
**Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report**  
**FY20: October 2019-June 2020**  
**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 2019	TDS	1,939.98	\$44,128	\$175,568	(\$131,440)	(\$67.75)	\$22.93	\$44,484
	BRI	2,982.78	\$40,533	\$215,984	(\$175,451)	(\$58.82)	\$22.93	\$68,395
	Total	4,922.76	\$84,661	\$391,552	(\$306,891)			\$112,879
November 2019	TDS	1,753.88	\$43,495	\$158,726	(\$115,231)	(\$65.70)	\$22.93	\$40,216
	BRI	2,816.24	\$41,361	\$206,158	(\$164,797)	(\$58.52)	\$22.93	\$64,576
	Total	4,570.12	\$84,856	\$364,884	(\$280,028)			\$104,793
December 2019	TDS	2,346.49	\$61,255	\$212,357	(\$151,103)	(\$64.40)	\$22.93	\$53,805
	BRI	2,808.82	\$43,110	\$205,720	(\$162,610)	(\$57.89)	\$22.93	\$64,406
	Total	5,155.31	\$104,365	\$418,078	(\$313,713)			\$118,211
January 2020	TDS	1,994.14	\$54,872	\$180,470	(\$125,597)	(\$62.98)	\$22.93	\$45,726
	BRI	3,584.11	\$59,448	\$249,126	(\$189,678)	(\$52.92)	\$22.93	\$82,184
	Total	5,578.25	\$114,321	\$429,596	(\$315,275)			\$127,909
February 2020	TDS	1,761.00	\$44,898	\$159,371	(\$114,473)	(\$65.00)	\$22.93	\$40,380
	BRI	2,566.90	\$43,932	\$191,447	(\$147,515)	(\$57.47)	\$22.93	\$58,859
	Total	4,327.90	\$88,830	\$350,818	(\$261,988)			\$99,239
March 2020	TDS	2,297.58	\$55,228	\$207,931	(\$152,703)	(\$66.46)	\$22.93	\$52,684
	BRI	2,811.25	\$46,526	\$205,863	(\$159,337)	(\$56.68)	\$22.93	\$64,462
	Total	5,108.83	\$101,754	\$413,794	(\$312,040)			\$117,145
April 2020	TDS	2,438.65	\$67,181	\$220,698	(\$153,517)	(\$62.95)	\$22.93	\$55,918
	BRI	3,432.02	\$61,906	\$240,761	(\$178,854)	(\$52.11)	\$22.93	\$78,696
	Total	5,870.67	\$129,088	\$461,459	(\$332,371)			\$134,614
May 2020	TDS	2,250.47	\$77,502	\$203,668	(\$126,166)	(\$56.06)	\$22.93	\$51,603
	BRI	3,457.47	\$80,108	\$242,161	(\$162,053)	(\$46.87)	\$22.93	\$79,280
	Total	5,707.94	\$157,610	\$445,828	(\$288,219)			\$130,883
June 2020	TDS	2,723.58	\$84,324	\$246,484	(\$162,160)	(\$59.54)	\$22.87	\$62,288
	BRI	3,080.17	\$62,228	\$221,409	(\$159,182)	(\$51.68)	\$22.87	\$70,443
	Total	5,803.75	\$146,551	\$467,893	(\$321,342)			\$132,732
FY20 Totals		47,045.53	\$1,012,036	\$3,743,902	(\$2,731,867)			\$1,078,406