



TRAVIS COUNTY

SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT

2017



This report presents solid waste management activities including but not limited to operational waste diversion programs, household hazardous waste and community outreach. The report breaks down how each material is managed sustainably followed with highlights of department recycling contributions in Fiscal Year 2017.



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Executive Summary

Travis County employs more than 5,000 public servants and maintains just over 40 buildings. The services that the County provides to over one million residents require the responsible purchasing, use, and disposal of materials. The County implements internal policies on green purchasing, recycling, and LEED building practices that include energy and water conservation. The County also partners with outside entities, including the City of Austin, on many recycling and clean-up events for the residents of the County. While the County strives to encourage recycling and meet purchasing goals, there are ways to increase revenue from recycling more items and decrease our contribution to the waste that ends up in landfills. Travis County has an active group of employees (the Green Team) that continue to improve internal sustainability efforts.

Highlights

Travis County has made significant strides in the past year; some highlights include:

- Recycling programs generated revenue¹ of \$104,697.19 including, electronics recycling revenue of \$73,082.31²
- Supporting Partnerships and Recycling Knowledge Forum attendance at is at its highest participation rate with 75 registrants.
- Aligned with the Travis County's goal of 90 percent diversion by the year 2020 for County facilities with a baseline of 2012. As of FY 2017, 34% diversion rate achieved.
- Recycled 369 tons of material.

The Sustainability Program is essential for coordinating internal efforts for materials management that satisfy the policy directives of the Commissioners Court. The results of implementation produce public and environmental benefits that far exceed the monetary value of recycling revenues and avoided disposal costs³.

¹ Revenue is generated from the following contracts: Texas Disposal Systems, Austin Pallet Recycling, CES, Austin Metal and Iron and CMC.

² Electronics recycling revenue is derived from Dell Purchasing Contract as a line item.

³ Fortune Magazine's article "Like it or not, sustainability is now core to your business" provides research from Harvard University on THE IMPACT OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY ON ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES AND PERFORMANCE. (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w17950.pdf>)

Acknowledgments

Travis County employees take part in the county's commitment to a sustainable workplace. The staff highlighted below push county sustainability initiatives forward. Without their service, Travis County would not be able to accomplish the cultural change that began in 2013.



Name	Department	Contribution
<i>Joy Stollings</i>	<i>Health and Human Services</i>	<i>T-shirts for Hunger</i>
<i>Tony Switzer</i>	<i>Travis County Sheriff's Office</i>	<i>New Employee Orientation</i>
<i>Iris Suddaby</i>	<i>County Clerk</i>	<i>New Employee Orientation</i>
<i>Cassie Caldwell</i>	<i>Facilities Management</i>	<i>Toner Ambassador and Recycling Containers Distribution</i>
<i>Sean Brown</i>	<i>Facilities Management</i>	<i>Recycling Containers Distribution</i>
<i>Vincent Moreno</i>	<i>Facilities Management</i>	<i>Recycling Containers Distribution</i>
<i>Lauri Roberts</i>	<i>Civil Courts</i>	<i>Binder Reuse</i>
<i>Gerí Castaneda</i>	<i>Purchasing Office</i>	<i>Binder Reuse</i>
<i>Laní Oglewood</i>	<i>County Commissioner Precinct 2</i>	<i>Binder Reuse</i>
<i>Tim Speyer</i>	<i>Travis County Parks</i>	<i>Park Recycling</i>
<i>Brady Ansley</i>	<i>Natural Resources and Transportation</i>	<i>Assistance with Programs</i>
<i>Tanya Thornhill</i>	<i>Travis County Parks</i>	<i>Park Recycling</i>

County Resource Recovery

The Travis County Commissioners' Court adopted the Travis County Waste Management Policy (WMP) on December 17, 1996. The primary goals of the policy are to:

- Reduce material and waste disposal costs;
- Reduce the volume of material sent to landfills;
- Reduce the use of limited natural resources;
- Prevent environmental pollution associated with waste disposal; and
- Promote the purchase and use of recycled materials.

The policy directs County departments to minimize the number of waste materials they generate through the implementation of waste reduction strategies and procedures and provides implementation guidelines. Unless otherwise directed by law, the policy addresses the means for achieving the County's goals must meet feasibility criteria related to demonstrable conservation benefits, as well as cost and operational efficiency.

Purchasing Goals

The County's purchasing goal⁴ is to spend at least eight percent (8%) of its annual consumables budget on materials with recycled content or that provide some other specific conservation benefit. To be considered, these materials must also meet the program feasibility criteria for cost and operational efficiency.

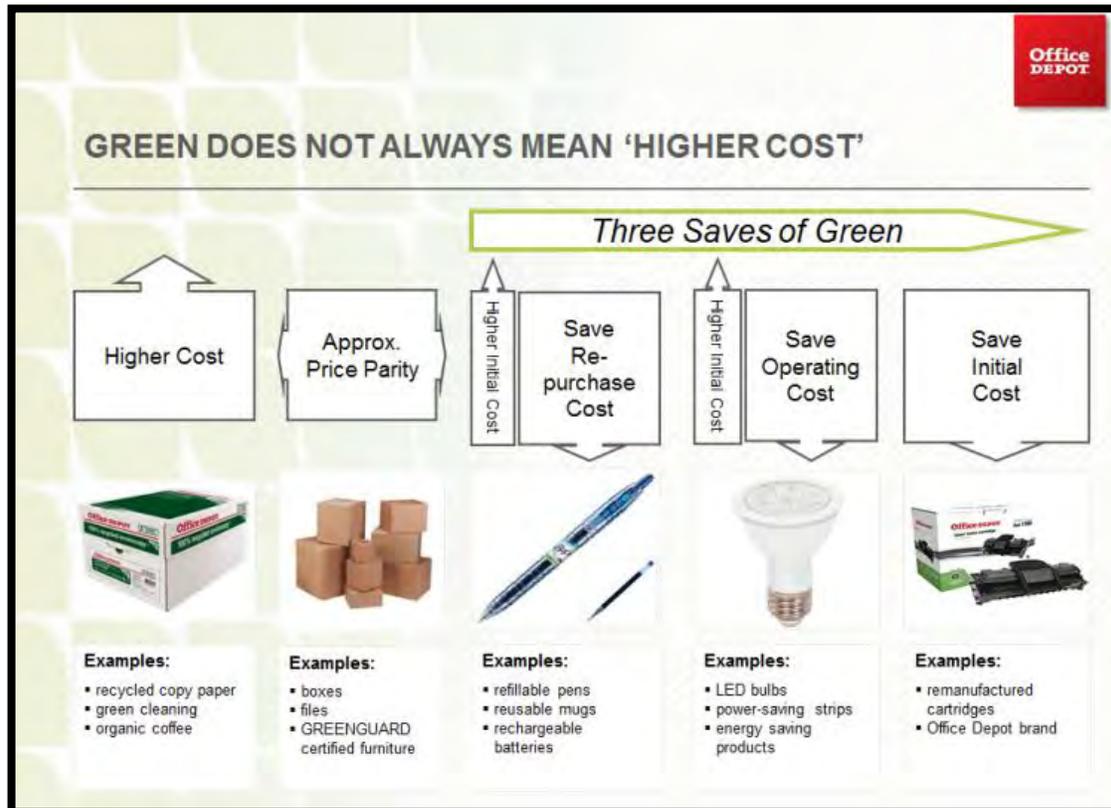
Travis County has never been able to fully evaluate cost savings and **environmental benefits of the purchasing policy**. The Purchasing Office's tracking methodology is designed to address essential requirements other than verifying compliance with the recycled content goal. The existing methods does not readily lend itself to tracking environmental parameters of products. Nevertheless, it is possible to gauge recycled content based upon external information provided by vendors like Office Depot. Office Depot is currently one of the only vendors who provide such information.

Additionally, the County continues to purchase recycled products such as:

- Re-manufactured toner cartridges
- Re-refined Oil
- Re-refined antifreeze
- Resource Recovery Materials

⁴ (see Section 111.005 of the Travis County Waste Management Policy)

Travis County, through the Office Depot Greener Office Solutions program, can be given a summary of environmentally preferred purchasing. The County spent a total of \$832,980 with Office Depot on various supplies. The County spent 22% of the total spending, \$185,867, was on items with recycled content or eco-labels⁵.



