

RECYCLING AND REUSE

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE GUIDE

Fall 2016



Recycling Economic Development Department &
Austin Resource Recovery



September 01, 2016

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 Recycling and Reuse 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 Recycling Economic Development Program. For more information, please visit <http://austintexas.gov/recyclingecodev>. For questions about this guide, or to suggest an addition or update, please contact me at natalie.betts@austintexas.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Natalie Betts

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This guide is not guaranteed to be up to date or comprehensive. If there is information missing or out of date, please email natalie.betts@austintexas.gov to let us know so that we may update this guide.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.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/page/steps-starting-business>

Small Business / Start-Up Coaching and Training

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.

<http://www.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.

<http://www.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.

<http://www.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.

<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.

<http://www.austinsmallbusinessanswers.com>

Non-Profit Waste-Based Social Enterprise Consulting

Cascades Alliance The Cascades Alliance provides free full-service consulting services to non-profit organizations to help establish 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.

<http://cascadealliance.us/>

Social Entrepreneurship Accelerators & Co-Working Spaces

Austin + Social Good Accelerator and Fast Pitch This annual program takes five startups from our pool of applicants and puts those teams through our 6-week Accelerator Program. Teams are coached and mentored by industry professionals over the course of several weeks to present at the A+SG Fast Pitch Event.

<http://austinplussocialgood.org/>

Impact Hub Austin 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.

<http://impacthubaustin.com/>

UnLtd USA UnLtd USA runs a 12 month, cohort-based accelerator program for entrepreneurs (both for- and non-profit) who are tackling pressing social, environmental, and civic challenges. The program provides seed funding, coaching and training, network building, and cohort building.

<http://unltdusa.org>

Urban Co-Lab Urban Co-Lab is an urban innovation focused co-working space and startup incubator designed for community change-makers and innovators looking to create solutions for urban problems throughout the nation.

<http://www.urbanco-lab.com/>

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, power, or ventilation for fumes can be done here.

<http://atxhs.org/>

CRAFT CRAFT is Austin's creative hub for DIY, crafting, workshops and events. They offer co-working with access to art supplies and tools.

<http://madeatcraft.com/>

TechShop Austin-Round Rock TechShop is a community-based workshop and prototyping studio. The space includes cutting-edge tools, equipment, and computers with design software.

http://www.techshop.ws/austin_round_rock.html

Real Estate

Austin [re]Manufacturing Hub This City redevelopment project will create an eco-industrial park to provide affordable real estate to recycling and reuse firms. The project is still under development, but updates will be added to the website below.

<http://austintexas.gov/ecopark>

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 cleanups. The program also assists lead-based paint and asbestos surveys and abatement.

<https://austintexas.gov/brownfields>

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.

<http://austintexas.gov/realestate>

Austin Chamber of Commerce The Austin Chamber of Commerce website provides lists of real estate service providers and available properties.

<http://www.austinchamber.com/site-selection/real-estate/index.php>

[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.

<http://reversepitch.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 start, expand or improve recycling, composting or other zero waste programs.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/zwbizrebate>

Austin Foodshed Investors

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.

<http://www.austinfoodshedinvestors.org/>

Austin + Social Good Social Innovators Fund

Every fall, Austin + Social Good crowdfunds a small seed round for an Austin-based social enterprise. This seed funding can be used for product development, sales, marketing, manufacturing – whatever the startup chooses. The fund is awarded to the winner of the Austin Plus Social Good Fast Pitch (see “Austin + Social Good Accelerator”).

<http://austinplussocialgood.org/>

Notley

Notley invests in sustainable and scalable businesses and nonprofits that create positive change.

<http://notleyventures.com/>

Philanthropitch

Philanthropitch™ is a social impact fast-pitch competition that provides high-potential nonprofits and social enterprises with access to human and financial capital.

<http://philanthropitch.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.

<http://www.swanimpact.org/>

UnLtd USA Members of this social entrepreneurship accelerator program receive seed funding. In three years, if a members' venture is successful, they pay forward that funding and invest in a new cohort of UnLtd USA participants.

<http://unltdusa.org>

Local Funding Options

General Funding Resources

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.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/family-business-loan-program>

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.

<https://austintexas.gov/page/bond-financing-program>

Small Business Incentives 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.

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/EGRSO/Small_Business_Incentive_Guide.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.

<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").

Microloans

Microloans are small short-term loans, typically for less than \$50,000. The Greater San Marcos Partnership maintains a list of area micro-lenders at:

<http://www.greatersanmarcostx.com/about-us/microloans>

Doing Business with the City of Austin

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.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/small-and-minority-business>

Vendor Connections

Vendor Connections provides a public clearinghouse to view detailed information about current business opportunities with the City of Austin. Registering on Vendor Connections is the first step to doing business with the City and allows business owners to receive notifications about open solicitations.

https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/vendor_connection/index.cfm

Promotion

Shop Zero Waste on LocallyAustin.org

The Shop Zero Waste directory is a special section of LocallyAustin.org that helps Austin residents find locally-owned businesses that sell reuse or recycle goods, or often repair or rental services. Shop Zero Waste businesses receive decals for their storefront and website to let their customers know they are a local business supporting the circular economy.

