

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Spring 2020

## ENTERPRISE RESOURCE GUIDE

Recycling, reuse, repair, rental, remanufacturing and other zero waste enterprises.



Circular Economy Program, supported by  
Austin Resource Recovery & Economic Development Department



March 1, 2020

Dear Entrepreneur,

Thank you for starting or aspiring to start a new enterprise in the recycling and reuse sector. Austin's thriving small business and non-profit community and the success of our community goal to reach Zero Waste by 2040 depend on the initiative, passion and drive of entrepreneurs like you.

As part of our ongoing initiative to support businesses in the recycling and reuse sector, the City of Austin is pleased to present this Circular Economy Enterprise Resource Guide. The guide provides information on local programs, services, resources, community groups, and regulations relevant to you as a zero waste entrepreneur.

The City is also happy to offer personalized assistance through the Circular Economy Program. For more information, please visit [austintexas.gov/circulareconomy](http://austintexas.gov/circulareconomy). For questions about this guide, or to suggest an addition or update, please contact at [circulareconomy@austintexas.gov](mailto:circulareconomy@austintexas.gov).

Thank you for doing your part to help Austin reach Zero Waste and for contributing to our vibrant local economy.

Sincerely,

**Circular Economy Team**  
[circulareconomy@austintexas.gov](mailto:circulareconomy@austintexas.gov)

This guide is not guaranteed to be up to date or comprehensive. If there is information missing or out of date, please email [circulareconomy@austintexas.gov](mailto:circulareconomy@austintexas.gov) to let us know so that we may update this guide. Links to web sites are for the convenience of the user. Such links and use do not constitute an express or implied endorsement or approval of any private sector web site, or of the products or services of specifically identified companies or of any of the private entities. This information does not reflect an endorsement of these entities, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of data contained herein, or for the success or failure of any business transaction resulting from opportunities listed in this information.

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## Steps to Starting a Small Business in Austin

**City of Austin** The City of Austin provides a step-by-step online guide to getting your business established.  
[austintexas.gov/page/steps-starting-business](http://austintexas.gov/page/steps-starting-business)

## Small Business / Start-Up Coaching and Training

**Economic Growth Business Incubator** EGBI provides training, coaching and support to aspiring and existing business owners who face barriers to growing a successful business.  
[egbi.org](http://egbi.org)

**Huston-Tillotson University Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation** CEI offers classes for small-business owners, workshops and one-week startup “boot camps” for the people of the community. Budding entrepreneurs will be allowed to use space at the center for up to eight months at no charge, and they will be able to consult for free with the entrepreneur-in-residence.  
[htusbt.org/CEI/](http://htusbt.org/CEI/)

**Small Business Program - BizAid Coaching** The City’s Small Business Programs offers one-on-one, no-cost, confidential business coaching services. This service includes business plan and marketing plan assistance, financial readiness assessment, and business management technical assistance.  
[austintexas.gov/department/bizaid](http://austintexas.gov/department/bizaid)

**Small Business Program - BizAid Orientation** The City’s free BizAid Business Orientation provides a general overview of opening a small business or re-evaluating an existing business during its growth. In this session, you will be informed of key questions to consider when developing your business and resources to take you to the next level.  
[austintexas.gov/department/bizaid](http://austintexas.gov/department/bizaid)

**Small Business Program – Business Skills Classes** These low-cost classes offered through the City of Austin provide counseling and assistance to small businesses, with a focus on developing and empowering small businesses in order to strengthen their business capability and survivability.  
[austintexas.gov/smallbiz](http://austintexas.gov/smallbiz)

**SCORE** SCORE Austin is a nonprofit association dedicated to free small business advice, educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and maintain their businesses. SCORE certified mentors are experienced entrepreneurs, small business owners, corporate managers, and executives who volunteer their experience and knowledge to help small business owners and entrepreneurs. As a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), SCORE has helped more than 11 million entrepreneurs through mentoring, workshops and educational resources since 1964.  
[austinscore.org](http://austinscore.org)

**Texas State University Small Business Development Center** Texas State SBDC provides no-cost, confidential business advising, research services, and training workshops and seminars.  
[sbdcccoy.txstate.edu](http://sbdcccoy.txstate.edu)

## Non-Profit Waste-Based Social Enterprise Consulting

**Cascade Alliance** The Cascade Alliance provides full-service consulting services to non-profit organizations to help establish or strengthen waste-based (reuse or recycling) revenue-generating social enterprises. Managed by St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County with more than 50 years of experience, the alliance helps turn discarded mattresses, books, clothing, and other items into a stable revenue stream and source of secure, quality jobs  
[cascadealliance.us](http://cascadealliance.us)

