

RETAIL AND MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

Tips for retail properties and shopping centers to recycle more, reduce costs and comply with Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO).



TIPS FOR SUCCESS & SAVING

- 1. Reducing Waste = Financial Savings**
Generating waste means spending money to purchase, store, transport and haul unneeded materials. Waste reduction starts by understanding what is in your business' waste stream and ends by putting money back in your wallet.
- 2. Be Neighborly! Share Recycling Services to Save \$\$\$**
Talk to neighboring tenants about sharing the costs of trash, recycling and/or composting services. Sharing services can save time, money and space. Negotiating with one hauler can lower costs, improve service and reduce the number of containers on site.

- 3. Right-Size Exterior Containers**
Are you paying to dump air? Check exterior containers each time before pick-up, noting how full they are. If containers are consistently less than 75% full, call your hauler to request smaller containers or less frequent collections. Also, consider flexible hauling services that change with seasonal needs.
- 4. Work with Suppliers to Reduce Packaging**
Negotiate with suppliers to reduce packaging waste. Consider replacing cardboard boxes with reusable crates. Require suppliers to take back pallets, boxes or plastic film to reuse or recycle.

DONATE OR SELL UNUSED AND OUTDATED GOODS

Join Austin Materials Marketplace

Connect with other businesses to buy, sell and trade valuable materials: austinmaterialsmarketplace.org



What Should I Do With?

- **Scrap textiles?** JOSCO Textile Recycling or Goodwill of Central Texas
- **Seasonal décor?** Save it for next year or donate to local shelters, hospitals or assisted living facilities.
- **Lightbulbs, batteries, electronics?** Search Earth 911.com



OPTIMIZE OPERATIONS

1. Engage Staff and Establish a Zero Waste Green Team

Allow enthusiastic staff to create a “Zero Waste Green Team” to identify waste reduction opportunities and implement practical initiatives that often lead to reducing waste and saving money. Include waste reduction in every job description.



2. Convenient Recycling for Customers, Tenants and Employees

Clearly label recycling containers and place at intersections of hallways and exterior doors to increase customer awareness. Consider pairing every trash container with a recycling container – using blue for recycling, black/brown for landfill and green for compost. Consider a collection area for donated goods and clothing.



3. Sort Materials = Source Separation

Consider separating and baling clean materials that can be sold for higher prices. Often baled materials like cardboard, mixed paper or aluminum are more valuable if they don't have to be re-sorted.



4. Eliminate Disposables in Lunch/Breakroom

Consider replacing disposable plates, cups and utensils with reusable items (e.g. mugs, ceramic dishes and cloth napkins). In break rooms, use refillable condiment dispensers to avoid non-recyclable packets of sugar, salt and ketchup.



SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG

Austin's Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance requires one of these options at checkout:

- Cloth, fabric or woven bags – or no bags at all!
- Plastic bags that are at least 4 mil thick with handles (“1 mil” is .0001 inch)
- Paper bags made of at least 80% recycled content with handles.
- Require customers to bring their own bag.

For more information visit www.bringitaustin.com

DONATE UNSELLABLE/REUSABLE ITEMS

Consider donating goods and clothing to local nonprofits:

ORGANIZATION	WEBSITE
Austin Creative Reuse	austincreativereuse.org
Austin Habitat for Humanity	www.austinhabitat.org
Caritas	www.caritasofaustin.org
Goodwill of Central Texas	www.goodwillcentraltexas.org
Safe Place	safeplace.org
Salvation Army	www.salvationarmytexas.org/austin

For opportunities to promote your business' zero waste activities visit: **Austin Green Business Leaders** (www.austintexas.gov/greenbusiness), or **Locally Austin** (www.locallyaustin.org).

Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach Team is available for free Zero Waste assessments and technical recommendations. Contact us at 512-974-9727 or CommercialRecycling@austintexas.gov