



“At the end of the day, recycling reduces overall costs.”

- Michael Garcia, General Manager

BUSINESS OVERVIEW:

- 250 apartment units
- Offers market rent and subsidized housing
- Built in 2015 with Austin Housing Authority
- Trash cost savings of nearly \$12,000 annually

RECYCLING HIGHLIGHTS:

- » Reduced landfill trash service levels by 33%
- » Saving nearly \$1,000 monthly compared to similar property
- » Purchased interior recycling bins for all units using ARR's Zero Waste Business Rebate
- » Provides Green Book to tenants, which includes information on household chemicals drop-off locations and sustainable alternatives
- » Full compliance with City of Austin's Recycling Ordinance

BUSINESS PROFILE

- Type of Business** » Apartment complex
- Neighborhood** » Montopolis
- Zip Code** » 78741
- Building** » 250 units
- New to recycling?** » Yes, new property

AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY

- Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach Team** offers free consulting services to help businesses reduce waste, recycle materials and comply with Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO). Please contact us at:
- Phone** » (512) 974-9727
- E-mail** » commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov

Challenges. The property manager's primary concern was complying with the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO). Additionally, as new phases of the complex were built, they needed to adjust trash and recycling services. Another challenge was engaging tenants upon move-in to create lasting recycling habits and build a successful recycling program.

Solutions. After choosing a hauler, the complex called Austin Resource Recovery to help strengthen the recycling program. Staff conducted a Zero Waste Assessment onsite and made the following suggestions:

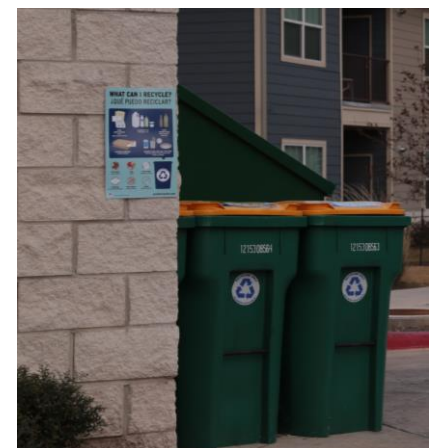
- Apply for the [Zero Waste Business Rebate](#) (ZWBR) to buy recycling bins for each unit
- Monitor landfill trash and recycling bin use, and adjust service as needed
- Paired trash and recycling containers, posting educational signs nearby

Results. As the property completed construction, management increased trash and recycling capacity. At full occupancy, the complex has:

- Recycling services exceeding minimum requirements of URO
- Landfill trash capacity nearly 1/3 less than comparable property
- Costs savings close to \$1,000/month compared to similar complex
- Signs, decals and regular tenant education regarding recycling

Success Factors. Targeted education helps increase recycling rates. At the Pointe at Ben White, staff provided children with products made from recycled material (e.g. pens) to show the importance of recycling. Children are commonly responsible for taking out the trash and recyclables. Providing each dwelling unit with a recycling bin facilitated transporting recyclable materials. Maintenance staff also helps break down cardboard boxes to maximize cart use and ensures the number of carts meets tenants' recycling needs.

Looking Forward. The complex is interested in adding a recycling dumpster to capture larger material. Cardboard boxes in particular can quickly fill recycling carts, leaving other tenants to use trash dumpsters for their recyclable material.



Recycling carts next to trash dumpster