



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Ken Snipes
Director
Austin Resource Recovery

Date: January 12, 2022

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

Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Enforcement Update:

The Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) Commercial Compliance Unit (CCU) is comprised of 2 Code Compliance Officers who contact responsible parties and conduct site visits to properties or permit holders identified by City staff or by complaints as non-compliant with ordinances. The goal of the CCU is to support ongoing department public education, and when necessary, hold non-compliant businesses and permit holders accountable in municipal court.

The department hired its first CCU staff in 2020 and spent much of the past year creating internal procedures, developing a software system, and contacting potentially non-compliant properties. Prior to 2020, the City had limited opportunity to provide onsite visits from Code Compliance Officers and was reliant upon education alone to seek compliance.

CCU began URO inspections in early FY21. As of December 2021, CCU has conducted 742 site visits, responded to 5 complaints, and followed up on 86 denied waivers.

Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Multifamily Update:

In FY21, ARR's Business Outreach Team (BOT) notified all multifamily properties of the URO's capacity increase by mail and email in Oct. 2020 and again in June 2021. The BOT also took out print and digital ads March 2020 (FY20) through Dec. 2020 and hosted a joint webinar with Austin Apartments Association (AAA) in Nov. 2020.

In terms of compliance, 86% of multifamily properties (1,208) reported meeting the new capacity requirements by either providing at least a 1:1 ratio of landfill trash to recycling/organics services or 24 gallons/unit/week of recycling/organics services. Of the 14% of multifamily properties (201) that requested a waiver for not meeting the new capacity requirements, 13% (181 properties) were above the previous 6.4 gallons/unit/week requirement, but below the new 24 gallons/unit/week increase. Only 1% (20 properties) reported being below the 50% diversion requirement and of 6.4 gallons/unit/week. The BOT contacted all multifamily properties that requested a waiver for being below the new 24 gallons/unit/week requirement to let them know of the new capacity requirements and approved waivers with more than 6.4 gallons/unit/week according to the "implementation year" prescribed by the administrative rules (Administrative Rules Chapter 15-5 Section 8.12.3), but denied waivers below 6.4 gallons/unit/week.

So far in FY22, a third of multifamily properties (554) that have reported and 92% (509) have reported being compliant with the new multifamily capacity requirements. 8% (45 properties) reported being below the 50% diversion and the 24 gallons/unit/week requirement. Of the 23 waivers reviewed so far, 4 have been denied and 19 have been approved. Note that the FY22 reporting deadline is February 1, 2022.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Expands ‘Beyond 34’ Circular Economy Initiative to Austin and Philadelphia

Building on success in Orlando and Cincinnati, the program will work with local stakeholders to help make their recycling and waste management efforts more sustainable

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation today announced that Austin, Texas, and Philadelphia will join its multi-stakeholder initiative, [Beyond 34: Scaling Circularity for a Sustainable Economy](#). Exacerbated by the COVID-induced labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and shifting consumer patterns, America’s waste collection systems continue to face major challenges, with the U.S. recycling rate hovering in the mid-30% range in recent decades. To help address these issues, Beyond 34 provides a model for high-impact waste solutions that can be scaled for implementation in regions across the country.

“For five years, the Beyond 34 initiative has helped communities improve their local recycling, reuse, and recovery rates, and provided a collaborative platform for the business community to lead in developing solutions that advance the circular economy in the U.S.,” said Marc DeCoursey, senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber Foundation. “We welcome Austin and Philadelphia as the newest cities to join our movement and look forward to seeing the progress they achieve.”

Initially running in Orlando, Fla., and Cincinnati, Ohio, Beyond 34 helps communities and businesses build sustainable local economies through the application of a three-phased model: engage stakeholders across the waste management value chain; conduct analysis to identify areas of greatest impact; and empower communities to implement solutions.

Austin and Philadelphia were chosen because of their commitment to making their cities more sustainable and the opportunity that exists for significant economic and environmental impact through circular solutions.

As one of the fastest growing cities in America, Austin is prioritizing sustainability as a path to prosperity. The city is working toward its [goal](#) of reducing the amount of trash sent to landfills by 90% by 2040 and has a number of [programs](#) that help residents grow the local circular economy. For example, Austin engaged zero waste “block leaders” to educate neighbors on recycling and composting, the plastics recycling system, and more.