⁵ An eco-label is labels demonstrating the product have met with the standards required by the following organizations but not limited to: Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council, ECOLOGO, and Building Performance Institute.

Cost and Revenues

Travis County's waste streams are diverse reflecting the variety of operations and services county government provides. County operations includes forty-three facilities ranging in activity from offices to road vehicle maintenance, and management of correctional complexes. Many materials are captured and managed as commodities and recycled. The policy provides guidance for the treatment of several specific County waste streams. The program has evolved and expanded in the past twenty years. This report examines the waste streams by individual media. The decrease in single-stream recycling service costs reflects not conducting waste characterization studies in FY2017.

Commodity	FY2016	FY2017	Change FY16 – FY17
Landfill Services	\$177,990	\$202,450 ⁶	13%
Single-stream Recycling Services	\$68,744	\$78,778 ⁷	10%
Confidential Management ⁸	N/A	\$24,863	N/A

Single Stream Services	FY2016	FY2017	Change FY16 – FY17
Balcones Recycling Inc.	\$2,712	\$2,550	-6%
Texas Disposal Systems	\$66,033	\$76,228	15%
Texas Facilities Commission	\$0	\$0	N/A

⁶ Landfill cost considered sites with additional collection fees and locations with only 40yd roll-offs to manage facility waste.

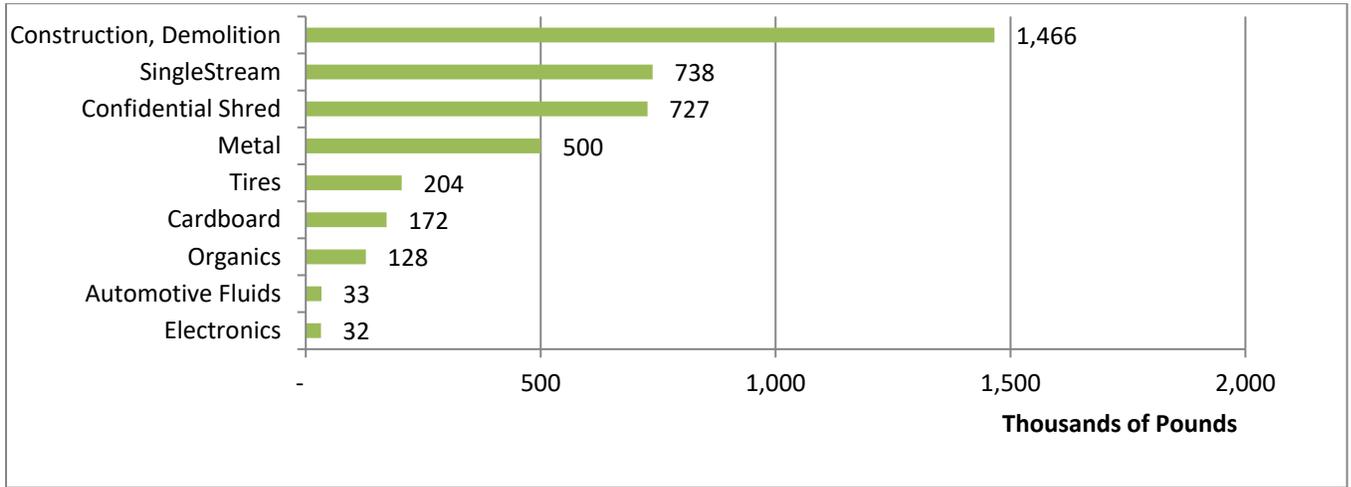
⁷ This year we added 1 new location to recycling and increased service frequency to Airport Blvd. The single stream recycling providers cost for FY2017 was: Texas Disposal Systems \$76,228, Balcones Recycling Inc. \$2550, Texas Facilities Commission \$0.

⁸ Iron Mountain is the service provider for shredding of all confidential documents. The shredded material is then recycled. In FY2017 is the first year to request information on costs

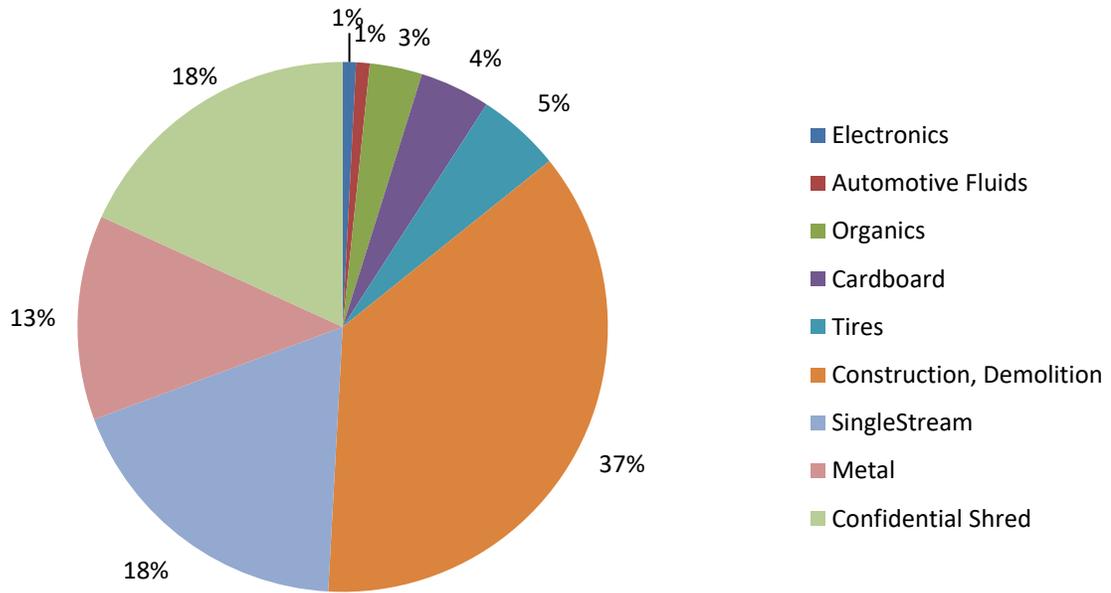
The following three figures display the recycling of each commodity class by weight, the percentage of weight, and by revenue gained. The recycled material by commodity class is defined in the following sections:

- Office Recycling: recycling allows for recyclable material (plastics 1-7, mixed paper, aluminum, glass and flattened cardboard) to be placed in one cart. In the appendix, is a detailed recycling flyer that staff can post in their office(s) that shows what items are recyclable in a work location.
- Cardboard: a stiff and thick kind of paper that is used primarily for making boxes.
- Metals: a solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and ductile, with electrical and thermal conductivity (e.g., iron, gold, silver, copper, and aluminum, and alloys such as brass and steel)
- Automotive: all fleet maintenance wastes including waste tires, used motor oil, used oil filters, antifreeze/coolant, lead-acid batteries, and Freon should be recycled or disposed of properly
- Electronics: include computers or other devices and associated peripherals, keyboards, monitors, cell phones, telephones, desktide printers, scanners, televisions and batteries these items eventually have an end to their lifecycle when the systems become obsolete.
- Organic Materials: materials such as yard trimmings, food scraps, and wood waste.
- Pallets: a wooden portable platform on which goods can be moved, stacked, and stored, especially with the aid of a forklift.
- Construction and demolition debris: materials resulting from the alteration, construction, destruction, rehabilitation, or repair of any manmade physical structure including houses, buildings, industrial or commercial facilities, and roadways.