## Social Entrepreneurship Accelerators

**Austin Technology Incubator** The ATI Circular Economy Incubator links entrepreneurs with academia, industry, and government to solve global challenges in design and reuse. Through customized and deep engagements across Texas, ATI is able to co-design, pilot and test circular economy technology and business model innovations.  
[ati.utexas.edu/current-portfolio/circular-economy](http://ati.utexas.edu/current-portfolio/circular-economy)

**DivInc** DivInc is a non-profit organization with a mission to bridge the gap between underrepresented entrepreneurs and the resources they need to build profitable, high-growth companies. Our programs include a 12-week startup accelerator, our Alumni Program, and Startup Sistas, our program focused on supporting Black and Brown women founders. We mobilize communities, execute programs and establish partnerships that foster a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive future for everyone.  
[divinc.org](http://divinc.org)

**Concordia University Incubator CTX** The Incubator for Innovation and Impact enriches the community with an accessible ecosystem that amplifies an entrepreneurs' resources and opportunities. Located in NW Austin at Concordia University, the Incubator connects entrepreneurs with professors' invaluable insights, student support, mentors, development programs, and networking opportunities. With its framework the Incubator enables entrepreneurs to discover and execute business practices and ventures that positively impact local and global communities. By partnering with Tech Ranch & G51 (both Austin-based business focused on entrepreneurship) the Incubator will be a place for community entrepreneurs, student entrepreneurs, and company intra-preneurs to gather and brainstorm. The facility has individual, co-working, small group collaboration, and large group working spaces. Additionally, members of the Incubator will enjoy an easy commute, free parking, gym access, VIP events, discounted event space, snacks, printing services, and the serenity of Concordia's nearly 400 acres of wooded campus. The value add of the incubator is in the ecosystem; the interconnected parts working together contributing to a thriving community with the common goal of supporting businesses seeking to have a positive social impact.  
[incubatorctx.com](http://incubatorctx.com)

**Jon Brumley Texas Venture Labs** JBTVL is a University of Texas initiative to accelerate startups in taking their innovations to market and to transform graduate students into entrepreneurs and business leaders. The JBTVL Accelerator matches early-stage Austin-area startups with cross-functional student teams from across UT's graduate schools to help solve business problems. At the conclusion of each semester, JBTVL hosts an event to showcase the startups to the community and investors.  
[mccombs.utexas.edu/Centers/Texas-Venture-Labs](http://mccombs.utexas.edu/Centers/Texas-Venture-Labs)

Tarmac TX	<p>Tarmac TX is a 4-month accelerator program for early-stage for companies with a technology solution that focuses on sustainability in addressing issues that include; environment, water, food, energy, and climate change. In this no-equity, free program, founders have access to a co-working space, mentorship program, and an international network. Tarmac TX also provides classes, workshops, and speakers to help the founders reach their goals.</p> <p><a href="http://tarmactx.com">tarmactx.com</a></p>
Tech Ranch	<p>Tech Ranch equips entrepreneurs and ecosystems with insights, proven techniques, tools and processes that develop both the community and the entrepreneur.</p> <p><a href="http://techranchaustin.com/about-us/">techranchaustin.com/about-us/</a></p>
Techstars Impact	<p>Techstars Impact backs for-profit, mission driven founders building tech to solve social and environmental problems. The program invests \$120K into startups from around the world who believe solving pressing social &amp; environmental problems can sit hand-in-hand with building a successful company.</p> <p><a href="http://techstars.com/accelerator-partnership/">techstars.com/accelerator-partnership/</a></p>
The University of Texas at Austin Social Innovation Initiative	<p>The Social Innovation Initiative (SII) acts as UT-Austin's hub on campus for innovation in social and environmental impact. The center is housed in The McCombs School of Business, and focuses on corporate sustainability, social entrepreneurship, impact investing, and ESG investing. The SII strives to cultivate a world where business professionals can create economic value for their organizations while shaping a circular, regenerative economy that benefits all stakeholders. We reach students and community members through experiential learning programs, courses, community events, career support, and research.</p> <p><a href="http://mcombs.utexas.edu/Centers/Social-Innovation-Initiative">mcombs.utexas.edu/Centers/Social-Innovation-Initiative</a></p>

