

Texas Excellence Awards

2013 – 2014

Texas Solid Waste Association of
North America



COLLECTION – EL PASO

Automated & Manual Collections

- The majority of customers are serviced through automated side loader (ASL) collection trucks, while rear loader trucks service one-way streets, alleys, dead-ends, downtown merchants, and curbside exemption customers. Each ASL garbage route services 800 to 1,000 households and the recycling route services 1500 to 1700 households per day.
- The City's manual collection routes utilize a trio of split body rear loader trucks that collect both trash and recyclables in a single pass.
- The Collections Division also utilizes a pair of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) ASLs, and plans on purchasing an additional 21 CNG trucks over the next three years.
- In fiscal year 2013, the Collections Division collected 170,000 tons

Solar Energy & Collection

- ESD keeps downtown El Paso clean and inviting with 73 solar-powered Big Belly trash compactors that provide shoppers an easy way to dispose of waste. The Big Bellies are equipped with sensors that transmit their available capacity to web-based software, and units are simply emptied when full. This saves money and time by reducing collection frequency.

City of El Paso

- In 2012, ESD entered into a waste exchange agreement with a private waste company. Under this agreement, both parties are allowed to dispose of a fixed amount of waste in each other's landfill, reducing crosstown trips for drivers. ESD projects that for every year the agreement is utilized to its fullest extent, the City will save \$500,000 in fuel, maintenance, and tire replacement.



PUBLIC INFORMATION – AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY

Reusable Bag Ordinance

- In 2012 the City Council unanimously approved the Single-Use Carryout Bag ordinance
- The ordinance regulates the types of carryout bags that can be provided by businesses and encourages a shift to reusable bags
- Business can provide reusable bags that meet the following standards
 - Cloth
 - Paper with 40% recycled content
 - Plastic bags that are 4 mils with a handle (about the thickness of a freezer bag)

Public information Campaign

Investment

- Invested about \$850,000 in TV spots, online, and radio ads, branding website development and events
- Over \$240,700 in free media

Broad Based Approach

- Branding & Messaging
- Research
- Website & Social Media
- Media Outreach
- Outreach
- Paid Media
- Free Bag Distribution

CITY OF AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY

Results

Currently – ARR is not aware of businesses that are out of compliance with the ordinance
According to a survey, 92 percent of shoppers use reusable bags when shopping compared to 65 percent before the ordinance



RECYCLING - HOUSTON

REUSE WAREHOUSE

- Providing space for excess building materials that would otherwise be dumped in landfill
- Materials accepted from individuals, supply companies and builders
- Materials are available to any qualifying non-profit organizations

WHAT MATERIALS DO WE ACCEPT?

Bricks, Doors, Light Fixtures, Lumber, Plywood, Cabinets, Roofing Material, Countertops, Sinks, Showers, Drywall, Shingles, Tile, Plumbing Fixtures, Tools, Stone, Soil, Light and Heavy Gauge Steel, and more.



WHAT MATERIALS DO WE NOT ACCEPT?

Paint, Inefficient Appliances, Upholstered Furniture, Broken Items, Rotten Wood, Tear-Off Shingles, Pre-1978 Ballasts, Dirty Carpet, & Crumbled Up Stuff.

Providing Service

- Reuse Warehouse has approximately 180 collections and approximately 60 donations transactions per month
- Some of the projects completed utilizing materials from Reuse Warehouse include raised beds in community gardens, kitchen cabinetry, stage set for a production at a high school, brick courtyard for a church

CITY OF HOUSTON

- Non-profit organizations visiting the Reuse Warehouse each year are making use of over 88% of the diverted material – roughly 2000 tons

**COMPOSTING – TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE PROGRAM**

Bobcat Blend

- When composting project was initiated it was food waste from 2 cafeterias and invasive species from the San Marcos River
- Expanded to include 5 cafeterias and...
 - Leaves and tree trimmings
 - Coffee grounds from Honors Department
 - Waste from Child Development Center & Nutrition Labs
 - Grass Clippings from sports and golf courses
 - Requests to include fish carcasses and fish poop sludge
 - Kitchen collection containers

Research Opportunities

- Effectiveness for managing invasive species using composting
- Marketability of compost with incorporated wool waste

Currently marketing the material at Agriculture Building, Living Library and Student Organic Gardening Greenhouse

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

- ***Winner of TCEQ Pollution Prevention Finalist Award***



INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT - DENTON

Building Material Recovery Operation

- Multi-operations ECO-WERCS facility
- Targets construction waste and other recyclables to divert them from Enhanced Leachate Recirculation Landfill
- City has a 40% diversion and recycling goal
- C&D material from roll-off containers and trailers

Integrated Program

Residential Curbside Recycling

Commercial Recycling

Composting – Yard Waste/Food Waste/Biosolids

HHW Curbside

Bulky Waste Collection

Drop Off Centers

Building Material Recycling

City of Denton

- Integrated Program combines full range of waste management services to achieve a high rate of recovery and reduction in landfill disposal
- Extremely innovative solutions to meeting recovery goal