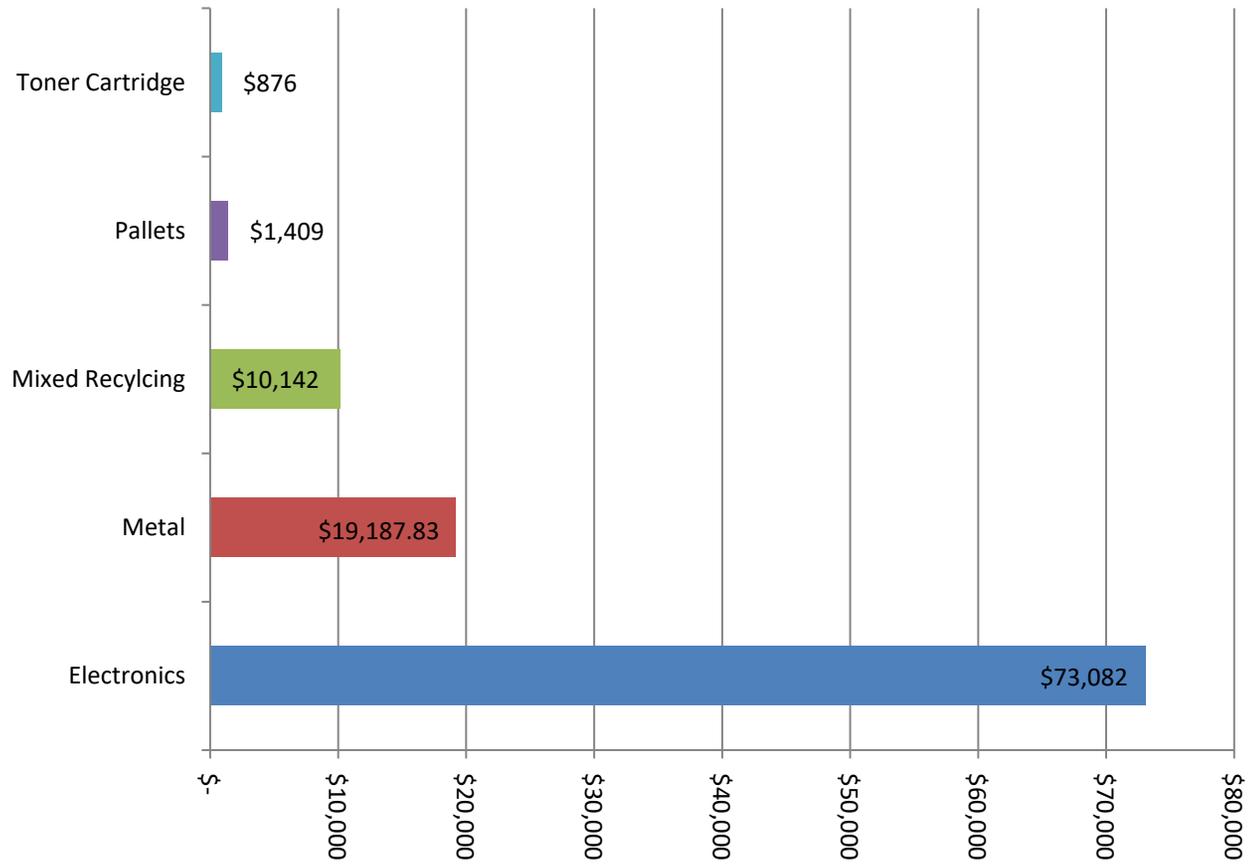
FY2017 Weight of Recycled Materials by Commodity Class



FY2017 Percentage Weight of Recycled Materials by Commodity Class



FY2017 Recycling Revenue by Commodity Class



Office Recycling

Recycling from 1996 to 2012 focused on specific departments/divisions that volunteered to participate in a recycling program, missing some large quantity generators of recyclable waste. Facilities/buildings throughout the County did not receive a comprehensive examination for the potential of implementing a recycling program. On January 8, 2013, the Commissioners Court approved funds establishing a single-stream recycling program for all Travis County locations. Since April 1, 2013, Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) have been the providers for single-stream pickup services for Travis County locations except for 700 Lavaca which is serviced by Balcones Recycling. These recycling services offer the opportunity for all employees to access consistent recycling services.

Single-stream recycling allows for recyclable material (plastics 1-7, mixed paper, aluminum, glass and flattened cardboard) to be placed in one cart. In the appendix, is a detailed recycling flyer that staff can post in office(s) that shows what items are recyclable in a work location.

- Travis County recycled 369 tons of single-stream material in FY 2017 an increase of two tons.
- Records Management Division purchased 5,771 cases of paper for business use a decrease in 878 cases from 2016.
- Through confidential management, the County has recycled 364 Tons of paper; an increase of 44 tons.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 Recycled	% Change FY16 – FY17
Single-stream (Mixed) ⁹	735,203 lbs.	738,148 lbs.	<1%
Confidential ¹⁰ Management Shred	816,000 lbs.	727,285 lbs.	-11%

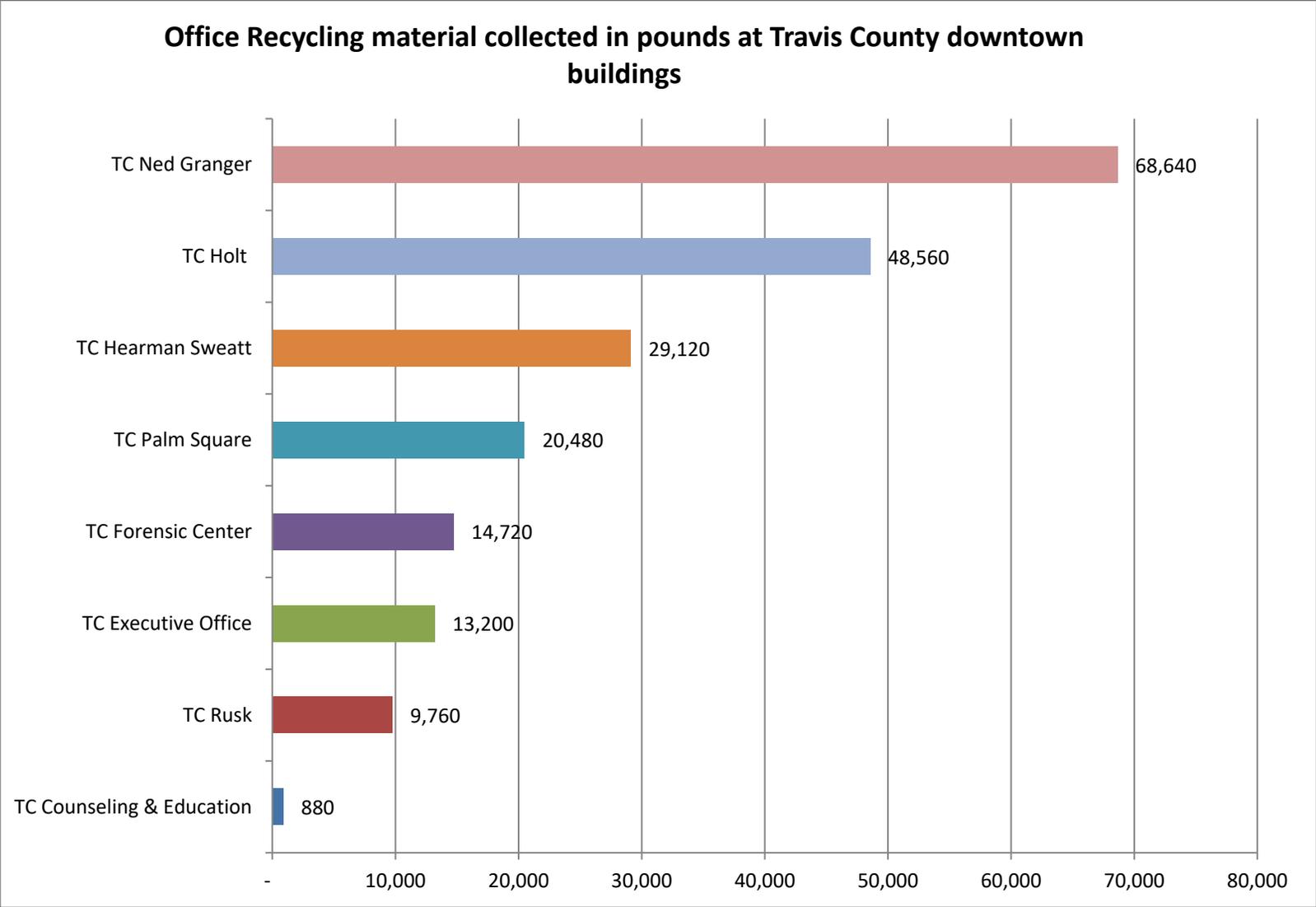
⁹ Single Stream (Mixed) includes: Texas Disposal Systems 316,472 lbs., Texas Facilities System 366,400 lbs. and Balcones 55,276 lbs.

¹⁰ Confidential Management Shred is managed by the Communication and Records Services Department. The number represented in the graph is material from Balcones Recycling (20.16tons) and Iron Mountain (Vault Media Storage 164.97 and Shred bins 178.51tons).



