

Austin Zero Waste Goals and Programs

**Bob Gedert, Director
Austin Resource Recovery**

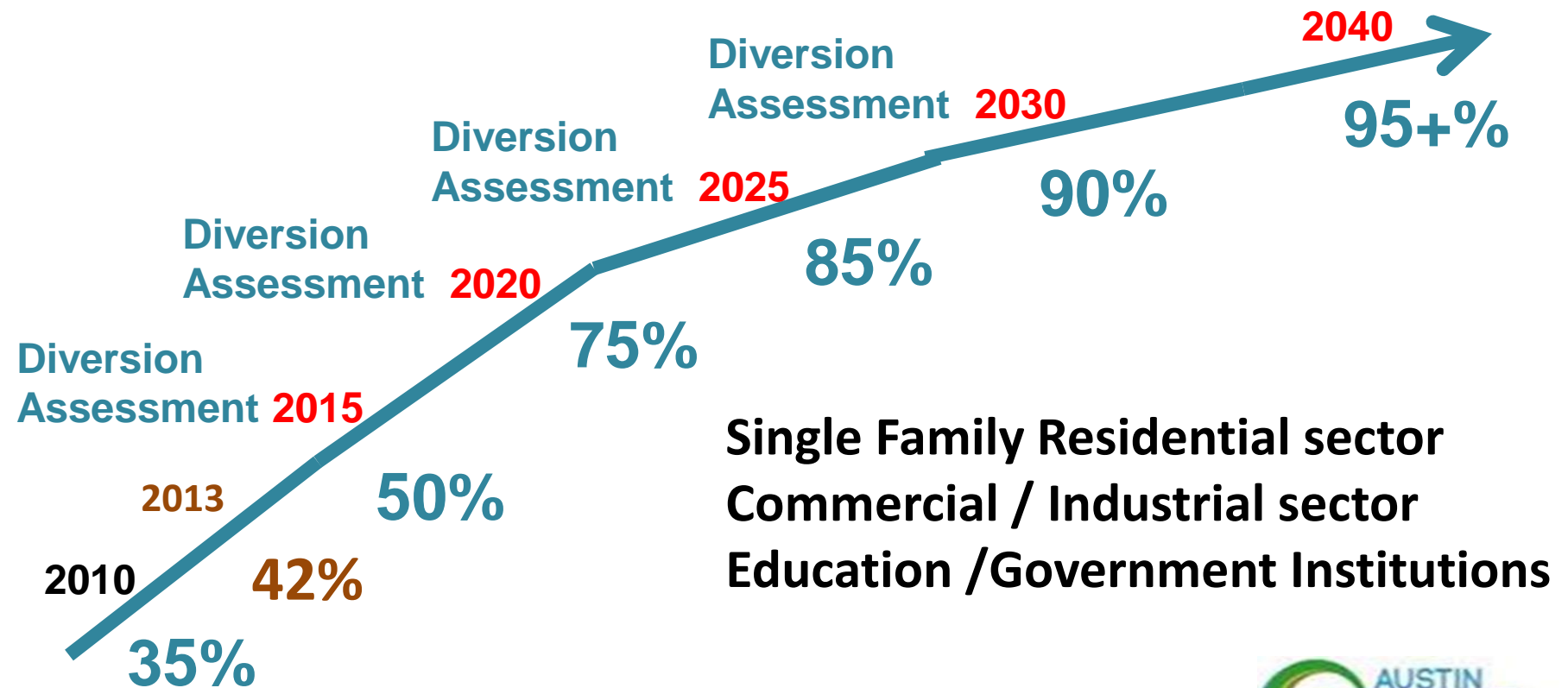


Bob.Gedert@AustinTexas.gov

http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Trash_and_Recycling/MasterPlan_Final_12.30.pdf



Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan: *Zero Waste Diversion Goals*



The logo consists of three concentric, curved lines in blue, green, and brown, resembling a stylized 'C' or a partial circle.

Austin Zero Waste

Four Keystone Initiatives

- **Materials Management**
- **Expanded Recycling Opportunities**
- **Organics Collection & Composting**
- **Economic Development Growth**

The logo consists of three concentric, curved lines in blue, green, and brown, resembling a stylized 'C' or a partial circle.