“We know our ambitious goals for a circular economy here in Austin can’t be reached alone. We need the support of our nonprofit partners, businesses who share our values, and other cities that can pass along their own wisdom – we’re all ears and we want to learn,” said Steve Adler, mayor of Austin. “That’s why we jumped at the chance to be a part of the U.S. Chamber Foundation’s exciting work in the Beyond 34 initiative.”

Philadelphia is committed to achieving [carbon neutrality by 2050](#), and is working toward a goal to become [90% zero waste and litter-free](#) by 2035. Philadelphia is also a leading smart city, utilizing data through its SmartCityPHL program to help the city become more efficient and improve quality of life for its residents.

“We are working diligently to make ‘smart city’ an overarching planning paradigm in Philadelphia, much like the term ‘sustainability’ has become,” said Mark Wheeler, chief information officer at the City of Philadelphia. “We need innovative tech, quality data, and partnerships—especially partnerships like the ones through the Beyond 34 initiative—to achieve a local circular economy that will provide equitable job opportunities, create resilient communities, and support global climate goals.”

Through tools like Beyond 34’s [Recycling and Recovery Resources Hub](#), cities across the country can learn from other regions that are addressing barriers and driving action toward waste elimination.

Since its launch, The Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola Consolidated, Kroger Co., Dow, PLASTICS Industry Association, Procter and Gamble, Republic Services, Target, Walgreens Boots Alliance, and the Walmart Foundation have supported the Beyond 34 program, with Walmart.org and Walgreens funding the expansion to Austin and Philadelphia.

“The Beyond 34 model provides important insights and resources to cities and regions around the country. The Walmart Foundation is proud to support the expansion of Beyond 34 to Austin and Philadelphia. Strong policy and public sector activities to reduce waste are critical supplements to private sector investments. Shifting to behaving and operating in a circular economy will require everyone to work strategically together – exactly the kind of systemic change we are working to enable at the Walmart Foundation,” said Chelsea Scantlan, sustainability program officer at Walmart.org.

“We recognize that creating some waste is unavoidable. Beyond 34 is a perfect way to bring like-minded problem solvers together to deal with things like waste, recycling, and problematic plastics. By collaborating with members of the communities we serve and other businesses in those communities, we are certain that we can make an impact. By lending our support, we are not only doing our part, but hopefully inspiring others to do their part as well,” said John Kotlarczyk, senior director, waste reduction, Walgreens Boots Alliance.

Those interested in bringing Beyond 34 to a new city or region should contact [Peter Fadoul](#) for instructions on how to apply. For more information on Beyond 34 and how it’s working to solve U.S. waste management issues, visit our website [here](#).



ARR Solicitations Update
As of January 3, 2022
ZWAC Meeting January 12, 2022

Upcoming Solicitations Under Development (in alphabetical order):

1. GIS Software: RFP – The Contractor shall design and develop database(s) and a survey platform to collect, organize, warehouse, and protect the relevant City waste diversion ordinance data of the businesses, properties, and food permittees, building permittees, and construction and demolition permittees affected by City waste diversion ordinances. No existing contract.
2. Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Collection Services: ILA – The City will provide household hazardous waste, recycling, and other collection services for Travis County households located outside the incorporated limits of the City.

Solicitations Expected to be Posted Within the Next 90 Days:

1. Lead Abatement Services: IFB/CCO – The Contractor shall provide removal, encapsulation, and disposition of lead. No existing contract.
2. Solid Waste Industry Consulting Services: RFQS – The Consultants shall provide professional solid waste industry consulting services, including delivering industry knowledge, technical advice, and recommendations on solid waste industry marketing indexes and definitions on an as-needed basis. No existing contract.

Published Solicitations:

Solicitations in Evaluation or Negotiation:

1. Post-Disaster Debris Removal and Disposal Services: [RFP 1500 SLW3011](#) – This solicitation was posted on March 29, 2021, and closed on May 13, 2021. Contractor to provide emergency debris removal and debris disposal services in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) guidelines. No existing contract. (Awaiting final documents & signatures)
2. Violet Trash Bags: [IFB 1500 SLW1060](#) – The Contractor shall provide purple- or violet-colored trash bags in support of the City's [Violet Bag Trash Collection Program](#). The program empowers people experiencing homelessness to maintain spaces around them by providing trash bags, disposal kiosks, and carts near known encampments which helps provide a safe environment for those persons experiencing homelessness to assist in keeping the city of Austin and its waterways clean.