## Event & Co-Working Spaces

Austin Central Library	<p>A culturally rich hub in downtown Austin, the Austin Central Library offers classes, programs, conference rooms, rent-able technologies, outdoor reading porches, and a 350-seat special events center.</p> <p><a href="http://library.austintexas.gov/central-library">library.austintexas.gov/central-library</a></p>
Impact Hub Austin	<p>Impact Hub Austin is a global coworking community that offers shared workspace, events and programming connecting Austinites to a movement for good at more than 85+ locations worldwide. Impact Hub focuses on combining resources in a collaborative environment. The community is connected by the shared goal of using business and entrepreneurship as a tool to drive positive change. For-profit, social-profit and nonprofit companies, organizations, entrepreneurs, activists and creative professionals are all welcome to join the movement of Austin's next generation of purpose-driven enterprises.</p> <p><a href="http://impacthubaustin.com">impacthubaustin.com</a></p>
Reset	<p>Reset is helping keep Austin weird by partnering with local, independent, dinner-only restaurants to transform their spaces during the day into co-working spaces, for the remote working community. By using what already exists, we make co-working more affordable and also provide a portion of our revenues to our restaurant partners. Our mission is to empower people to do their best work, be it entrepreneurs, freelancers, work-from-homers, or anyone in between.</p> <p><a href="http://hitreset.io">hitreset.io</a></p>
Vesper	<p>Vesper is a not-for-profit community event space that uses income generated from private events to offer discounts to community non-profits and sponsorships for free community events throughout the year. This means that renting space at Vesper provides an elegant space for both private events of up to 300 guests and free public events for the Austin community at large. Past events have included weddings, seminars, panel discussions, poster shows, gallery openings, private parties, fashion shows, yoga classes, and improv shows, but Vesper also welcomes uniquely creative program designs.</p> <p><a href="http://vesperaustin.com">vesperaustin.com</a></p>

## Makerspaces

ATX Hackerspace	ATX Hackerspace is a collaborative industrial workshop and co-working space for artists, designers, makers, hackers, fabbers, scientists, and more. Projects that need woodworking, soldering, welding, or painting equipment or power can be done here. <a href="http://atxhs.org">atxhs.org</a>
CRAFT	CRAFT is a walk-in arts and crafts room for grown-ups. Open Crafting, the signature all-you-can-make buffet of arts and crafts supplies, is available 6 days a week, no appointment necessary. CRAFT also offers workshops, venue rentals for events and meetings, and weekly and monthly coworking for people who want to do their work in a creative space (you don't need to be an artist!). <a href="http://madeatcraft.com">madeatcraft.com</a>
make+ SHift	make+SHift is a makerspace offering design classes, design education and CNC services for people looking to turn their business ideas into products. <a href="http://makeshiftatx.com">makeshiftatx.com</a>
Pecan Street	Pecan Street offers a number of programs tailored to meet the practical needs of start-ups, including subsidized product testing and development support, field demonstrations, business management consulting, and prototype fabrication. <a href="http://pecanstreet.org/get-involved/">pecanstreet.org/get-involved/</a>

## Real Estate

Austin Chamber of Commerce	The Austin Chamber of Commerce may provide connections to local commercial/ industrial Real Estate resources and has access to property databases for companies seeking space in the Austin Region. The Austin Chamber's website provides a sampling of featured properties. <a href="http://austinchamber.com/economic-development/real-estate">austinchamber.com/economic-development/real-estate</a>
Brownfields Assistance	The City of Austin's Brownfields Revitalization Office has grant funding available to provide free environmental site assessments, such as Phase I ESAs, which are needed for due diligence during property acquisition. The Office also has a flexible loan program with low-interest available for property environmental cleanups. The program also assists lead-based paint and asbestos surveys and abatement. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/brownfields">austintexas.gov/brownfields</a>
City-owned Property for Sale or Lease	When the City has property available for sale or open lease solicitations, information is posted online at the website below. <a href="http://austinchamber.com/economic-development/real-estate">austinchamber.com/economic-development/real-estate</a>

