

Austin Resource Recovery and Zero Waste History

Austin Resource Recovery is governed by the City of Austin Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15-6 -Solid Waste Services. In addition, the following outline illustrates the foundation and structures by which the department operates, based on the policies created leading up the Zero Waste goal.

	1970	Ecology Action non-profit group offered weekend drop-off recycling locations
	1977	City-owned FM 812 Landfill Permit issued
	1980	Began City-wide street cleaning
	1981	Conducted household composting education campaign
	1982	Launched curbside recycling pilot program
Ordinance 880609-L	1988	Replace Citizens Advisory Task Force on Solid Waste Management with Solid Waste Advisory Commission
	1989	Curbside recycling expanded citywide
	1990	Pay-As-You-Throw Program implemented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free recycling bins for city-wide recycling • Three size options for containers • Service fee based on volume • Brush & bulk collection 2x/ year
	1991	City-owned Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility opens to the public
	1995	Plastic yard waste garbage bags banned
	1999	FM 812 Landfill stopped accepting putrescible waste and started accepting Construction & Demolition (C&D) material
	1999	HHW moves to new expanded facility
	1999	City-owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) begins operation
	2002	City-owned Materials Recovery Facility opened to the public
Resolution 20050519-44	2005	Set a goal to implement actions in the UN Environmental Accords, which included waste reduction actions including to develop Zero-Waste strategies, reduce non-disposable toxic waste, improve recycle and composting
Resolution 20070215-023	2007	Resolve to reduce negative impacts of global warming
Resolution 20080410-048	2008	Council adopts a plan for reducing plastic bags entering the waste stream in coordination with the Texas Retailers Assoc.
	2008	Single-stream recycling introduced in Austin
	2008	City-owned MRF stops sorting recyclables
	2008	Solid Waste Services begins the single-stream processing contract with Green Star
	2009	City-owned FM 812 landfill stops accepting C&D material
Resolution 20090115-050	2009	Adoption of the Zero Waste Strategic Plan
Ordinance 20101104-018	2010	Council approves Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Phase 1
Resolution 201111215-047	2011	Approves Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan
Ordinance 20120301-078	2012	Single-Use Bag Ordinance approved
Resolution 20120927-008	2012	Council approves URO Rules and Administrative Rules
Resolution 20130425-007	2013	URO Phase 2, Amendments to the Solid Waste Code
	2013	Purchase of Compressed Natural Gas refuse trucks for ARR using grant funds.
Resolution 20140410-024	2014	Set a community goal for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
Ordinance 20140612-1010	2014	URO Phase 2 Amendments and Rule Adoption
	2016	Expansion of curbside composting approved in the budget