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.

ILA (Interlocal Agreement): A collaborative contract between local government entities (for example, ARR and a county, state, or school district) to provide more efficient and less costly services, where any payments are made from current revenues.

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.

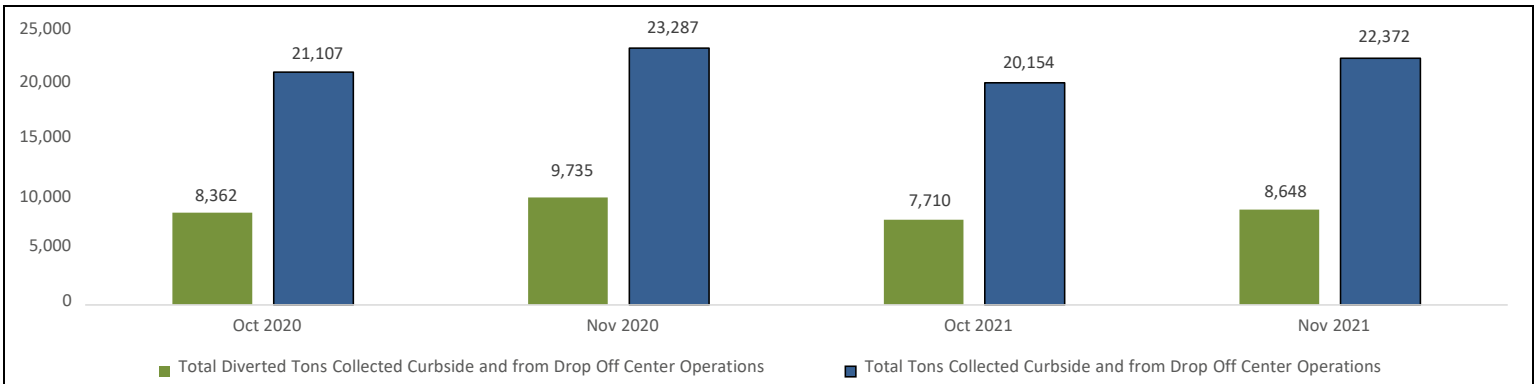
RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation is used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services.