## Local Funding Options

### Social Entrepreneurship-Focused Funding Resources

Austin Fast Start	The Austin Fast Start pitch competition is a partnership between the City of Austin's Economic Development Department and the Austin Young Chamber with support from 3 Day Startup. Every quarter, a different industry is targeted. Pitch winners are awarded an unrestricted cash prize and other opportunities to identify and support local entrepreneurs as the future business leaders in our community. <a href="http://austinyc.org/austin-fast-start/">austinyc.org/austin-fast-start/</a>
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Austin Foodshed Investors	<p>Austin Foodshed Investors is an investor network and impact accelerator that helps local sustainable food companies raise growth capital, work with experts, and meet investors.</p> <p><a href="http://foodshedinvestors.com">foodshedinvestors.com</a></p>
Bright Green Futures School Grants	<p>Looking to partner and/or pilot your business idea with a local school? The City of Austin's Bright Green Futures School Grant offers up to \$3,000 in funding for public and private schools implementing new sustainability projects. Applications for the program are accepted each year starting in mid-August through September.</p> <p><a href="http://austintexas.gov/brightgreenfuture">austintexas.gov/brightgreenfuture</a></p>
Business Expansion Program	<p>The Economic Development Department's Business Expansion Program offers economic development grants for businesses expanding, relocating, or adding jobs for targeted employment populations in Austin.</p> <p><a href="http://austintexas.gov/department/business-expansion-incentive-program">austintexas.gov/department/business-expansion-incentive-program</a></p>
Food+City	<p>Food+City is a nonprofit that takes action through storytelling on our website, an annual print magazine, and an annual challenge prize. We offer networking opportunities, mentorship and funding to startups innovating within the supply chain to provide better food to more people with less waste. The Food+City Startup Challenge is the only international startup competition dedicated to innovation in the food supply chain. Entrepreneurs from across the globe apply for an opportunity to compete for cash prizes to improve how we feed cities. Participating entrepreneurs are connected to the people and funding that can take their businesses to the next level.</p> <p><a href="http://foodandcity.org">foodandcity.org</a></p>
Notley	<p>Notley is a social impact investment company that operates as an engine for social good. Their mission is to catalyze the growth and expansion of innovative people and organizations making positive change in the world. Notley does this by funding and operating multiple initiatives like NotleyEDU, Philanthropitch, Women@Austin, The Center for Social Innovation, Catalyst Games, and also provides seed capital or grants to other organizations focused on social change. Notley is maximizing their impact by building an ecosystem centered around sharing and providing entrepreneurial knowledge, collaboration and capital and inviting others to join them.</p> <p><a href="http://wearenotley.com">wearenotley.com</a></p>
JUST	<p>JUST is a social venture focused on investing in hard-working, low-income entrepreneurs to create a more financially resilient America. JUST offers a simple and straightforward approach to free entrepreneurs from the cycle of debt through microloans.</p> <p><a href="http://hellojust.com">hellojust.com</a></p>
Philanthropitch	<p>Philanthropitch provides capital, knowledge and connections to innovative nonprofits and social enterprises through entrepreneurial-focused coaching, a catalyst fast-pitch competition with capital rewards, and unique community &amp; peer connections. Philanthropitch's value lies in helping nonprofits focus on scalability and sustainability of business models, improving pitches, and establishing broader networks for enhanced funding opportunities.</p> <p><a href="http://philanthropitch.org">philanthropitch.org</a></p>

## [Re]Verse Pitch Competition

The [Re]Verse Pitch Competition is an annual social innovation program from the City of Austin and community partners to help turn valuable raw materials that are currently leaving local businesses, non-profits, and institutions as waste into the foundation of new social enterprises. Competitors work with mentors & advisors to develop repurposing business ideas for specific local byproducts and compete for an Innovation Prize to help start this new venture. If you would like to be a: (1) material supplier, (2) entrepreneur/intrapreneur, (3) volunteer mentor, or (4) prize sponsor, visit the website to learn more about your role in the competition.

[reversepitch.org](http://reversepitch.org)

## Southwest Angel Network for Social Impact

SWAN is focused on providing funding for early-stage, for-profit companies which are working to make the work a better place. These companies are often focused on enhancing healthcare outcomes, improving educational results, or protecting the environment.

[swanimpact.org](http://swanimpact.org)

## Zero Waste Business Rebate

Qualifying businesses can earn up to \$1,800 in rebates from Austin Resource Recovery, a City of Austin service, to expand or improve recycling, composting or other zero waste programs.

[austintexas.gov/zwbizrebate](http://austintexas.gov/zwbizrebate)

## Local Funding Options

### General Funding Resources

## Austin Industrial Development Corporation Bond Financing Program

The Austin Industrial Development Corporation offers tax-exempt or taxable bonds for eligible manufacturing projects, recycling and other exempt facilities projects, and projects owned and used by Section 501(c)(3) organizations. The Bond Financing Program provides project financing that can be lower-cost and have longer maturity compared with traditional financing.

