ARR Climate Equity Plan Activities

Austin Resource Recovery

Goals and Strategies

- Goal 1 / Strategy 4: Conduct a food waste root cause analysis

- Goal 2 / Strategy 4: Expand the City's Circular Economy program

- Goal 3 / Strategy 1: Promote waste reduction and reuse

- Goal 3 / Strategy 2: Create Eco-hubs

- Goal 3 / Strategy 5: Retool the bulk pick-up collection program

Food & Product Consumption

Aggressively pursue waste reduction, organics composting and recycling to achieve a new zero waste goal pending adoption of the new Austin Resource Recovery Zero Waste Plan.

- Current study underway to provide update on community wide diversion rate and data to establish per capita disposal and capture rates.
- Draft Plan update to be released for review in late summer 2022.

Circular Economy Expansion

- Circular Cities program education and buy in.
- Look at the City of Austin's internal operations including procurement, useful life and end of life of goods and services.

Waste Reduction and Reuse

- Work to develop new opportunities and programs
- Promote existing programs
    - Fix it Clinics
    - Reuse Directory
    - MoveOutATX
    - Reverse Pitch
    - Circular Showcase

Bulk Collection Program

- Review and modify applicable policies/practices
- On-call pilot has been completed
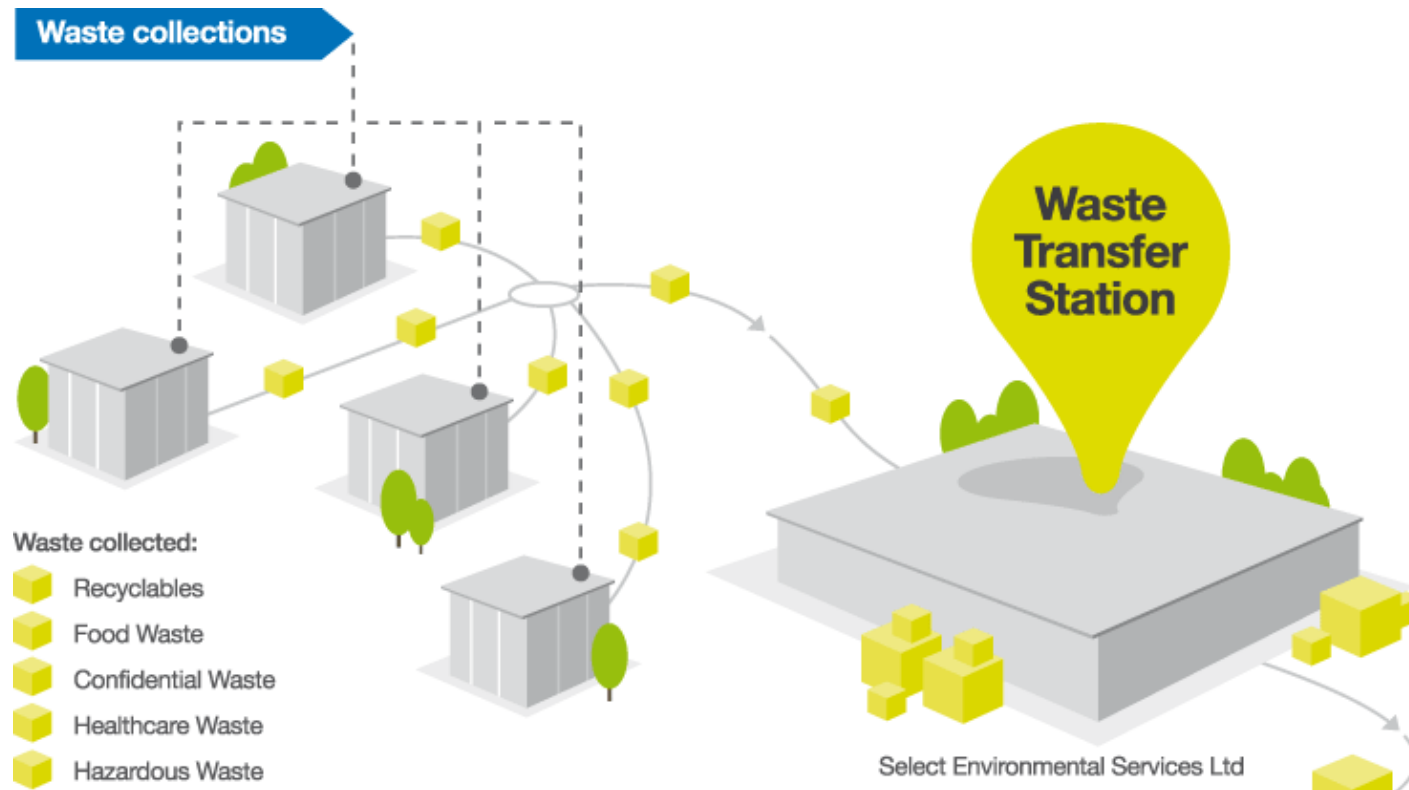- Facilitated better planning, increased efficiency

Transportation

Transportation - Electrification

Goal 1 / Strategy 5: Electrify public sector fleet vehicles

Transfer Station

Waste collections

Waste collected:
- Recyclables
- Food Waste
- Confidential Waste
- Healthcare Waste
- Hazardous Waste

Waste Transfer Station

Select Environmental Services Ltd

ARR Equity Tool

Background

- Began development early FY21
- Modeled after:
  - City of Seattle's Racial Equity Tool
  - Circular Economy Team's draft Equity Tool
- Useful definitions:
  - **Equity** - Racial equity is the condition when race no longer predicts a person's quality of life outcomes in our community.
  - **Implicit bias** – (a.k.a. unconscious or hidden bias) a negative association that people unknowingly hold expressed without conscious awareness.

General Feedback

- Feedback was provided by SID staff, ARR DMs, non-ARR City peers, and external subject matter experts
  - Positive feedback overall

- Comments focused on:
  - ARR equity goals
  - Time needed to complete the tool
  - Providing a mechanism of accountability to the public
  - Language clarifications
  - Editorial recommendations

Purpose of the Tool

"This ARR Racial Equity Tool provides a process and questions to guide the development, implementation and evaluation of external ARR initiatives to identify and address impacts on racial equity."

ARR Equity Goals

To develop and invest in anti-racist programs, services and projects that prioritize the needs of Austin's communities of color.

To strengthen our understanding of and response to community needs by regularly assessing and enhancing established processes, systems, and structures to better serve underrepresented communities and those most affected.

To communicate in a manner that is culturally relevant and accessible to diverse communities, focusing on communities of color, immigrant and refugee communities, and individuals with visual and hearing impairment.

To cultivate a workforce that understands the importance of racial equity and how their work can advance racial justice in Austin.