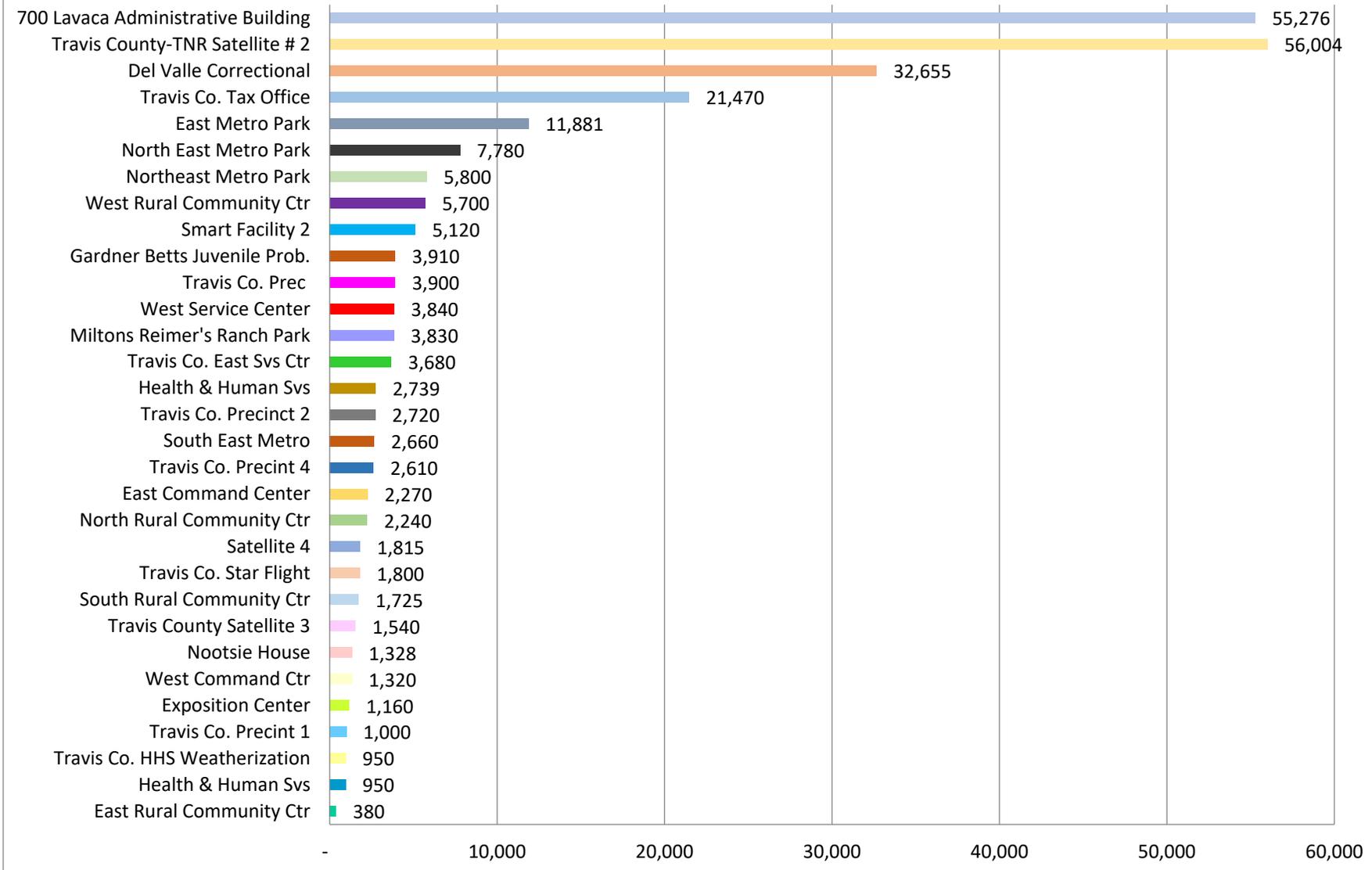
"I really feel since we started, most people have begun to see the recycling as just a regular part of the day." Kelly Overdorff





The graph above represents the downtown facilities receiving single-stream recycling services from Texas Facilities Commission.

Office Recycling material collected in pounds at other Travis County Locations

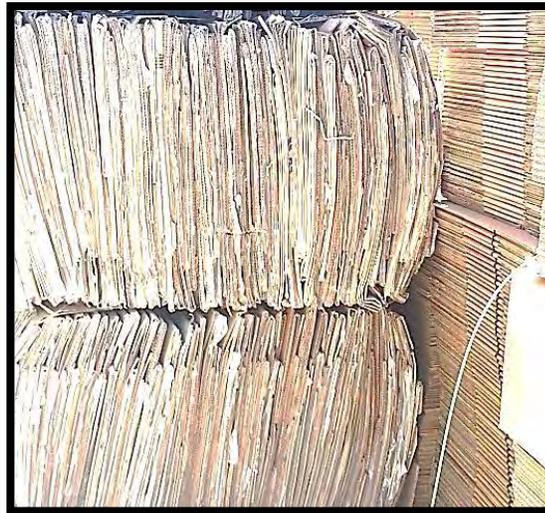


Cardboard

This past year the price for OCC has increased from an average \$75.36 a ton to a high of \$86.50. The Travis County Del Valle Correctional Facility currently is the only revenue-generating location for cardboard. The Travis County Sheriff Office surplus staff gathers the material from the complex to be baled by kitchen inmate workers. The Travis County Sheriff's Office has carry out baling of cardboard since the late nineties.

- Travis County recycled 171,900 lbs. of corrugated material in FY 2017¹¹.
- The Health and Human Services (HHS) Community Centers generate a substantial amount of cardboard each week. Although recycled, no revenue is gained because HHS would need to separate it and collaborate with other departments to transport the material for pick up at Del Valle.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 Recycled	% Change FY16-FY17	Revenue FY2016	Revenue FY2017
Cardboard	164,200	171,900	4%	\$6,290	\$10,045



¹¹ The total recycled cardboard includes material picked up by vendor (Texas Disposal Systems). The County receives 86% of the revenue (based on tonnage and contract pricing) using the Official Board Market, SW Region Index.

Metals

Chapter 111 of the Travis County Policies, Procedures, and Regulations Manual states “scrap metals shall be recycled, not landfilled.” This program has been in place for over twenty years throughout the County and especially at the Transportation and Natural Resources satellite offices, Purchasing Assets Warehouse and the Correctional Complex. Vendor roll-offs are placed at the Assets Warehouse, Eastside Service Center, Westside Service Center, and Del Valle Correctional Facility, and Weatherization office.

FY 2017, an estimated total of 500,347 pounds of metal were recycled.

- The following Transportation and Natural Resources division's staff would manage metal recycling in the roll-offs: Fleet Services, Travis County Parks, and Road and Bridge.
- Travis County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division recycles metal generated in the kitchen and maintenance services.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 ¹² Recycled	% Change FY16-FY17	Revenue FY2016	Revenue ¹³ FY2017
All Metals	724,901 lbs.	500,347 lbs.	-31%	\$7,355.52	\$19,187.83



*“Recycling metal creates 36 times more jobs than sending the same amount of metal waste to the incinerator, and six times more than sending the metal to a landfill”
National Institute of Health.*

¹² The following departments recycle metal: TNR, Purchasing, Tax Office and Sheriff's Department. This year NREQ did not receive all the Commercial Metal invoices which provide the amount of metal recycled and revenue received. The 500,347 lbs. represents the information provided to NREQ for reporting purposes and the County may have recycled more than what is represented.

¹³ The metal recycling revenue encompasses Austin Metal and Iron \$5,007, Commercial Metal \$14,181.

Automotive

Federal and Texas laws prohibit dumping used oil on land or into sewers or waterways. The federal government also includes the use of used oil as a dust suppressant. Texas has also banned used oil filters from being placed in or accepted for disposal in a landfill. The Waste Management Policy states all fleet maintenance wastes including waste tires, used motor oil, used oil filters, antifreeze/coolant, lead-acid batteries, and freon should be recycled or disposed of properly.