## City of Austin Family Business Loan Program (Expansion Loan)

The Family Business Loan Program is a public-private partnership between the City of Austin, HUD, and participating private lenders to offer low-interest loans to qualified small businesses that are expanding and creating jobs.

[austintexas.gov/department/family-business-loan-program](http://austintexas.gov/department/family-business-loan-program)

## City of Austin Veteran Business Loan Initiative

The Veteran Business Loan is part of the Family Business Loan Program, a public-private partnership between the City of Austin Economic Development Department and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which offers a low-interest rate loan and low borrower equity requirements to help create or expand a business.

[austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/EGRSO/VeteransLoanInitiative.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/EGRSO/VeteransLoanInitiative.pdf)

## Central Texas Angel Network

CTAN is a member network of accredited local angel investors that provides early-stage investment and assists entrepreneurs and start-ups with mentorship and education. They have monthly open office hours where entrepreneurs can get feedback from active angel investors. CTAN is one of the Top 5 most active angel networks in the U.S.

[centraltexasangelnetwork.com](http://centraltexasangelnetwork.com)

## Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is the grassroots financial frontier made popular by sites like Kickstarter and Indiegogo. It creates fundraising opportunities through the collective efforts of online contributions. The Small Business Program regularly offers classes on crowdfunding (see “Small Business Program – Business Skills Classes” Pg 4).

Non-Profit Community Lenders	Several local non-profits make loans. They include LiftFund, ACCION, BiGAustin, PeopleFund, BCL of Texas, Capital CDC, and Central Texas CDC.
Small Business Resource Guide	This City of Austin guide provides a list of incentives, rebates, grants, and other resources available at the local, state, and federal levels for small businesses. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/small-business-resources">austintexas.gov/small-business-resources</a>

## Doing Business with the City of Austin

Austin Energy Small Business Outreach Program	Austin Energy is providing a free On-Site Energy/Resource Conservation Assessment for your business that will identify resource conservation and energy-saving opportunities. The assessment can include an evaluation of your water usage, recycling opportunities, and potential energy efficiency improvements, including air conditioning, lighting, building envelope, and other equipment. <a href="http://savings.austinenergy.com/rebates/commercial/learn/get-big-savings/sm-bus-outreach">savings.austinenergy.com/rebates/commercial/learn/get-big-savings/sm-bus-outreach</a>
Small and Minority Business Resources Department	This City department's purpose is to promote and encourage minority, women, and disadvantaged business owners to participate in business opportunities with the City of Austin. The department provides classes, certifications, and other resources to assist minority, women, and disadvantaged business enterprises. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/department/small-and-minority-business">austintexas.gov/department/small-and-minority-business</a>
Vendor Connections	View detailed information about current business opportunities with the City of Austin. Subscribe to solicitations and download solicitation documents. Vendors may also register to be notified of any new business opportunities based on commodity codes that they select. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/financeonline/finance">austintexas.gov/financeonline/finance</a>

## Promotion

Austin's Circular Story	Austin's Circular Economy Story is an interactive map featuring local Austin businesses and their connection to the 5 principles of circularity. The map showcases businesses and project innovation in Austin who are helping the city transition to a circular economy. <a href="http://kumu.io/ARRCircularEconomy/austins-circular-economy-story">kumu.io/ARRCircularEconomy/austins-circular-economy-story</a>
Austin Green Business Leaders	The Austin Green Business Leaders Program can help you protect the environment, save money, and make Austin a more livable place. Businesses that excel in the program are formally recognized as Silver, Gold, or Platinum Green Business Leaders—which can give you a competitive edge with customers. <a href="http://austingreenbusiness.com">austingreenbusiness.com</a>
Austin Reuse Directory	The Austin Reuse Directory is an online database designed to help residents find a second home for everyday items through donation or resale, find gently used or upcycled items, and locate rental and/or repair services. <a href="http://austinreusedirectory.com">austinreusedirectory.com</a>

