



A City of Austin Service Department

Master Plan Program Implementation Update

May 3, 2017

Achievements:

Universal Recycling Ordinance

- Complete public workshops to develop new rules for Phase 1 of the ordinance
- Conduct stakeholder meetings on Phase 2 of the ordinance and present ordinance amendments to City Council
- Conduct outreach to property managers to inform them of the ordinance requirements and timing; provide training
- Hire and train Austin Recycling Ambassadors to provide on-going technical assistance to commercial businesses

Organics Composting

- Year 1 of organics collection pilot program; conduct research on adding food scraps and compostable paper to yard trimmings collection program; identify neighborhoods for pilot program
- Year 2 of organics collection pilot program; conduct follow-up stakeholder education; evaluate results; assess and refine program
- Contract and implement pilot program for food scrap collection at restaurants: in cooperation with Greater Austin Restaurant Association members.
- Conduct community-based social marketing to educate participants about organics collection pilot effort
- Inform residents and businesses about the quality of compost products; provide a composting grading system to encourage "highest and best" use of compost products through support of US Composting Council
- Initiate Master Composter and Junior Composter certification program through support of US Composting Council
- Assess and refine new composting incentives program; expand program; develop compost program outreach materials; present new public education on household and community garden on-site composting
- Full implementation of organics collection from ARR customers for composting: **Organics pilot began in 2013; 14,322 customers are currently participating in the pilot.**

Completed Ordinance Processes:

- Construction & Demolition Ordinance
- Hauler Registration ordinance
- Single-Use Bags Ordinance

Brownfields

- Transfer Brownfields Program and staff to Austin Resource Recovery
- Facilitate land reuse and redevelopment discussions with economic developers, financiers, manufacturers, government officials, consultants, and other interested parties
- Provide Brownfield forums to educate developers and Brownfield property owners about potential land reuse opportunities
- Applied and approved for US EPA Cleanup loan: A Revolving Loan Fund application was submitted December 2015 and was approved by Environmental Protection Agency in May of 2016
- Form Regional Brownfield Forum representatives to: educate, strategize solutions, resources, & partnerships

Improved Services

- Textiles Collection: pilot program launched December 2016
- Assign a Storm Debris Management response team; develop and plan for resources necessary to implement a Storm Debris Management Action Plan; implement plan.
- Add aluminum foil and scrap metal to ARR recycling program
- Add durable plastic to ARR recycling program
- Expand battery take-back program
- Expand hours of operation at the HHW Collection Facility
- Implement Clean Austin collection program ARR customers
- Identify appropriate recycling container placement for the public area recycling program
- Procure first 50% of the recycling containers for public area recycling program; ARR has installed over 100 recycling containers in the downtown area
- Research and purchase more climate-friendly equipment: Alley and Street Flushing Services
- Research and purchase more climate-friendly equipment: Litter Control Services
- Increase Event Recycling and Composting Container inventory for container loan program

Collections Improvements

- Research and purchase new equipment to better handle larger dead animal collections.

Community Engagement

- Work with Austin Independent School District in establishing a site for a Teacher Creative Reuse Center
- Participate in development, promotion, and implementation of Green Business Leaders Program
- Provide an information clearing house for Austin businesses to support “waste pairings”
- Develop and contract for comprehensive Youth Education Program: Keep Austin Beautiful
- Conduct community-based education about City Facility reuse, recycling and composting programs; provide technical assistance to City Departments and City Facilities; ensure City Facility compliance with Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance
- Coordinate with Office of Sustainability to form an Inter-Departmental Green Team; meet to identify opportunities for partnerships and provide leadership in Zero Waste
- Increase training sessions to include community gardens and garden stores on on-site composting: Approximately 25 classes held per year
- Establish a Zero Waste training program; conduct trainings for new city hires

Facilities

- Evaluate sites and cost involved in constructing and operating a North HHW Collection Facility
- City to re-purpose the Transfer Facility into a Resource Recovery Center
- Prepare Todd Lane Transfer Facility for bulk collection and drop-off; transfer Resource Recovery program to Todd Lane

Research

- Research methane gas recovery systems. Report determined that gas quality was not sufficient for a gas-to-energy system to be profitable
- Research and implement more climate-friendly sweeper routes
- Explore public/private partnerships for storm debris management
- Participate in national and international Extended Producer Responsibility policy development

ReUse

- Identify sources of materials that could be made available to secondary materials process
- Identify the companies, locally and nationally, that use the materials produced by Austin generators. Recruit these businesses to locate in the region
- Prepare list of local reuse operations, manufacturers and composters using reclaimed and recycled materials; conduct media outreach and develop publications to encourage residents and businesses in Austin to embrace the “Re-Made in Austin” brand
- Prepare list of local Zero Waste businesses and amend the purchasing policy to provide preference for Zero Waste businesses. ARR and Office of Sustainability created Austin’s Green Business Leader Program; purchasing preferences for sustainability attributes is ongoing
- Support the development of a “Re-Made in Austin” alliance of manufacturers that use recycled feed-stocks to share resources and promote the recycling and recycled content

In progress:

- As appropriate, implement weekly recycling and biweekly trash collection among ARR customers when residential diversion reaches 60%. Weekly recycling in the FY18-22 Forecast to be implemented in October 2020 (impacts FY20 and FY21)
- Conduct stakeholder meetings and present Council with Event Recycling ordinance: currently Austin Center for Events is working on ordinance with stakeholders.
- Conduct community-based social marketing on pilot effort for on-call bulk item and brush collection
- A consultant is presenting an evaluation of the [Re]Manufacturing Hub to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission in May 2017.

On hold indefinitely:

- Site three locations for Austin Reuse Centers; not financially feasible
- Install improved gas recovery system; not financially feasible