

Public Safety Policies

Chapter 4 – Draft Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

SOLID WASTE POLICIES

SW 1. Address the waste management implications of continued growth in Central Texas through a regional solid waste management plan. (See also CER 15)

SW 2. Expand waste diversion rates and services:

- o Require recycling at apartment complexes, retail establishments, restaurants, and manufacturers
- o Increase the types of materials that can be added to curbside collection
- o Develop more effective recycling practices for construction and demolition debris
- o Increase composting at homes and businesses
- o Improve recycling of material and food scraps in public spaces, in trash receptacles on city streets, and at public events (See also CER 15)

SW 3. Divert hazardous waste from landfills and increase participation in recycling hazardous materials by developing programs and practices such as on-call door-to-door hazardous waste collection program. (See also CER 15)

SW 4. Divert bulk items such as furniture and other household items from landfills and consider ways to recycle or reuse these materials.

SW 5. Improve awareness and participation in the City's recycling programs through traditional and emerging methods such as large-scale media, social marketing campaigns, and presence at public events. (See also CER 15)

SW 6. Continue to work with the Texas Product Stewardship Council and others to advocate for statewide "extended producer responsibility" initiatives that require manufacturers and retailers to stop using "hard to recycle" and/or toxic products. (See also CER 15)

ENERGY POLICIES

EN 1. Support the Preferred Growth Scenario and provide affordable, reliable electricity to Austin's residents and businesses. (See also ECO 16)

EN 2. Reduce per capita energy use through conservation and improvements that make buildings more energy efficient. (See also CER 9; CER 11)

EN 3. Reduce peak energy demand and total electric generation capacity that Austin Energy needs to maintain by encouraging users to use electricity during off-peak hours. (See also CER 9; CER 11)

EN 4. Increase the share of renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, and biomass, used by Austin Energy to generate electricity, including on-site sources throughout the city. (See also ECO 16; CER 9; CER 11)

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES

PS 1. Reduce crime rates, thereby improving the perceived and actual safety in neighborhoods across Austin.

PS 2. Continue to improve community outreach and build trust between the police force and Austin's minority communities. (See also HHS 5; CFE 4)

BEST PRACTICE: RECYCLING RATES AND SERVICES | SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

San Jose has a reputation for innovation and leadership in recycling. In 2009, the Solid Waste Association of North America awarded the City its 2009 Recycling System Excellence Award for its efforts in diverting nearly 80 percent of apartment waste from landfills through a processing system that removes recyclables and composts organic materials.

San Jose is also working to reduce the amount of construction waste headed to landfills – which can account for 30 percent of total materials. Under the Construction and Demolition Diversion Deposit program, San Jose collects a mandatory deposit, based on square footage and project type, through building permitting. The deposit is fully refundable with proof that construction and demolition materials are being diverted from the project site. Materials can be taken to a certified facility for recycling or re-use/donated.

Reference: www.recycletogether.com, <http://www.sjrecycles.org/construction-demolition/cddd.asp> and image: [CityData.com](http://www.CityData.com)



BEST PRACTICE: FOSTERING SAFE COMMUNITIES CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES IN ACTION | HOUSTON, TX

One of the goals of the Go-Neighborhoods program of LISC Houston is to support healthy neighborhood development through livable and safe environments. GO Neighborhood safety team members instructed over forty neighborhood leaders about best practices and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. The principles are part of LISC's SafeGrowth training and certification program for community leaders.

The new trainees will analyze problem areas using a safety audit form and work with police, civic organizations, community residents, and property owners to begin applying these principles (e.g., lighting, access control, "eyes on the street") in their neighborhoods.

Reference: www.go-neighborhoods.org
www.lisc.org

PS 3. Provide public safety services to newly annexed areas and areas with increased activity, such as new neighborhoods, redevelopment areas, transportation corridors, and mixed-use centers.

PS 4. Provide preventive safety education (fire, police, and emergency services) to Austin residents.

PS 5. Increase the use of joint or shared facilities between public safety and other city service providers, when possible, to provide residents with efficient services, reduce costs, and maintain public safety infrastructure. (See also CER 9; CFE 4)

PS 6. Improve collaboration between public safety providers and city planners to incorporate best development practices to reduce crime by such means as improved lighting, density, better designed neighborhood ingresses and egresses, and putting more "eyes on the street."

PS 7. Collaborate and coordinate with other public safety agencies at the county, state, and federal levels to share resources and address the increasingly regional nature of crime.

PS 8. Maintain quality standards in recruiting and training new public safety officers, and strive for a public safety workforce that reflects Austin's changing demographics.

PS 9. Continue to improve education and training of public safety employees and build new skills in using technology to improve public safety.

PUBLIC BUILDING POLICIES

PB 1. Improve access to neighborhood libraries to promote the establishment of Complete Communities throughout Austin.

PB 2. Distribute public buildings where neighborhood services are located and other accessible locations throughout the city. (See also CFE 7)

PB 3. Improve multi-modal public transportation access to the City's public buildings and facilities, including the Austin Bergstrom International Airport.

PB 4. Integrate public buildings and facilities into active, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and complete, healthy communities. (See also LUT 5; H1; HHS 3; CFE 11)

PB 5. Reduce energy consumption and waste generation in all public buildings to meet the City's climate and Zero Waste goals.

PB 6. Develop public buildings and facilities that create healthy work environments and educate the public about energy-efficient, sustainable building and landscape best practices.