## Networking Opportunities and Professional Organizations

- Austin Chamber of Commerce** The Austin Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization. Through its Opportunity Austin prosperity initiative, The Austin Chamber works with companies seeking a new location in Austin and/or are expanding their local presence. Services may include locating potential buildings and/or sites for operations; developing and hosting site tours; facilitating meetings/introductions with local companies, community representatives, universities/colleges and others; and providing networking to those in the local CleanTech community.  
[austinchamber.com](http://austinchamber.com)
- Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB)** Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB) provides information and guidance on how to build green single family, multifamily or commercial projects. Since 1991, AEGB has cultivated innovation in building for the enrichment of the community's environmental, economic and human well-being through green building ratings, consulting services, code advancement, education and professional development. AEGB creates educational opportunities with community partners to help everyone learn about the benefits of green building, including monthly continuing education seminars that offer a great place to network with others in the green building community.  
[greenbuilding.austinenergy.com](http://greenbuilding.austinenergy.com)
- Austin Regional Manufacturers' Association** ARMA is a trade association dedicated to strengthening Austin-area manufacturing through advocacy, workforce development, and networking. They host monthly events including speaker luncheons, educational seminars and training programs to improve business operations and employee upskilling, and social gatherings. Membership includes some of the largest companies in the area, like Samsung, NXP, Applied Materials, and Flex but the core group and focus is on providing value to small and medium size facilities.  
[arma-tx.org](http://arma-tx.org)
- Austin Technology Incubator - Circular Economy** The ATI Circular Economy Incubator links entrepreneurs with academia, industry, and government to solve global challenges in design and reuse. Through customized and deep engagements, ATI work across Texas to co-design, pilot and test circular economy technology and business model innovations.  
[ati.utexas.edu/current-portfolio/circular-economy/](http://ati.utexas.edu/current-portfolio/circular-economy/)
- Austin Zero Waste Alliance** AZWA educates about, advocates for, and promotes Zero Waste in Austin, by working with the general public, elected officials, governmental staff, businesses, schools, Councils of Government, institutions, state agencies, religious organizations, non-profits, the media, citizen and environmental groups, and any other relevant entities to achieve the realization of a sustainable Zero Waste economy in Austin before 2040. The group holds monthly meetings.  
[facebook.com/AustinZeroWaste](https://facebook.com/AustinZeroWaste)
- CleanTX** An economic development and professional association for cleantech, including waste and recycling, whose mission is to accelerate the industry's growth through networking, education and information exchange, thought leadership, and strategic partnerships.  
[cleantx.org](http://cleantx.org)
- Circular Economy Club Austin** CEC is a non-profit international circular economy network focused on bringing opportunities and knowledge to Austin. The CEC Austin network is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about and helping to support the transition towards a circular economy.  
[circulareconomyclub.com/groups/circular-economy-club-cec-austin/](http://circulareconomyclub.com/groups/circular-economy-club-cec-austin/)

## Ellen MacArthur Foundation

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation works with business, government and academia to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, a framework for an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design.

[www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)

## Net Impact

Net Impact is global organization that connects a new generation of leaders transforming the world through the work they do in their communities and throughout their careers with a focus on using business as a force for beneficial environmental and social impact. Austin's volunteer-led professional chapter drives change by bringing together a community of like-minded individuals who support one another in their quest to bring greater meaning to their work. The group hosts networking events, volunteer opportunities, and other programming.

[netimpact.org/chapters/austin-professional](http://netimpact.org/chapters/austin-professional)

## Southeast Recycling Development Corporation

The Southeast Recycling Development Council works to unite industry, government, and non-government organizations to promote sustainable recycling in the Southeast. Our research and messaging focuses on the economic impact recycling has in the region and our efforts are directed at expanding and improving the capture of materials from disposal for use in manufacturing. Members are composed of a diverse array of industry and government representatives committed to improving material capture in both quantity and quality which will lead to a strengthening of local economies through recycling.

[serdc.org](http://serdc.org)

## State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) Reuse Council

This is a working group which focuses on promoting statewide waste diversion through reuse by providing education, professional development, networking and advocacy for the public, commercial, and private reuse sector. The Reuse Council welcomes all organizations and individuals interested to join. Upcoming council activities and membership information can be found on their website.

[recyclingstar.org/working-groups/reuse-council/](http://recyclingstar.org/working-groups/reuse-council/)

## STAR Central Texas Regional Group

STAR Central Texas acts as a resource to help advance recycling practices through education in the Central Texas region. This is the regional group of the STAR, the state-wide recycling industry association that works to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas. STAR Central Texas hosts quarterly events and the annual SPARK Forum

<https://www.recyclingstar.org/STAR-Central-Texas-Council/>

## Texas for Manufacturing Extension Partnership Texas

As the official representative of The State of Texas for MEP, the network is a unique public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive solutions to U.S. manufacturers through mentorship support, methodology expertise and sustainable growth in manufacturing.

