



Subject: RESTAURANT AND BAR STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES
Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 – Administrative Rules Development
#9 Stakeholder Group Meeting – Restaurants and Bars, Mtg. 1 of 2

Date: October 22, 2013 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Austin City Hall, Room 1029; 301 W. 2nd St; Austin, TX 78701

Stakeholders identified the following challenges in *#9 Stakeholder Group Meeting for Restaurants and Bars* on October 22. This is a working document and should not be considered an indication of final decisions being made. Additionally, this list should not be considered exhaustive. If any important comments or challenges are not identified below, please bring those comments to the stakeholder meeting on November 6 and ARR Staff will be happy to include them. Alternatively, stakeholders are welcome to contact staff to discuss additional challenges via phone or email. At the November 6 stakeholder meeting, staff will review the identified challenges and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop proposed solutions

Restaurant and Bar Recycling and Food Diversion Challenges

Space Constraints (Exterior)

- Lack of space for expansion for diversion containers and screening.
- Downtown in alleyways in where containers are often shared.
- Cost to business to expand space for diversion container and screening.

Space Constraints (Interior)

- Finding a place for new diversion containers on “the line” (in the back of the house) could be difficult in existing facilities.

Infrastructure

- Will service providers be able to accommodate “spikes” in service required by restaurants and bars for events and on weekends?
- More haulers will be needed to bid competitively and help bring costs down.

Weight of Compost Containers

- Compost bins were found to be much heavier than typical waste bins in the pilot program.

Training (Staff and Patrons)

- There are concerns with restaurants paying additional costs from contamination by patrons placing incorrect materials in front of the house containers

Materials

- Quick service food is prepped and comes from offsite. There is little to no waste to compost be produced in the back of the house.
- Scraping plates has shown to have doubled the amount of compostable material produced.
- Sanitation and vermin issues created by compost bins potentially effecting customers and food safety.
- How long can fish prepared on-site sit before it becomes a health problem?





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Cost of Implementation

- Upfront cost of implementation of recycling and compost program.
- Recycling and compost services charge higher fees than landfill trash service,
- Cost of retrofitting exterior diversion container space and screening.

Restaurant and Bar Recycling and Food Diversion Solutions

Incentives

- Provide tangible incentives for business
 - (Solution) Could the City subsidize diversion containers? If you do a certain volume in recycling or composting can there be a tax break if a business exceeds the goals on the timeline?
 - (Solution) Could the City provide a website where business could compare service providers?
 - (Solution) The EPA has calculators for conservation. You could come up with a correlation where the amount you recycle could save you money on a water or electricity bill.
- The City could look into phasing in composting by first implementing vegetables, then proteins, and finally plate scrapings. Maybe look at phasing by wet and dry compost as a way to phase in composting.

Contact Information:

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