

30 September, 2009

Austin, Texas (population 757,000; about 1.6 million in the metro region)

Zero Waste Goals highlights:

### **Upstream Policy And Program Options**

1. Be a strong advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation and programs regionally, statewide and nationally. Work to form the Texas Product Stewardship Council composed only of representatives of local government to clearly address this “unfunded mandate.”
2. Work to obtain legal authority and regional cooperation to ban problem products and packaging or require businesses and institutions to take back designated products and packaging sold in Austin, CAPCOG, and in the State that are toxic in their manufacture, use, or disposal, and/or are not currently recyclable in the area.
3. Develop public/private and or intergovernmental partnerships to setup convenient neighborhood centers for reusables, recyclables, compostables, C&D and household hazardous wastes.
4. Explore other ways to encourage and support on-site composting at homes, schools and colleges, businesses and institutions with sufficient space.

### **Downstream Policy And Program Options**

1. Adopt a City goal that no compostable organics go to landfill due to climate change by 2015 including support of a statewide legislative initiative.
2. Develop pilot programs by the City of Austin and through public/private partnerships to incorporate food scraps and food-soiled paper to City of Austin’s residential organics collection program.
3. Investigate and develop needed legal authority to require businesses and institutions in Texas to recycle food scraps and food-soiled paper and mandate private haulers and solid waste management facility operators to establish needed infrastructure to properly manage those materials.
4. Update, expand, educate and effectively implement the Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance and encourage other governmental entities to follow Austin’s lead.
5. Support continuation and expansion of local, regional and state landfill fees and surcharges, hauling fees, and bond issues to fund low-interest loans, grants, contracts and/or staffing (comparable to other large cities) to develop needed programs and infrastructure.
6. Work to pass an Ordinance to require in all new construction that adequate space be provided for recycling, composting and trash containers.