- Travis County purchases and uses re-refined oil and antifreeze in all County vehicles.
- Used oil filters are banned from Texas landfills.
- Travis County's tire vendor is Reliable Tire. Reliable Tire removes fleet tires and those collected from illegal disposal along County right-of-way and charges \$0.11 per pound.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 Recycled	% Change FY16-FY17	Cost FY2016	Cost FY2017
Motor Oil In gallons	4,572	4,226	-7%	-\$1,785 ¹⁴	-
Antifreeze In gallons	480	430	-10	N/A	N/A
Shredded Tires	204,760 lbs.	204,108	<1%	-\$22,523	-\$32,550
Fleet Lead Acid Batteries ¹⁵	599	745	24%	\$0	\$0
Used Oil Filters	26 drums	21 drums	19%	-\$130	-\$105

¹⁴ Vertex Oil began charging for collection of material in 2015.

¹⁵ These numbers represent batteries recycled through a takeback program with Interstate battery at our fleet locations.



Inventory Specialist, Darryl Bonhomm, goes above and beyond his position description to make sure all automotive fluids, batteries and filters are recycled.

Electronics

Electronics are an element of staff's everyday job function. Electronics include computers or other devices and associated peripherals, keyboards, monitors, cell phones, telephones, deskside printers, scanners, televisions, and batteries. These items eventually have an end to their lifecycle when the systems become obsolete. Travis County manages outdated electronics in two ways. One is through an agreement with Dell, Inc. to take-back all Dell manufactured equipment for recycling or reuse. Travis County receives a portion of the revenue from the electronics Dell recycles. For a full list of items Dell accepts, view the Appendix. The items Dell does not accept are inventoried and managed through auction. All electronics not purchased through Dell is managed through the auction process.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 Recycled	% Change FY16-FY17	Revenue FY2016	Revenue FY2017
Dell Components	23,181 lbs.	32,227 lbs.	39%	\$14,201	\$73,082
Other Electronics	0	0	N/A	\$0	N/A



Organic Materials

Organic materials such as yard trimmings, food scraps, and wood waste typically make up about one-third (by weight) of the municipal solid waste stream. These items are considered source separated organics in which the material is separated from other waste streams at the source.

Chapter 111 of the Travis County's **Waste Management Policy** addresses the management of food waste, brush or yard trimmings, and dead animal waste stating all of the above materials should not be landfilled. For example, "cafeteria food wastes shall be considered for composting."

The animal composting program was implemented by Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) to save costs on transportation of dead animals collected from the "right of way." TNR Road and Bridge operations staff use compostable bags for collection.

In FY2017 the only Travis County facility composting food waste was the Travis County Correctional Complex. The compost is utilized in the on-site, 3.5-acre non-certified organic garden. The produce grown in the garden varies from season and planting plan.

In Travis County, TNR Parks, Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) Groundskeeping staff, and TNR Road & Bridge maintain lawns, trees, shrubs, rights of way, and other landscaping in their day-to-day activities. Tree trimmings from TNR Road & Bridge right of way work contributes to mulch used for the animal composting program. The TNR Parks arborist cuts dead trees and then chips them into mulch. The mulch is utilized at each County Park for spreading around trees, conserving water needed for irrigation.

Commodity	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Compost for Gardening	2,500 lbs.	300 ¹⁶ lbs.	-88%
Animal Composting	93,040 lbs.	127,660 lbs.	37%

¹⁶ The garden was in furlough until a new Supervisor was hired.



Figure 1 Eastside Service Center



Figure 2. Travis County Correctional Complex

“For businesses and institutions, a compelling reason to compost is to save money by cutting back on landfill fees.”

The Economics of Composting, Amelia Josephson NOV 06, 2017 <https://smartasset.com/mortgage/the-economics-of-composting>

Pallets plus Construction and Demolition Debris

Pallets, construction, and demolition debris cannot be placed in dumpsters indicating they need a specific process in handling. In 2009 Commissioners Court approved a Green Building Policy to address construction and demolition waste. The Facilities Management Department (FMD) was authorized to use the principles of LEED to the most significant extent practical and reasonable for renovation and rehabilitation projects budgeted below one million dollars. Each project is assessed for the appropriate certification level with the goal of maximizing long-term benefits, such as operating and maintenance savings while minimizing up-front costs. The types of material generated are packaging such as pallets, construction, and demolition debris.

The Del Valle Correctional Facility, Eastside and Westside Service Centers are the current locations for recycling of pallets. The Del Valle Correctional Facility collects unneeded pallets from all Sheriff's Office facilities. The Facilities Management Department works with a vendor to separate and process construction and demolition debris to be reused or processed by a recycling company.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 Recycled	% Change FY16-FY17	Revenue FY2016	Revenue FY2017
Pallets	3,120 units	3,280 units	5%	\$2,209.50	\$1,112.25
Construction Debris	118 tons	733 tons	521%	N/A ¹⁷	N/A



¹⁷ Costs for managing this material are not provided by Facilities Management's vendor Tri-Recycling.

Employee Programs

In 2013, the Travis County Commissioners' Court approved two policies to encourage diversion within county operations. Travis County and the City of Austin executed the Zero Waste Inter-local Agreement to establish common goals, provide for coordinated efforts, and cooperate to implement zero waste strategies. The Commissioners also approved an implementation plan for expansion of recycling throughout all County facilities and operations consistent with the City of Austin Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) where practical. Additionally, the inter-local agreement states Travis County will implement employee and public education campaigns.

Green Team Program

In May 2015, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved an Order regarding recycling participation by all departments and offices of Travis County to optimize reuse, conservation and material recovery. The order created the Green Team Program with the full involvement encouraged by all departments and offices of Travis County. Since May 2015:

- Five bi-annual Green Team training sessions have occurred.
- 58% of the overall County office spaces have a member.
- The Green Team members created change through the mini-max initiative, a mini hanging trash can, which was implemented office-wide in several divisions.



“Being socially responsible allows you to attract talent, because good people will align with the company that really cares about employees and communities. We link social responsibility to talent retention.” [Robert Lawless, chairman, president and CEO, McCormick & Co. Inc.](#)

Toner Ambassador Program

Chapter 111, Section 111.006.A.4, states “Spent toner cartridges shall be recycled and remanufactured toner cartridges purchased.” Travis County uses over 3,786 inkjet and toner cartridges each fiscal year, which creates a significant amount of waste.

The Toner Ambassador program puts toner recycling into the generator’s hands. A volunteer from each department or office space registers with the toner recycling program as a collection site. The Toner Ambassador collects the cartridges then ships them to a contracted Office Depot vendor with a prepaid shipping label. Volunteers are recognized for their work with a certificate and letter of appreciation. When Travis County utilizes the toner recycling program, it helps save disposal costs for up to 2,383 pounds of material.

Commodity	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17	Revenue FY2016	Revenue FY2017
Toner Cartridges Recycled	2,669	3,076	15%	\$980	\$853 ¹⁸
Toner Ambassadors	50	83	66%	N/A	N/A



“The boxes did not take up any space. I put them in our copier rooms and its working great.” Celia Satterwhite, Court Clerk I, Constable Pct. 1

¹⁸ The revenue generation is connected to the types of cartridges being utilized as a remanufactured cartridge.

Recycling Infrastructure Support

There are a few infrastructure needs for a productive employee recycling program. The infrastructure needs for a recycling program are appropriate containers in each office as well as rolling carts for consolidation and waste collections. TNR works in partnership with FMD by purchasing the recycle containers and FMD delivers the containers to various departments. Staff will need to understand their container requirements through a recycling assessment also known as a waste audit. A recycling assessment is a meeting to discuss what services the department/division provides current Travis County conservation programs and a tour of their office space. Once staff understands their requirements they can request more recycling containers. Presentations were given throughout the year at the division and departmental meetings to understand what can be recycled versus what needs to be sent to the landfill.

- An estimated 300 employees were trained through presentations.
- Three new locations were added to the recycling services contract.
- 18 departments requested recycling containers and minimax trash cans.

Commodity	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Containers Distributed	437	338	-1%



“Providing employees with a desk-side recycling bin and a smaller trash bin attached to it can serve as a success model for increasing recycling and reducing waste in the workplace.”
- Keep America Beautiful, Recycling at Work Study

Universal Waste

Universal waste is a category of waste materials designated as “hazardous waste,” but containing materials that are very common which include batteries, pesticides, and mercury-containing equipment and light bulbs. Travis County operations generate these types of wastes which are addressed in the WMP. The policy states collection bins shall be established for batteries by 40 CFR 261.24 and 30 TAC Chapter 335, Subchapter R. Another material addressed for proper disposal in WMP policy is used fluorescent light bulbs.