Austin Master Plan

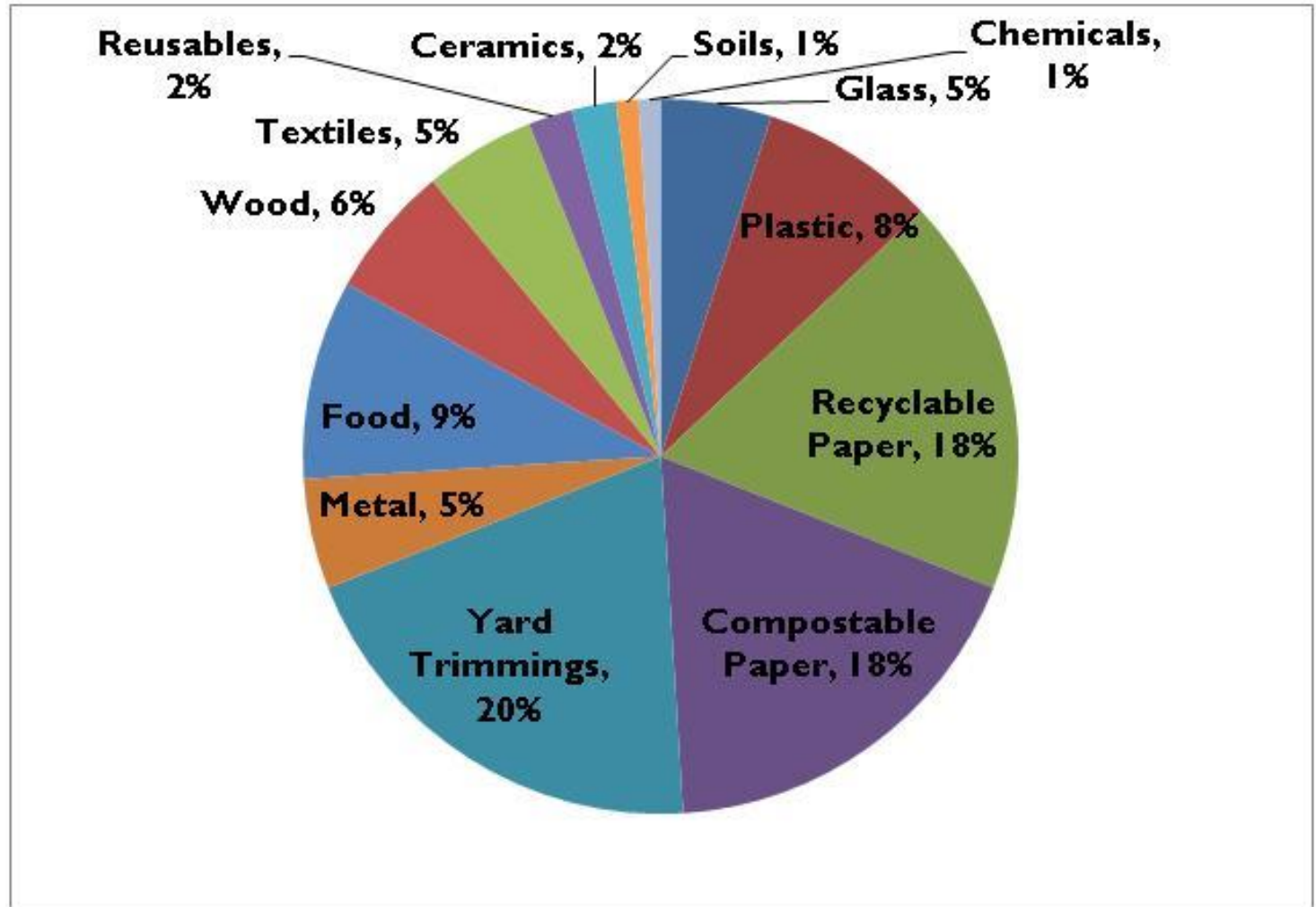
- **Zero Waste**
- **Sustainability**
- **Waste Reduction**
- **Reuse**
- **Recycling**
- **Materials Management**
- **Composting Organics**
- **Household Hazardous Waste**
- **Disposal Management**
- **Greening Special Events**

The logo consists of three concentric, curved lines in blue, green, and gold, resembling a stylized 'A' or a series of overlapping arcs.

Austin Master Plan

- **Recycling Economic Development**
- **Citizen and Community Partnerships**
- **Private/Public Partnerships**
- **University Partnerships**
- **City Departmental Partnerships**
- **Pilots and Demonstration Projects**
- **Policies & Ordinances**
- **Metrics and Measurements**
- **Financial Models**

Materials Management



Based on information from CAPCOG, Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2002- 2022, February 9, 2005, pg. 10, and Austin Zero Waste Strategic Plan, December 4, 2008, pgs. 5-6.



