

Fact Sheet

Give Us Five Challenge



Waste less and recycle more! The **Give Us Five Challenge** encourages Austinites to increase their recycling by 5 pounds each month. On average, City of Austin residential customers recycle 46 pounds a month. Adding 5 pounds more to your recycling bin is easy if you recycle every day, everything and everywhere! We'll keep you up to date on our progress throughout the challenge! Check out AustinRecycles.com for updates and tips on how you can waste less and recycle more.

What? The Give Us Five Challenge encourages Austinites to increase recycling by 5 pounds each month.

Who? You! The City of Austin is issuing the challenge to ALL residents with City of Austin recycling service.

When? May 14, 2014 – Nov. 15, 2014

Why? By the end of 2015, the City of Austin's goal is to keep 50 percent of materials out of the landfill. With help from ALL Austin residents, we know we can make meaningful progress toward this goal.

Did You Know?*

- Recycling 5 pounds of unwanted mail, newspapers and paperboard, like tissue boxes, can generate 30 new cereal boxes.
- If each Austin household recycled 1 shampoo bottle, the recycled plastic could produce 173 plastic park benches.
- It takes 24 trees to make one ton of non-recycled printing and office paper.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 30 minutes.
- Recyclers want your caps and lids, too. Caps can slip off conveyer belts during the recycling process, so when you empty a bottle, crush it, cap it, and toss it in the recycling bin.
- No need to remove labels before recycling glass containers. Also, no need to remove staples, labels and stickers from direct mail.

Recycle More

- Never let recyclables go into the trash. Give your garbage another life!
- Recycle in every room in the house.
- Make recycling convenient. If it's easy for people to recycle, they're more likely to do it. Place marked bins in the kitchen next to the trash can.
- Recycle more than just your newspaper. A pile of junk mail adds up quickly – recycle it!
- Find out what else can be recycled at AustinRecycles.com.
- If you are already recycling as much as you can, then become an advocate – encourage your friends, co-workers and neighbors to join the challenge and help our great city live up to its green reputation.

*Statistics provided by Keep America Beautiful