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

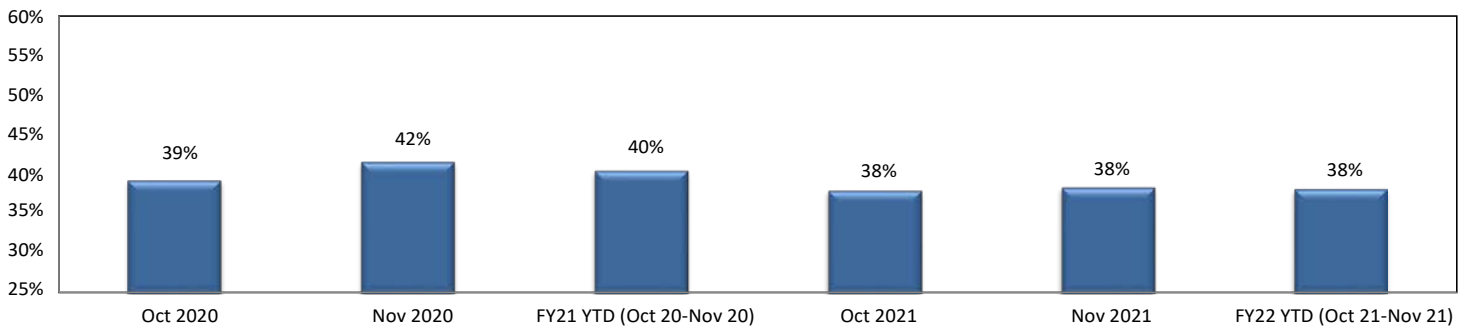
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR					CURRENT FISCAL YEAR					
Description of Services		FY 2020	FY 2021		Oct 2020	Nov 2020	FY21 YTD (Oct 20-Nov 20)		Oct 2021	Nov 2021	FY22 YTD (Oct 21-Nov 21)	FY 2022 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of curbside Trash	136,709	138,955		11,332	11,553	22,885		10,645	11,951	22,596	133,800
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	5,379	11,651		402	1,027	1,429		895	722	1,617	11,220
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	347	765		55	48	102		46	47	92	530
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,302	11,321		956	924	1,880		858	1,003	1,861	10,803
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	153,737	162,693		12,745	13,551	26,296		12,444	13,723	26,167	156,353
*Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit												
Tons Diverted	Tons of curbside recycling	52,122	51,709		4,315	4,313	8,628		3,934	4,084	8,019	51,197
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,218	1,323		95	135	230		123	147	270	2,200
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	1,722	563		68	27	95		4	4	8	2,000
	HHW Operations Tons recycled/reused	247	222		16	18	34		17	15	32	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	3,060	1,784		168	146	314		131	148	280	4,415
	Tons of Curbside Yard Trimmings	48,105	56,481		3,359	4,809	8,168		3,034	3,827	6,861	50,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	127	323		11	34	45		12	18	30	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	3,323	8,339		506	413	919		579	550	1,129	6,872
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	25	42		3	3	6		2	3	5	75
	Tons of Carts Recycled	193	163		0	17	17		18	18	36	200
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	106,955	118,841		8,362	9,735	18,098		7,710	8,648	16,359	113,014
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected**	38,711	53,455		2,731	4,008	6,738		3,034	3,827	6,861	50,000
****Tons of Curbside Compost Collected" is included in the "Tons of Yard Trimmings Collected"												
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		260,692	281,534		21,107	23,287	44,394		20,154	22,372	42,525	269,367
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		40.38%	41.96%		39.24%	41.52%	40.44%		37.94%	38.33%	38.14%	41.07%
Pounds of Trash collected per customer per pickup		25.57	25.52		25.19	25.68	25.43		23.28	26.14	24.71	24.32
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		205,670	209,419		207,626	207,654	207,640		211,033	211,019	211,026	211,603
Pounds of Recycled materials collected per customer per pickup (every other week)		19.61	19.10		19.29	19.28	19.29		17.31	17.97	17.64	18.74
Pounds of Yard Trimmings collected per customer per week		9.05	10.43		7.51	10.75	9.13		6.67	8.42	7.55	9.15
Number of Yard Trimmings/Organics Customers		204,506	208,209		206,433	206,464	206,449		209,790	209,775	209,783	210,128
Total tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA rights-of-way and the animal shelter		34	31		3	4	7		3	3	6	30

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Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

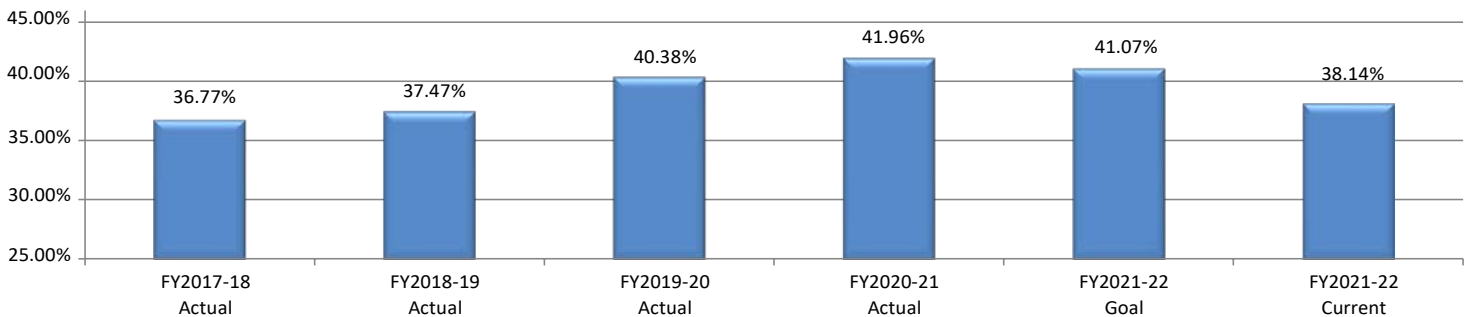


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2017-18 Actual	FY2018-19 Actual	FY2019-20 Actual	FY2020-21 Actual	FY2021-22 Goal	FY2021-22 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	36.77%	37.47%	40.38%	41.96%	41.07%	38.14%
Community Diversion Rate	*	*	*	*	*	*

*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 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020
Commercial Tons Landfilled**	1,079,312	1,401,619	1,359,207
Commercial Tons Recycled**	402,292	470,786	435,875
Commercial Organics Tons**	80,906	102,215	81,436

** 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.