<http://austintexas.gov/shopzero>

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.

www.AustinGreenBusiness.com

Networking Opportunities and Professional Organizations

Austin Materials Marketplace

In this program, companies work together to turn one company's waste into another company's resource. One company's unused and unusual material can become another company's valuable resource. The program hosts regular networking events.

www.austinmaterialsmarketplace.org/events

Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB)

AEGB has information and assistance you'll need to build green for single family, multifamily or commercial buildings. Since 1991, AEGB has led the building industry to a sustainable future with green building ratings, consulting services, code advancement, education and professional development. AEGB hosts monthly continuing education seminars that offer a great place to network with others in the green building community.

<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 meetings including luncheons, educational events to improve business operations, trainings, and social gatherings. Membership includes some of the largest companies in the area, like Samsung, NXP, Flextronics and Pfizer, but the core group and focus is on providing value to small and medium size facilities.

<http://arma-tx.org/>

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.

www.AustinZeroWaste.org

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.

<http://cleantx.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.

<http://netimpactaustin.org/>

Reuse Alliance Texas Chapter

This is the local chapter of the national non-profit, Reuse Alliance, which educates the public about the social, environmental and economic benefits of reuse by providing capacity-building services that strengthen the reuse community. The local chapter hosts quarterly meetings and helps share information about local reuse activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/Reuse-Alliance-TX-161460360634181/>

State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) Central Texas Regional Group

The mission of STAR Central Texas is to act 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 increase recycling rates to the highest level afforded by balanced economic and sustainability principles. STAR Central Texas hosts quarterly events and the annual SPARK Forum.

<http://www.recyclingstar.org/working-groups/central-texas-recycling-committee/>

SXSW Eco

SXSW Eco creates a space for business leaders, policy makers, innovators and designers to advance solutions that drive social, economic and environmental change. This annual conference takes place in October in Austin.

<http://sxsweco.com/>

City of Austin Zero Waste Ordinances

Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance

This ordinance requires construction projects that are building 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.

<http://austintexas.gov/cd>

Hauler Licensing

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

<http://www.austintexas.gov/hauler>

Universal Recycling Ordinance(URO)

The URO supports Austin's Zero Waste goal by establishing minimum recycling requirements for apartments and commercial properties in Austin. The URO also requires an organics diversion program at food service establishments. The goal is to ensure that tenants and employees have access to convenient recycling. All properties will be required to ensure recycling services are available to their tenants and employees by Oct. 1, 2017. All food service businesses are required to implement organics diversion programs by Oct. 1, 2018. Please email CommercialRecycling@austintexas.gov or find more information online.

<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.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/master-plan>

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%.

<http://austintexas.gov/2015DiversionStudy>

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.

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/EGRSO/TXP_Austin_Recycling_Report_Final.pdf

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.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/imagineaustin>

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.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/austin-community-climate-plan>

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.

<https://www.epa.gov/smm>

**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.

<http://www.capcog.org/divisions/regional-services/solid-waste/>

**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.

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/recycle/recycling.html>

**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.

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/support/recycling/materials.html>

**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.

<http://soa.utexas.edu/resources/matlab>

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.

www.austinmaterialsmarketplace.org

Material 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.

<http://www.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.

<http://www.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.

<http://www.wilcorecycling.com/>

Reuse Centers and Non-Profits

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.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/dropoff>

Austin Creative Reuse

Austin Creative Reuse is a nonprofit organization that collects, distributes, and sells donated materials for creative reuse. The center also provides community education and events about reuse, conscious consumption, sustainability, and art.

www.austincreativereuse.org

Austin Furniture Bank

Austin's first-ever furniture bank works with non-profits and the community to divert quality used furnishings and household necessities from landfill to the homes of recently rehoused people & families in/near Travis County.

<http://austinfurniturebank.com>

**Austin Habitat for
Humanity Restore**

The Restore accepts and resells new and used building materials, furniture, appliances, fixtures in working condition, home goods, clothing, and more. The store's revenue supports Austin Habitat's mission of building affordable homes for hard working low-income families in Austin.

www.austinhabitat.org

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas

Goodwill operates resale stores throughout Central Texas to fund their mission of empowering people to work while diverting millions of pounds from landfills. Items that are not resold in Goodwill stores or are sold to recyclers whenever possible, making Goodwill one of the largest recyclers in Central Texas.

<https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/business-solutions/recycling>

Social Design Alliance

SDA works to create positive social impact through design and creative reuse. They work with design professionals to rescue furniture and home goods from the landfill, upcycle them, and provide quality design and décor to communities in need.

<http://www.socialdesignalliance.org/>

Recycled Reads

Recycled Reads receives all of Austin Public Library's discarded material, as well as donations from the public. The store sells, recycles or repurposes this material, and all proceeds benefit the Austin Public Library.

<http://library.austintexas.gov/recycled-reads>

Re-Sourcery

Re-sourcery is a non-profit collective dedicated to saving usable textiles from landfills and upcycling them to desirable products.

<http://re-sourcery.org/>



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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