Residential Diversion

assumes average 2.0% population growth per year

Diversion Initiatives – City Hauled (tons)	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total Residential Diversion - Reuse, Recycling, Composting	82,000	125,000	205,000	277,250	332,000
Residential Waste Disposal	150,000	125,000	68,000	49,000	37,000
Residential Waste Generation (with population growth)	232,000	250,000	273,000	326,250	369,000
Residential Diversion Rate	35%	50%	75%	85%	90%



Resources Recovered

Waste Disposal



Commercial Diversion

assumes average 3.0% business growth per year

Diversion Initiatives – Private Sector Hauled (tons)	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total Commercial Diversion - Reuse, Recycling, Composting	350,000	600,000	1,050,000	1,360,000	1,620,000
Commercial Waste Disposal	700,000	600,000	350,000	240,000	180,000
Commercial Waste Generation (with population growth)	1,050,000	1,200,000	1,400,000	1,600,000	1,800,000
Commercial Diversion Rate	33%	50%	75%	85%	90%



Resources Recovered

Waste Disposal



New Programs = New Costs

New Diversion Programs	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Reuse Austin – Eco-Depots & Teacher Resource Center	\$0	\$400,000	\$410,000	\$415,000	\$420,000	\$425,000	\$430,000	\$435,000
Recycling – Multi-Family expansion, Central Business District, & C&D Recycling	\$400,000	\$500,000	\$520,000	\$540,000	\$560,000	\$580,000	\$600,000	\$620,000
Composting Organics – Food Waste Collection, Storm Ready Austin, & compost incentives	\$400,000	\$800,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,250,000	3,500,000	3,750,000	4,000,000
Household Hazardous Waste North Site	\$0	\$0	\$875,000	\$900,000	\$925,000	\$950,000	\$975,000	\$1,000,000
New Ordinances – Added Staffing & Resources	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$95,000	\$100,000	\$105,000	\$110,000	\$115,000	\$120,000
Special Events Diversion – new ordinance & services	\$70,000	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$95,000	\$100,000	\$105,000
Economic Development – Re-Made in Austin & Eco-Industrial Park	\$100,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$350,000	\$100,000
Communications – Public Education & Marketing	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
Total Additional Expenses	\$4,555,000	\$5,965,000	\$8,080,000	\$9,140,000	\$9,450,000	\$9,760,000	\$9,820,000	\$9,880,000
Annual Disposal Savings	\$4,800,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,000,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,200,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,400,000	\$2,000,000
\$ per Household per Month	\$0	\$0.68	\$1.74	\$2.30	\$2.52	\$2.73	\$2.83	\$2.91
Increase in Monthly Rates	\$0	\$0.68	\$1.06	\$0.56	\$0.22	\$0.21	\$0.10	\$0.08



2013 Rates

Pay-As-You-Throw Rate Structure

FY13 Residential Rates	Per Gallon Trash Cart	Monthly Trash	Monthly Recycling	Monthly Organics	Total Monthly Fee	Customer Base
Trash Cart Size						
24 gallon	\$0.16 x 24	\$3.85	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$13.35	5%
32 gallon	\$0.16 x 32	\$5.10	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$14.60	20%
64 gallon	\$0.16 x 64	\$10.25	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$19.75	65%
96 gallon	\$0.25 x 96	\$24.00	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$33.50	10%



Barriers

- **Community Planning Needs**
- **Varied Set Out Rates (85% to 50%)**
- **Routing Challenges**
- **Contamination Challenges (14% residuals)**
- **Pounds per Household Varied**
- **Customer Education – Language Barriers**
- **Non-Traditional Services (Reduce/Reuse)**
- **Business Diversion**
- **Lack of Support from Private Haulers**



Learned Lessons

- **Decentralized Education – 9 Zones**
- **Municipal-specific Waste Characterization**
- **Intermediate 5 year Goals toward 95%**
- **Citizen Empowerment in Planning Process**
- **Council Education on Cost Drivers**
- **Truck Styles – Semi-Auto works best**
- **Container Sizing – size Trash cart smaller than Recycling Cart**



Lessons Learned

- **City Council Support**
- **Transparent and Accountable**
- **Reflect Community Values (e.g. living wage)**
- **Monthly citizen commission meeting**
- **Open budgetary discussion**
- **Change-oriented operations**
- **Define “price points”**
- **Citizen choice – Pay As You Throw Rates**
- **Customer Service must be highest priority**



Federal Assistance Needs

- **National Diversion Goals (EPA)**
- **National Measurement System (NRC)**
- **Planning Needs (federal grants?)**
- **Best Practices regarding Zero Waste**
- **Model Cities Grants (Best Practices)**
- **Resolve debate on Waste to Energy**
- **National Leadership (Federal Offices)**