

AGENDA



Thursday, November 4, 2010

**Solid Waste Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 19

Subject: Approve a resolution regarding implementation of proposed recommendations in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance Report and Recommendations Phase 1 dated October 28, 2010.

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 the 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 currently 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).

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 additional recommendations related to amending City Code Chapter 25 (Land Development), providing online report submission, providing funding to support education and technical assistance, developing markets for recyclables, evaluating parking conditions as they relate to recycling and composting service providers, continuing relationships with non-profits affected by changes to the ordinance change, and reviewing the ordinance and rules every two years.

Staff evaluated the potential costs associated with implementation of some 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 Maser 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.