

Summary of Universal Recycling Ordinance (starting 10/1/2012)

After months of input from citizens, haulers, and City staff, including the Solid Waste Advisory Commission's (SWAC) Recycling Ordinance Reform Subcommittee, the City Council unanimously approved staff recommendations for strengthening the current Commercial Multi-family Recycling Ordinance (CMFRO) passed in 1999 (link to old Commercial Multi-family Recycling Ordinance).

The Austin City Council approved the following changes to the CMFRO:

1. Renamed the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO)
2. All commercial and multifamily properties are required to recycle the following materials AT A MINIMUM:
 - a. Office Paper
 - b. Plastic grades 1 (PETE) and 2 (HDPE)
 - c. Corrugated Cardboard
 - d. Aluminum
 - e. Glass
3. Phase One, beginning October 1, 2012, includes the following properties:
 - a. Multi-family residential properties
 - i. Apartments
 - ii. Condominiums
 - iii. Dormitories
 - iv. Mixed use properties with residences
 - b. Commercial Office buildings
 - c. Institutional properties including medical facilities and religious buildings
 - d. Private educational facilities
4. Phase Two, beginning sometime AFTER October 1, 2012, will include the following types of businesses:
 - a. Food and Beverage industry (restaurants, bars, grocers, catering)
 - b. Retail Stores
 - c. Industrial and Manufacturing Facilities
5. The ordinance includes a minimum container requirements, proper signage and ongoing education for both property owners and private haulers.

Commercial property size and Phase One effective dates:

- More than 100,000 square feet (effective October 2012)
- 99,999 to 75,000 square feet (effective October 2013)
- 74,999 to 50,000 square feet (effective October 2014)
- 49,999 to 26,000 square feet (effective October 2015)
- Less than 25,000 square feet (depends on COA ability to provide service)

Multi-family residential properties must implement Phase One recycling programs within the following time frame:

- More than 75 units (effective October 2012)
- 50 – 74 units (effective October 2013)
- 26 – 49 units (effective October 2014)
- Less than 25 units (depends on COA service ability)

Additionally, within one year after the City of Austin determines it is able to provide processing of Single Stream recyclables, properties may be required to recycle plastic grades 3 – 7, paperboard, tin, and steel.

Phase Two discussions with stakeholders will resume in early 2011 and will include commercial composting of food waste. SWS plans to return to Council in summer 2011 with recommendations for the implementation of Phase Two.