In 2014, TNR began to address the need for proper disposal of universal wastes by purchasing pre-paid containers for disposal of the items mentioned above. Departments currently participating in proper disposal of fluorescent light bulbs, ballasts, and batteries are Facilities Management, Sheriff’s Office, and County Clerk.

Commodity	FY2016 Recycled	FY2017 Recycled	% Change FY16-FY17
Fluorescent Lamps	7,730	3,630	-53%
Lamp Ballasts	67	95	41%
Dry Cell Batteries	2,305	2,876	25%
Rechargeable Batteries	438 lbs.	300 lbs. ¹⁹	-32%



“Streamlined universal waste regulations promote environmentally sound collection practices and increase the proper recycling or treatment of such wastes.”
Texas Commission for Environmental Quality

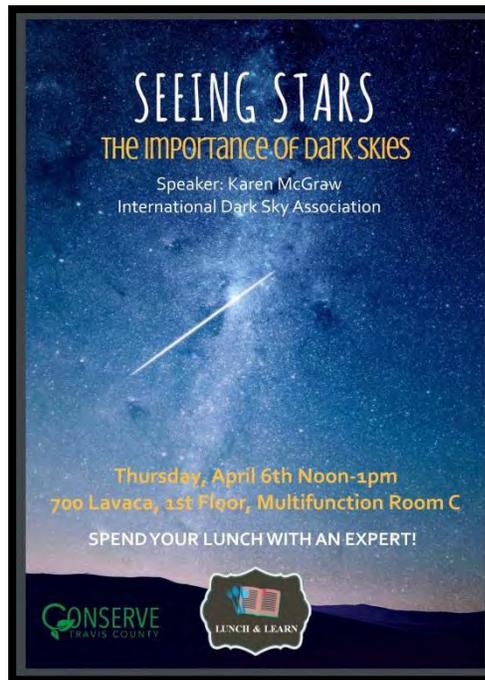
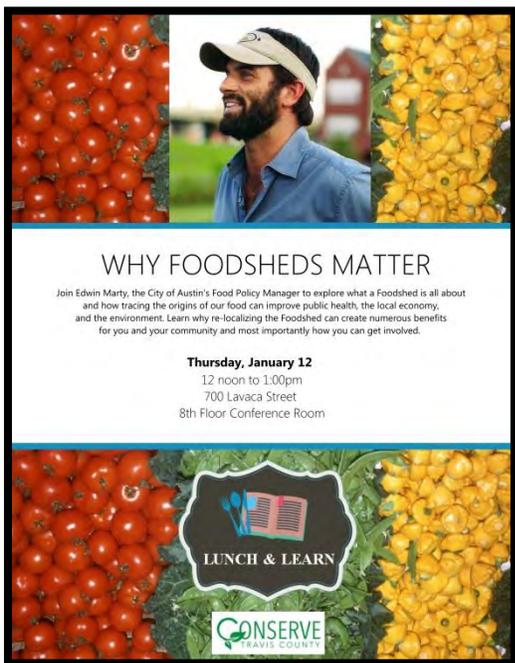
¹⁹ At the time of submittal Call2Recycle had not provided the information.

Conserve Lunch and Learn

At its purest, Conserve Lunch and Learn is an informal training event scheduled during the lunch hour. Employees who attend bring their lunches and eat them during the training session. The presentations have a focus on the environment with a variety of topics relating to conservation.

- Edwin Marty, City of Austin, Why Foodsheds Matter
- Karen McGraw, Seeing Stars- The Importance of Dark Skies
- Harry Evans, Texas Flood Response System

Lunch & Learns	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Presentations	4	3	-25%
Average Attendees	25	32	28%



Departmental Highlights

In an agency with 47 departments, there are several that stand out in supporting the Travis County in recycling.

Facilities Management Department

Travis County Facilities Management Department (FMD) plays a vital role in the County's recycling program. The custodial staff manages all the material that staff generates in their day to day activities. TNR works in partnership with FMD by purchasing the recycle containers and FMD delivers the containers to various departments.

- FMD was the first department to adopt and pilot the “minimax hanging trash bin.”
- Facilities Management staff delivered 125 office side containers, 26 Slim Jims, 183 mini max trash cans, and five recycle carts.
- Custodial staff attended a “Recycle Right” presentation given by the Conservation Coordinator.

REQUEST A RECYCLING CONTAINER

In partnership, the Transportation and Natural Resources and Facilities departments of Travis County will be providing indoor containers for recycling.

These containers are available with limited supplies.

Delivery: This is only for multiple containers, a minimum of five. Delivery of the containers will be one person at site to distribute to others. The delivery of containers could take up to ten business days.



Office Side



Slim Jim



Mini Max Hanging
Trash Bin

Transportation and Natural Resources

Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) Road and Bridge and Parks have several recycling initiatives that have been established since 1998. Road and Bridge manage the automotive recycling program, tires, metal, and dead animal composting. Parks has been very active in implementing new waste reduction and environmental practices into their parks.

- Reimers Ranch participates in the Night Sky program.
- Road and Bridge have supported the Christmas Tree Recycling program for more than twenty years.
- Five of Travis County Parks currently provide pilot recycling services to visitors.



Figure 3 Recycle trailer at Northeast Metro Park

“Truthfully, I feel good about supporting our efforts preserving our environment and to encourage sustainability.” Dan Chapman Park Ranger Chief



Figure 4. East Metro Park staff at Balcones Recycling Facility

Citizen Programs

The Zero Waste Inter-local Agreement with the City of Austin encourages public education campaigns to promote the reduction of waste and strive to achieve the goal of zero waste by 2040. Travis County does this through outreach and citizen programs. Two citizen programs are promoting zero waste and environmental stewardship. The volunteer-based programs are T-Shirts for Hunger and the Pharmaceutical Take-back event.

Outreach

Travis County reaches the public through the use of social media, Conserve website, and Travis County cable channel 17 to promote programs.

Outreach	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Website Hits	8,234	7,391	-10%
Outreach Events	6	4	-33%



*“Much of recycling program success lies in how well-informed the community is, since they are the key participants.”
Carton Council*

T-Shirts for Hunger

T-Shirts for Hunger is a project created in partnership with TNR, Travis County Sheriff's Correctional Department and Travis County Health and Human Services. Unwanted used t-shirts are collected from the community, and correctional facility inmates sew the t-shirts into reusable bags that are used to distribute food at the seven Travis County Community Centers' food pantries.

The program teaches inmates sewing skills and provides County constituents reusable bags. The T-Shirts for Hunger Project was selected as the 1st place winner of the Texas Environmental Leadership Award under the Outstanding Recycling Partnership category by State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR).

- The program has the potential to save HHS from spending \$5,811 on plastic bags each year.
- This year the project was suspended due to equipment issues within the jail. We are looking at ways to improve the program.

T-Shirts for Hunger Program	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
T-Shirts Collected	5,304 lbs.	4,610 lbs.	-13%
Reusable Shopping Bags Created	185,640	N/A	N/A



The clients often ask, "Am I allowed to keep this bag - or do I have to give it back?" They definitely see it as a valuable gift. They also often say they like the cloth bags better than plastic – because they hold more groceries and don't break. One client in particular started crying when she found out she could keep the bags – she said it would make a huge difference to her and her family since they were living out of their car.
 Joy Stollings,
 Community Center Manager

Pharmaceutical Take-back

In 2016, Travis County expanded opportunities for citizens to dispose of expired medications properly. A partnership between Travis County and the City of Austin created a permanent kiosk for year-round public use for safe disposal of their expired or unused prescription drugs. Three County Constable offices participated in the bi-annual Drug Enforcement Administration take-back event. The DEA provides collection materials, organizes the officers, and pays for the incineration of pharmaceuticals collected for the bi-annual one-day event.

- Provides an alternative to the usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both of which pose potential safety and health hazards.

Pharmaceutical Take-back	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Amount Collected from Events	474 lbs.	863 lbs.	82%
Kiosk	102 lbs.	612 lbs.	500%



Christmas Tree Program

The Travis County Christmas Tree Recycling program has been established for twenty years to provide the county residents a way to dispose of their trees properly.

