



Subject: Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 – Administrative Rules Development
#14 Stakeholder Group Meeting – Review of Draft Amendments to Universal Recycling Ordinance and Administrative Rules

Date: March 19, 2014 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Location: One Texas Center, Rm 325, 505 Barton Springs Rd, Austin TX 78704

Introduction

Austin Resource Recovery held a stakeholder meeting intended for external stakeholders to discuss the Universal Recycling Ordinance. The purpose of this meeting was to review the draft amendments based on stakeholder input of the Universal Recycling Ordinance and Administrative Rules.

Stakeholders were provided with information on Austin Resource Recovery's Strategic Initiatives' planning and business outreach teams. Stakeholders then introduced themselves. Staff walked meeting participants through the meeting agenda and transitioned to the review component of the discussion.

Staff conducted a review of each section of the Administrative Rules. If no comment was given for a section – no information was recorded within the minutes.

URO Phase 2 Information Exchange and Facilitated Discussion

Administrative Rules Draft Amendments

Organics Diversion (Section 8.2.4)

City Staff:

- Revised the phase-in period of organics diversion from two to five years.
- The City of Austin successfully implemented a residential recycling program over a five year period. The new phase in schedule is intended to mimic that schedule.
- The revised schedule will allow additional time for organics diversion infrastructure, a competitive hauling market, and additional composting facilities to be established.
- The revised schedule will bring the largest square footage food permit holders into the fold first.

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- Increasing the phase-in period from 2 to 5 years will not achieve the objective to ensure development of infrastructure.
- The longer the phase-in period is, the longer it will take to get to an economy of scale based on route density. Much of the collection cost is actually the cost of transportation between customers. A longer phase-in means longer distances between customers.
- Ramping up faster gets the number of customers to an economy of scale sooner, helping control costs.
- Many businesses that are affected in the early years will be paying a premium because they will not necessarily be close to other affected properties.

Stakeholder (Food establishments):

- Restaurants shouldn't have to pay an exorbitant cost due to lack of competitive services.
- Adding compost hauling doesn't allow for much if any reduction in trash service.
- A "trigger" could delay implementation if the collection and processing infrastructure is not in place would be a waiver option.



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- If adding organics diversion increased the cost for solid waste services more than 10%, could be a waiver option.

Stakeholder (Association):

- Based on experience phasing in apartment recycling requirements, phasing in provides more time to educate affected businesses and employees.

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- Some haulers believe a waiver based on a 10% increase in cost could be accomplished. Landfill rates are increasing, which in turn increases the competitive pricing between compost and landfill service.
- Small business with once per week trash service can't reasonably reduce trash system further to offset cost of adding organics diversion.

Stakeholder (Food establishments):

- What determines whether the compost hauling and processing infrastructure can meet the needs and be cost-competitive with trash collection?

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- Organics hauling services is already a competitive service and, in some cases, charges are cost-neutral.
- Capacity will grow to meet the demand.
- Only one of the large trash haulers was hauling organics in 2012.
- Static pile method takes a year to compost material.
- Haulers learned from the restaurant recycling pilot project.

Stakeholder (Food establishments):

- Diverting food is an add-on cost where the landlord provides trash service.

City Staff:

- Commercial Recycling Rebate will help support development of infrastructure.

Stakeholder (Zero Waste Consultant):

- Consider a 3-year phase-in schedule: 2016: >15,000 sf, 2017: >1,000 sf, 2018: all

General Requirements (Section 8.4)

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- Add home compost operations to 8.4.5.5 so they aren't disallowed by omissions. "...or other facility that has agreed to accept the material..."



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Capacity and Diversion (Section 8.5)

Stakeholder (Food establishments):

- How much will a third-party audit cost?
- Who qualifies an auditor?

City Staff:

- Audit could be a paper audit confirming quantities reported to generator.
- Austin Resource Recovery will develop a reporting format but will review other reporting formats for approval.

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- How do you fund the credit described in 8.5.1.1.7 (source reduction credit)?

City Staff:

- It's not a rebate type credit. It's a credit toward the Diversion Rate. To reduce confusion, perhaps we should change the terminology.

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- In 8.5.5, the term "periodic" could mean weekly or another regular frequency. Is this what you mean? Other terms to consider are "short-term" or "temporary."

Annual Diversion Plan (Section 8.6)

Stakeholder (Haulers):

- Are the terms listed in 8.6.1 a string of options, that is, the business can choose 1, 2, OR, 3? Or do they have to do all three – 1, 2, AND 3?

Recyclable and Organic Material (Section 8.7)

Stakeholder (Zero Waste Consultant):

- Are the materials listed in 8.7.1 all that's required?

City Staff:

- That's the minimum. Provision 8.7.3 notes that other materials can be recycled as well.

Stakeholder (Zero Waste Consultant):

- Is landscape debris covered?
- Can a restaurant divert landscape debris instead of food or food scraps?

City Staff:

- Business can claim landscape debris diverted to mulch or compost as an alternative material.
- Food business, however, can't divert landscape debris as their organic material. Organic material is intended to mean food scraps at a minimum.



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Containers, Promotion and Education (Sections 8.8, 8.9, or 8.10)

Stakeholder (Zero Waste Consultant):

- Shouldn't pictures be required as well as English and Spanish?

City Staff:

- Sections 8.8.3.5.1 and 8.9.3.1 refer to graphics.

Waiver Process (Section 8.11)

Stakeholder (Composting Consultant):

- Can you apply for a waiver every 60 days to keep ARR from citing you for non-compliance?

City Staff:

- Waivers are submitted through the Annual Diversion Plan, the rules imply that a business can make requests only once per year, which may have been in previous language. In order to close the possible loophole, the language may need clarification.

Definitions (Section 11.0)

City Staff:

- Definition for Responsible Party is under review by Law Department

Stakeholder (Zero Waste Consultant):

- Why is a tenant defined as a person renting for more than 31 days? Almost half of the months have less than 31 days?

City Staff:

- A person who rents for more than one month, would be renting for more than 31 days.

END