[tmac.org](http://tmac.org)

## TiE Austin

TiE Global is a nonprofit venture devoted to entrepreneurs in all industries, at all stages, from incubation, throughout the entrepreneurial lifecycle. With a global reach and a local focus, the heart of TiE efforts lies in its five foundational programs – Mentoring, Networking, Education, Funding, and Incubation.

[austin.tie.org](http://austin.tie.org)

## City of Austin Zero Waste Ordinances

### Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance

This ordinance requires construction projects with 5,000 sq. ft. or more of new, remodeled, or added floor area to reuse or recycle at least 50% of construction debris or dispose of less than 2.5 lbs. of material per sq. ft. of floor area. Commercial and multifamily demolition projects of all sizes must also meet ordinance requirements.

[austintexas.gov/cd](http://austintexas.gov/cd)

### Hauler Licensing

All private haulers that collect, remove, or transport waste, recycling, and/or organics/compost within the City of Austin for a fee, and companies that haul as part of their job, must obtain a Private Hauler License. The City maintains an online list of licensed haulers.

[austintexas.gov/hauler](http://austintexas.gov/hauler)

### Special Events Ordinance

The Special Events Ordinance codifies several existing processes used by various City departments to evaluate and permit special events. There are new requirements related to waste management and other sustainability provisions. A waste management plan is required for all special events, but select events will need to submit a waste reduction and diversion plan.

[austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/SEO-Executed-5-28-18.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/SEO-Executed-5-28-18.pdf)

### Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO)

The URO supports Austin's Zero Waste goal by establishing minimum recycling requirements for apartments and commercial properties in Austin and organics diversion programs at food service establishments. The goal is to ensure that tenants and employees have access to convenient recycling. All properties must ensure recycling services, education and proper signage (found at the website below) are available to tenants and employees. All food service businesses are required to implement organics diversion programs. Email [CommercialRecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:CommercialRecycling@austintexas.gov) or find more information online.

[austintexas.gov/uro](http://austintexas.gov/uro)

## City of Austin Studies & Plans

### Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan

The ARR master plan outlines how the City will reach its goal of Zero Waste goal of 90% diversion from landfill or incineration by 2040, including economic development strategies.

[austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Trash\\_and\\_Recycling/MasterPlan\\_Final\\_12.30.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Trash_and_Recycling/MasterPlan_Final_12.30.pdf)

### Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study

The community diversion study is a comprehensive study of all of Austin's commercial and residential recycling, composting, and other diversion activities. The study determined that Austin's community-wide diversion rate in 2015 was approximately 42%.

[austintexas.gov/2015diversionstudy](http://austintexas.gov/2015diversionstudy)

### Austin's 2014 Residential Waste Characterization Study

The residential waste characterization study is a field sorting study conducted to determine the composition of the curbside trash and recyclables collected by Austin Resource Recovery. The study determined that 90% of what is sent to landfill can be diverted toward recycling and organic composting.

[austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Final\\_Report\\_-\\_Austin\\_City-Serviced\\_Waste\\_Characterization\\_Study\\_2015-04-14.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Final_Report_-_Austin_City-Serviced_Waste_Characterization_Study_2015-04-14.pdf)

Austin Strategic Direction 2023	<a href="http://cityofaustin.github.io/SD2023-Dashboard/">cityofaustin.github.io/SD2023-Dashboard/</a>
Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling—TCEQ Study	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducted a study on the current and potential economic impacts of recycling, including state and local revenue that may be considered lost because recyclable materials are not recycled. <a href="http://tceq.texas.gov/p2/recycle/study-on-the-economic-impacts-of-recycling">tceq.texas.gov/p2/recycle/study-on-the-economic-impacts-of-recycling</a>
Current and Potential Economic Impact of Austin’s Recycling and Reuse Related Activity	This study by TXP, Inc. examines the current economic impact and jobs related to recycling and reuse in the Austin region in 2014 and the potential growth of the sector. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/EGRSO/TXP_Austin_Recycling_Report_Final.pdf">austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/EGRSO/TXP_Austin_Recycling_Report_Final.pdf</a>
Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan	Imagine Austin is the City’s 30-year comprehensive plan for how Austin can grow in a compact and connected way. Imagine Austin also covers quality of life issues such as investing in the creative economy and advancing healthy, affordable living. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/department/imagine-austin">austintexas.gov/department/imagine-austin</a>
Austin Community Climate Plan	This plan lays out energy, transportation, waste, and industrial sector action plans to meet the City’s goal of reaching net zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner. <a href="http://austintexas.gov/climate">austintexas.gov/climate</a>