- The program is set up for rural residents with locations at the Westside Service Center, Eastside Service Center and Del Valle Softball Field.
- This program gives a tree another life; all of the trees are mulched.

Event	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Number of Trees Collected	595	772	29%
Collection Sites	3	3	0%



Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup

The Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup is the largest scuba diving and shoreline cleanup in Texas. Three partners host the event; the Colorado River Alliance, Keep Austin Beautiful, and Travis County Parks. Each year, local dive shops, residents, and other volunteers gathered to collect trash from the bottom of Lake Travis and shoreline, while also raising public awareness of the importance of Lake Travis, the Highland Lakes and shoreline parks.

- 17 cleanup locations along and in Lake Travis: 10 shoreline and 7 dive cleanups which equals to 26 miles of shoreline cleaned.
- 1,775 volunteer hours contributed to clean in and along the lake.

Event	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Number of Volunteers	868	1,775	104%
Litter Removed	2.46 tons	1.54 tons	-37%
Litter Recycled	1,366	1,211	-11%



“Thank you again for coordinating [one of the] the largest cleanups in Texas!”
 - LTUCU Volunteer

Partnerships

Travis County has several partnerships with current service providers, local non-profits, and incorporated cities to move our mission and zero waste goals forward. These partnerships are created through inter-local agreements, service agreements and mutual interests in the environment.



City of Austin

In 2014, an agreement, Zero Waste Interlocal, was formally executed between Travis County and the City of Austin (CoA) to share the goal of developing, promoting, and applying zero waste and sustainability strategies for the benefit of current and future generations.

The CoA Resource Recovery Department continues to be an active collaborator on several waste diversion programs in Travis County. Travis County has partnered with CoA to have household battery collection locations at several County facilities.

Household Hazardous Waste Program

Travis County continues to maintain the Zero Waste Interlocal Agreement with the City of Austin under which County constituents can use the City’s hazardous waste collection facility. The County pays for a full-time employee and a percentage of the disposal costs.

- The facility has been mandated by the City of Austin Resource Recovery Director to increase diversion as much as possible.
- Items dropped off at the facility are evaluated for reuse.

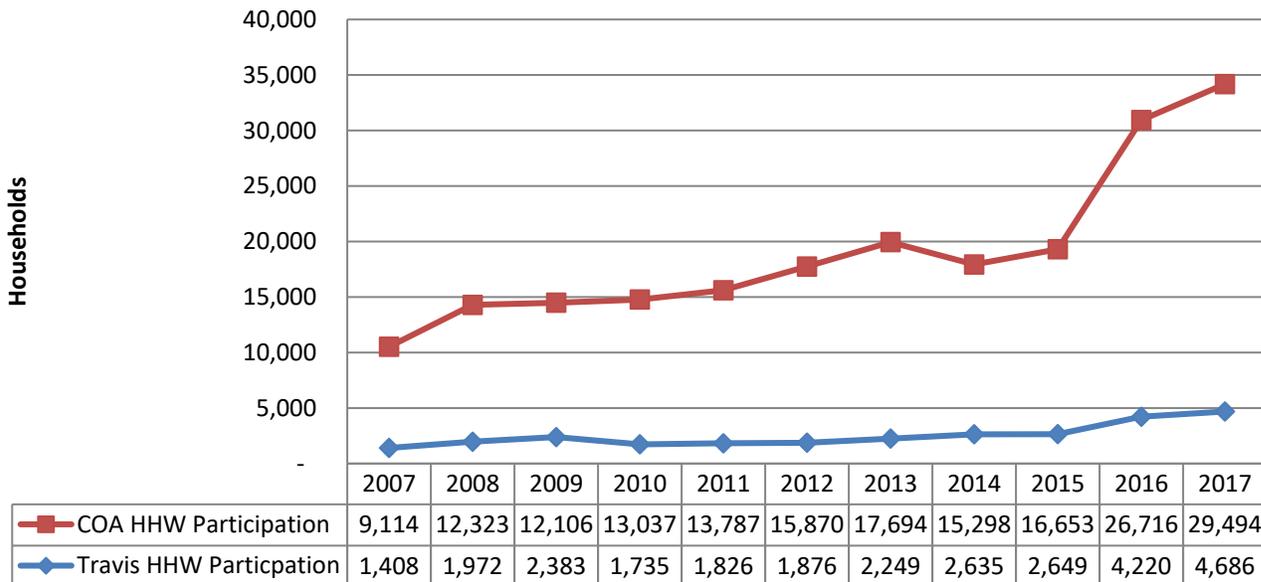
Commodity	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17	Cost FY2016	Cost FY2017
County Households Served	4,220	4,686	11%	\$137,336	\$143,037
Diversion (lbs.) ²⁰	48%	50%	4%	-	-



*Busy, but helpful staff, well-organized. I love the painted road to lead you where you need to go. Great service!
Beth Andries*

²⁰ Diversion for household hazardous waste facility are materials measured in pounds diverted through programs such as Austin ReBlend, Restore, DRAW, and recycling oil.

Household Hazardous Waste Participation



Household Battery Recycling

Recycling batteries help sustain the environment because batteries contain metals that can be harmful to the environment if not disposed of properly. Travis County staff has stepped forward with their concerns on battery disposal from home and work. These staff members each committed to monitor a battery collection site at their buildings. They contact CoA when there needs to be a collection.

Battery Disposal	FY2016	FY2017	% Change FY16-FY17
Number of Locations	9	9	0%
Amount Recycled	1,296 lbs.	972 lbs.	-25%



“As the proliferation of mobile devices and other battery-powered gadgets continue to grow rapidly, it’s more important than ever for consumers to know where to responsibly recycle their used batteries.”
 - Tim Warren, Call2Recycle

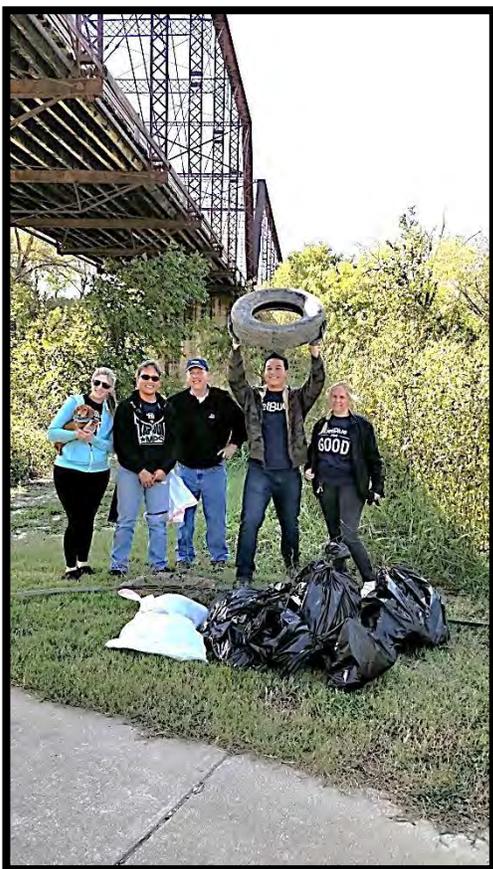


Keep Austin Beautiful & Anti-litter Education

Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide resources and education to engage citizens in building more beautiful communities. Travis County and KAB have been in a partnership since 1993.

- Lake Travis Clean-up
- Adopt a Creek program
- Support cleanups in Travis County's Parks

This year Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) and Travis County Parks partnered to pilot an “Adopt a Park” program at Richard Moya Park. Jet Blue committed to volunteering every quarter for the FY2017 year.



“I keep Austin beautiful by picking up certain trash I see, when I am walking in the public parks with my wife and two sons” - Yeriel

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

For the past 20 years, Travis County has purchased and protected more than 9,000 acres of beautiful Balcones Canyonlands.

Debris Removal from Natural Spaces	FY2016	FY2017
Total Litter Removed	850 lbs.	1,567
Hours Donated ²¹	223.7 hrs.	161



“Community volunteers are an integral part of our team, allowing us to accomplish more than we ever could with our staff alone. Their commitment, energy and expertise strengthen our program and broaden our impact. We couldn’t do it



²¹ The total volunteer hours listed specifically for BCP tract cleanup.

