

Resource Recovery Program

City Council Workshop

August 18, 2020

Purpose

- Provide background information on the evolution of the Resource Recovery division
- Partnership with contractors to execute the Comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Plan
- Evaluating the program to increase landfill diversion



Comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Plan- Goals

Completed March 2012

- **Goal #1:** Increase Public Awareness and Education
- **Goal #2:** Increase Waste Diversion
- **Goal #3:** Evaluate and Implement Cost Efficient Services
- **Goal #4:** Establish Land Development Codes to address Municipal and Commercial, Multifamily and Downtown Solid Waste Issues
- **Goal #5:** Correlate Economic Development Policies that Encourage New Recycling Businesses and Expansion of Existing Businesses
- **Goal #6:** Explore Service Options

History of Waste Management with TDS

- Residential**

Year	Service	Results
2003-2008	Trash: 2X week with 96-gal cart Recycle: 1X week with 18-gal bin	Very inefficient and costly, approximately 50% of homes did not utilized both service days, 70% of waste was handled on first pickup day; 30% of waste was handled on second pickup day. Recycle participation- poor
2008-2009	Trash: 1X week with 96-gal cart Recycle: 1x week with 18-gal bin	Reduction from 2X to 1X trash service increased recycle participation
2009-2015	Trash: 1X week with 96-gal cart Recycle: 1X EOW with 96-gal cart	Increase in material accepted and increase recycle storage capacity, which increased recycle participation
2015-present	Trash: 1X week with 65 or 96-gal cart Recycle: 1X EOW with 96-gal cart Compost: 1X EOW with 96-gal cart	Recycling participation stayed the same. Green Waste diverted more material from the landfill.

- Multifamily- 2010 single stream recycling was implemented.** sanmarcostx.gov

Current Residential Rate Includes...

- Curbside service for trash, recycle and green waste- pay as you throw program; bulk pickups; brush once a month at TDS
- Drop Off facility at Green Guy Recycling
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop Off- twice a week
- Brush Drop Off- second Saturday each month; mulch available
- Community Clean Ups: 4 per year (April, May, September and October)
- Service of downtown trash/recycle public containers
- Administration and Educational Outreach
- *Pharmaceutical Drop Off- not in rate*



City Facilities

- **Deskside**
 - 28-quart recycle bin with sidekick trash
- **Separation of materials**
- **Renovations**
- **Tree Trimming**
 - All city contractors dispose at the Brush Drop Off
 - Mulch is used by city staff for garden beds
- **Coming**
 - breakroom eco-stations



Contracts

- **TDS**
 - Residential service
 - Multifamily recycling
 - City facility trash and compost
 - Special event trash and compost
 - Community Clean Ups
- **Green Guy Recycling**
 - City facility recycling
 - Special event recycling
 - Community Clean Ups
 - HHW Labor
 - Drop Off Facility
- **Clean Earth of Alabama**
 - HHW disposal
 - MS4 disposal
- **Eggermeyer Land Clearing**
 - Brush mulching
- **Easter Seals**
 - Downtown trash/recycle service (4 days/week)

Contracts continued

- **TDS**

- 2003: First contract
- 2008: Second contract
 - Term January 31, 2016
 - One additional five-year term
 - 2009: Added single-stream recycling
 - 2010: Added multifamily recycling
 - 2015: Added green waste; modified contract to fiscal calendar; new terms: term September 30, 2020 with two additional five-year terms
- Waiving 3% increase to contract for FY21- **savings: ~\$111,722.88**

- **Green Guy Recycling**

- 2009: First Contract
 - Term June 30, 2013
 - Extended contract one year
- 2014: Second Contract
 - Extended for first of two five year renewals- July 1, 2019
 - Term June 30, 2024

Evaluating the Program

- **Residential- recycling and composting audits**
 - Summer 2020: auditing recycle carts throughout the whole city; noting if the resident is participating or not; how full is the cart; how much is contaminated; and what are the contaminants
 - Fall 2020: auditing compost carts throughout the whole city; same as recycle
- **Survey**
 - Random sample of residents to provide input on the whole program
- **Multifamily- The Recycling Partnership**
 - Evaluated 3 different ways to increase participation and lower contamination
 - Education only- new magnets
 - Education and bin
 - Education and bin with valet service

Comparative Rates

- **Annual comparison with regional and comp plan cities**
 - Austin, Buda, Kyle, Wimberley, New Braunfels, Georgetown, Denton, Frisco
- **San Marcos is competitive within the region while providing more service**
 - More Bulk Pickups, Four (4) Community Cleanups, monthly Brush Drop Off and mulch, Green Guy Recycling- certain items free



Awards

- **Keep Texas Beautiful**
 - 2017: Resource Recovery Program: Outstanding Program- Population 30,000-50,000
 - 2019 Sights & Sounds of Christmas: Zero Waste Event
 - 2020- Resource Recovery/Keep San Marcos Beautiful: Media Award
- **State Of Texas Alliance for Recycling**
 - 2017: Resource Recovery Program
- **San Marcos Chamber of Commerce**
 - 2018: Sights & Sounds of Christmas: Green Business
- **TCEQ- Environmental Excellence**
 - 2020 Finalist: Resource Recovery Program

Grants

- **Keep Texas Beautiful**
 - 2018: Dr. Pepper Snapple/Keep America Beautiful Park Recycling Grant: 18 recycling bins at the Gary Softball Complex
- **The Recycling Partnership**
 - 2019: Multifamily recycle study: new outreach material; 4,000 18-gal bins; 6 interns to distribute material/bins and conduct valet service (\$125,000)
- **State of Texas Alliance for Recycling**
 - 2020: Busch Systems Bin Grant: 30 28-quart recycle bins with trash sidekick; 4 waste watchers for breakrooms
- **CAPCOG**
 - Multiple years: Grants to have off-site HHW events in Dripping Springs

Next Steps

- **Complete program evaluation in 2020**
- **Come back to Council with recommendations to expand the program**
 - prepare to go out to bid before the extension expires September 2025
- **Household Hazardous Waste Relocation**
 - Office and storage space for Resource Recovery and Community Enhancement division
 - Adding space for reuse and fix it workshops



Questions