## Other Government & Academic Resources

Environmental Protection Agency Sustainable Materials Management	EPA provides sustainable materials management tools and resources, including information on food recovery, industrial byproduct recycling and reuse and recycled material application research. <a href="http://epa.gov/smm">epa.gov/smm</a>
Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Solid Waste Planning	CAPCOG is the state designated planning agency for solid waste management issues in the region. CAPCOG provides technical assistance to local governments on solid waste issues and continuing education opportunities for local governments and solid waste professionals. <a href="http://capcog.org/divisions/community-economic-development#solid-waste">capcog.org/divisions/community-economic-development#solid-waste</a>
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	TCEQ is the state agency responsible for most recycling-related regulations including landfill permits, electronics recycling and hazardous waste laws. Find information on area landfills, MSW data, recycling resources, and waste management guidelines on their website. <a href="http://tceq.texas.gov/p2/recycle/recycling.html">tceq.texas.gov/p2/recycle/recycling.html</a>
The University of Texas at Austin Materials Lab	The Materials Lab at the School of Architecture maintains the largest and most comprehensive academic material collection in the world with over 28,000 material samples. The collection can be searched online and can be sorted to view materials with recycled content or other sustainable features. The lab welcomes visitors and is open to the public. <a href="https://soa.utexas.edu/node/6796">https://soa.utexas.edu/node/6796</a>

## Sourcing Reused Materials

### Austin Materials Marketplace

This online, facilitated, business-to-business reuse tool can help source local, reusable or recyclable materials for your business. Whether you need scrap wood, business furniture, reclaimed textiles, or pallets, chances are the marketplace has that material available. Marketplace staff actively look for synergies and trade opportunities to help you find the materials you need or a home for materials you can no longer use. Businesses must join as participants to access the database.

[austinmaterialsmarketplace.org](http://austinmaterialsmarketplace.org)

### Recycling Demand Mapping in Texas

Sourcing materials that are local and/or used may not only save you money, but reduce your carbon footprint and packaging waste. Consider surplus property sales (UT, HEB, County, State) and talking with businesses that may have the material you need coming out as a byproduct. Not sure where to start? Contact us!

[serdc.org/Map-of-Recycling-in-Texas](http://serdc.org/Map-of-Recycling-in-Texas)

### US EPA ReCon Tool

This online tool can help estimate environmental impacts from purchasing and/or manufacturing materials with varying degrees of post-consumer recycling content.

[epa.gov/warm/recycled-content-recon-tool](http://epa.gov/warm/recycled-content-recon-tool)

## Materials Recovery Facilities

The City of Austin does not own or operate a MRF. To access MRF recycled materials, contact one of our three area MRFs:

### Balcones Resources

Balcones receives approximately 60% of the City of Austin's residential recycling and accepts residential and commercial recycling from throughout the Central Texas region at their Austin MRF.

[balconesresources.com](http://balconesresources.com)

### Texas Disposal Systems

TDS receives approximately 40% of the City of Austin's residential recycling and accepts residential and commercial recycling from throughout the Central Texas region at their Creedmoor, TX MRF. TDS also operates a landfill, composting operation, and construction and demolition recycling facility.

[texasdisposal.com](http://texasdisposal.com)

### Wilco Recycling

Wilco recycles single stream material from residential, commercial, and industrial properties in the greater Austin region at its facility in Taylor, Texas.

[wilcorecycling.com](http://wilcorecycling.com)

### Texas Department of Transportation Roadway Recycled Materials Summaries

TxDOT's Road to Recycling initiative created packets of information on 12 recycled materials with great potential for use in road construction.

[txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/support/recycling/materials.html](http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/support/recycling/materials.html)

## Reuse Centers

### City of Austin Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center

At the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center, you can drop off many items to be recycled, reused or safely discarded. You can also pick up free items to reuse yourself, such as ReBlend recycled paint and mulch. Most services are free to Austin residents, but some services have a fee.

[austintexas.gov/dropoff](http://austintexas.gov/dropoff)

### Austin Reuse Directory

The Austin Reuse Directory is an online database designed to help residents find a second home for everyday items through donation or resale, find gently used or upcycled items, and locate rental and/or repair services.

[austinreusedirectory.com](http://austinreusedirectory.com)

Confused about what can be recycled and composted in Austin?  
Visit [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com) to learn more.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Austin Resource Recovery and Economic Development Department  
City of Austin | 512-974-7964 | [circulareconomy@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:circulareconomy@AustinTexas.gov)