

## AGENDA



Thursday, November 4, 2010

**Solid Waste Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 18

**Subject:** Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 15-6 related to recycling.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Bob Gedert, SWS Director, 512-974-1926; Jessica King, SWS Division Manager, 512-974-7678.

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by Solid Waste Advisory Commission.

In 2009, the Austin City Council adopted the first Zero Waste Plan for a Texas municipality, setting a goal to achieve a 90% reduction in per capita solid waste disposal by 2040. Currently, there are approximately 10,211 commercial and multi-family properties in Austin. Of those properties, the City estimates that only 7% of those properties comply with the ordinance. Recognizing that achieving Zero Waste would require participation by all residents and business owners in Austin, the City Council adopted the Plan and directed staff to prioritize review of City Code Chapter 15 (Resolution 20090115-50).

Council took an additional step in August 2009 and directed the Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC) to work with staff and stakeholders to review and recommend amendments to the ordinance (Resolution 20090820-041). SWAC formed the Recycling Ordinance Reform Subcommittee and with staff support, the Subcommittee invited over 150 stakeholders to participate in the process. From September 2009 to May 2010, the Subcommittee conducted a total of 14 meetings. On July 21, 2010 and October 20, 2010, SWAC reviewed the Subcommittee's recommendations and staff's analysis and voted in support of the attached recommended amendments.

Recommendations include renaming the Commercial Multi-family Recycling Ordinance (CMFRO) to the Universal Recycling Ordinance, establishing minimum materials to be recycled, phasing in all commercial properties, and establishing new universal standards for signage.

Staff evaluated the potential costs associated with implementation of the recommendations and found that there would be increased costs associated with education, outreach, enforcement and data monitoring that may also require new fees or an increase in existing commercial fees. However, the City will propose a fee structure within the Solid Waste Master Plan. Potential costs include:

- ! Additional staff and related office equipment: \$300,000\* annually
    - o Education campaign: \$50,000\* annually
    - o Signage: \$65,000\* annually
    - o Web design: \$110,000\* contracted
    - o Third-party confidential data monitoring: \$100,000\* annually
  - ! Single Stream Cart Collection Services to Multi-Family Properties with 25 units or less and not serviced by private haulers: \$5.00/unit/month\*
  - ! Single Stream Cart Collection Services to Commercial Properties less than 26,000 square feet and not serviced by private haulers: \$0.02/sq.ft./month\* (Average property fee of \$135 per month.)
- \*Estimated expenses per staff analysis October 15, 2010. Expenses would be reevaluated within context of each annual budget cycle.

Due to the complexity of the issue, staff and the SWAC are presenting recommendations in two phases. Phase 1 includes all multi-family properties (including condominiums) and commercial non-residential office and institutional properties such as day cares, religious buildings, medical facilities, and private educational facilities. Recommendations for Phase 1 are included in the attached report and, on the low end, will impact approximately 4,614 properties. Phase 2 includes the food service industry (restaurants, grocers, catering, etc), retail, and manufacturing/industrial, approximately 5,597 properties. Phase 2 discussions will continue in November 2010 and will include composting food waste with the goal of returning to Council in May 2011.