



Subject: Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 – Administrative Rules Development
#6 Stakeholder Group Meeting – Health Care

Date: September 25, 2013 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Austin City Hall, Room 1029; 301 W. 2nd St; Austin, TX 78701

Introduction

Austin Resource Recovery held a stakeholder meeting intended for Healthcare to discuss the Universal Recycling Ordinance. The purpose of this meeting was to educate stakeholders about the ordinance, to learn about recycling and food waste diversion in the Healthcare industry. The goal was to gather information necessary to develop a set of recommended amendments to the Universal Recycling Ordinance Administrative Rules.

Stakeholders were provided with information on Austin Resource Recovery's Strategic Initiatives' planning and business outreach teams. Stakeholders then introduced themselves. Staff walked meeting participants through the meeting agenda and transitioned to the education component of the discussion.

Part One – Staff presentation on URO and Administrative Rules

Staff made a presentation to stakeholders on the City's Zero Waste goals, the Universal Recycling Ordinance, the relationship between the URO and ARR's Administrative Rules and the process to amend the Administrative Rules. Staff clarified basic questions in regards to the presentation.

Part Two – URO Phase 2 Information Exchange and Facilitated Discussion

Staff outlined the facilitated discussion portion of the meeting and described the questions for discussion.

Healthcare Recycling

Complex waste stream:

- Many wastes are regulated by the federal government
- Seton is currently tracking 25 different waste streams
- St. David's felt the level of detail involved in describing their waste streams was significant
- It is complex for hospitals to figure out which waste streams they can include in any City calculations
- Pharmaceutical waste is costly and many times not recyclable
- Healthcare waste would require an extreme level of detail to track and calculate, due to the number and complexity of waste streams
- St. David's has a system-wide Sustainability Committee that has been successfully implementing green initiatives, including ones focused on zero waste
- Seton also has broad Sustainability Initiatives and successfully implements Zero Waste concepts

Infection control:

- Infection control in hospitals is a major liability risk; risk is increased in areas where recycling and waste receptacles are provided.
- Packaging is often considered hazardous waste





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- There are 10 categories of hazardous waste that are federally regulated

Container placement (interior):

- A hospital is regulated by Fire and Health codes – waste receptacles cannot simply be placed in a hallway
- Seton had concerns about placing recycling bins in patient rooms (St. David's agreed with these concerns)

Service capacity:

- Seton feels service capacity is a narrow calculation. Weekly service capacity is not a simple calculation due to complexity of waste streams.

Reduction and Re-use:

- Seton and St. David's track donations system-wide

End markets:

- Healthcare has trouble measuring the recycling of air filters, light bulbs, wood pallets, and batteries.

Signage:

- Signage is set by the Healthcare organization or facility standards.
- Seton is currently providing "symbol heavy" signage for waste, recycling, and composting.

Employee education:

- St. David's provides training for new staff, annual training for waste and a third training for pharmaceutical waste.
- Seton has specific groups that are trained for recycling – but not everyone is trained.

Confidential Documents:

- Healthcare produces a large amount of shredded paper.

Healthcare Organics Diversion

Food Waste:

- St. David's currently utilizes pulpers in many of their facilities for composting. St. David's also contracts with a local service provider for composting service.
- Seton composts at Dell Children's Hospital and is currently attempting to expand composting to as many facilities as possible.
- Food permits are issued to the cafeteria, coffee shops, and gift shops.
- In existing, older Healthcare facilities, providing adequate space for collection of food waste is challenging. Retrofitting space is challenging if space for food waste diversion was not a part of the original building design.





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Lawn Trimmings:

- St. David's had concerns about tracking mechanisms for lawn trimmings.
- Lawn trimmings should not be a part of URO as this material should be addressed through the Hauler Ordinance.

Container Placement (exterior):

- Container placement in existing facilities is challenging.
- Seton has found odor issues during the hot months. Seton provides regular maintenance to the composting space.

Conclusion

Staff called the meeting to close and notified stakeholders of staff contact information and future meetings.