Leave No Trace

Travis County Parks was first selected as a Hot Spot in 2015 to help the 27-park system incorporate Leave No Trace (LNT) education throughout the agency. In 2017, the Traveling Trainers returned to Travis County to help continue to strengthen the Leave No Trace programs within one of the county's most popular parks, Reimer's Ranch. The 2,427 acre Reimer's Ranch is the most significant parcel managed by Travis County Parks and is a popular destination for climbers, mountain bikers, and anglers. To continue to support Reimer's Ranch in its journey towards recovery, the Leave No Trace team returned to the area to help park staff combat issues with pets off leash, pet waste, user conflicts, fed wildlife and water resource impacts.

The Traveling Trainers worked directly with local mountain bikers, climbers, members of the Travis County Park Rangers, guides and environmental educators to equip them with the tools to educate visitors and fellow recreationists about the impacts at Reimer's Ranch Park and Leave No Trace's role in reducing those impacts. The team worked with these stakeholders to help them understand how explaining to visitors why Leave No Trace practices are essential and can change visitor behavior without using heavy approaches such as issuing citations handed. In the future, Travis County Parks develop a customized training program to ensure LNT education efforts exceed beyond the Traveling Trainers time at the hotspot.

Highlights from the program:

- 7 Leave No Trace workshops & events
- 11 stakeholder groups engaged with Leave No Trace
- 2,260 social media impressions among events at Reimers Ranch Park, Bob Wentz Park, Austin Bouldering Project, & REI.

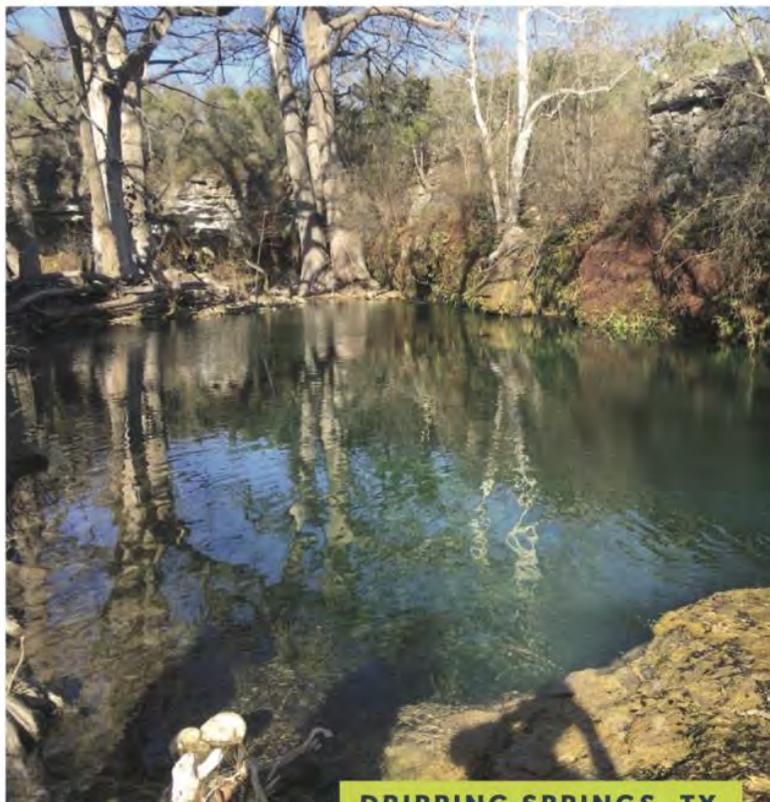


Hot Spot - Travis County Parks Revisit²²



PROBLEM

Reimers Ranch, in Dripping Spring, Texas, is a destination for many outdoor enthusiasts. Local rock climbers consider it a world class site. Mountain bikers enjoy over 18 miles of trails, and anglers fish for white bass in the Pedernales River. The park, within the Travis County Parks system, was chosen as a Hot Spot Revisit. User conflicts, pet waste and wildlife implications, and water resource impacts were primary issues.



DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX



7

Leave No Trace Workshops & Events



11

Stakeholder Groups Engaged With Leave No Trace



2,260

Impressions Among Events at Reimers Ranch, Bob Wentz Park, Austin Bouldering Project, & REI

SOLUTION

During the week in Travis County, many workshops were offered to park staff, as well as targeted programs for user groups. This park is a wonderful example of Leave No Trace working well in a park system and will thrive with continued Leave No Trace education and efforts.

²² For more information on this program use this link <https://lnt.org/hot-spot-travis-county-parks-revisit>

Recommendations

It is essential to recognize the knowledge gained through data is by creating relevant goals and awareness of opportunities to improve performance. The recommendations below are suggested to enhance the program through accountability, performance, and feedback. The recommendations, if approved by Commissioner's Court, would be implemented in the second quarter of FY2018.

- Travis County should develop an implementation plan that prescribes how the County will fulfill its obligations in the Zero Waste Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Austin.
- The Purchasing Office and Auditors Office should evaluate existing processes to adapt existing software to track purchased items with recycled content.
- Green Team members should perform a recycling assessment for their respective departments. This assessment would identify education gaps and operational needs (more bins, for example) to increase the amount of waste that is recycled.
- The Travis County Parks Department should continue to increase recycling awareness and availability at Parks.

Appendix

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Dell Take-back Program Summary

The summary below is a list of all the items Dell will accept in their buy-back program.

Product Type	Billable	Product Type	Billable	
AC Adapter	NO	Television	YES	
Battery	NO	Terminal	YES	
Cathode Ray Tube	YES	Toner	NO	
Computer Bag	NO	Uninterruptible Power Supply	YES	
Copier	YES	Workstation	YES	
Flat Panel	YES	Internal	External	Non Computer
Flat Panel Monitor	YES	CD Drive	Array	DVD Player
Hard Drive	NO	CDRW	Cables	Floppy disk
Hard drive	NO	Disk Controller	External Drive	Handheld Computer
Internal Computer Components	NO	Floppy Drive	Keyboard	Juke Box
LCD Monitor	YES	Motherboard	KVM	Laser Disc Player
Memory	NO	RAID Controller	Modem	Manuals
Misc.	NO	Sound Card	Mouse	MP3 Player
Monitor	YES	Video Card	Multiplexor	Paper Shredder
Networking Equipment	YES	Memory	Router	PDA
Non-Computer Related Part	NO	Media Drive	Speakers	Plotter
Notebook	YES		Tape Drive	Pointing Device
PC	YES		Zip Drive	Power strip
Port Replicator	NO			Printer Tray
POS	YES			Radio
Printer	YES			Scanner
Processors	NO			Surge Protector
Projector	YES			TV Stand
Rack/Cabinet	YES			Typewriter
Scanner	YES			VHS Player
Server	YES			
SPAM	NO			
Storage	YES			
Switch	YES			
Telephone	NO			

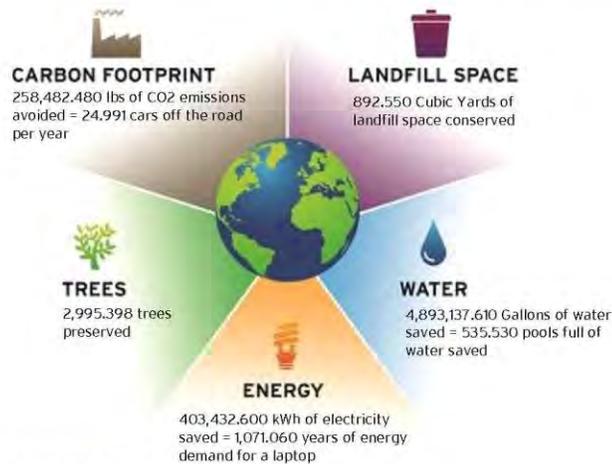
Iron Mountain Environmental Report

The following Iron Mountain reports represent the green reports for Travis County's offsite storage and shred bin service.



AB035 TRAVIS COUNTY , ALL DEPARTMENTS

Your organization's eco-friendly decision to securely shred and recycle 178,510 short (US) ton(s) [357,020,633 Pounds] paper with Iron Mountain resulted in the following environmental benefits between October 2016 and October 2017:



UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS

Once Iron Mountain securely shreds information, the processed materials are transported to paper mills for pulping. This destruction process provides benefits to both the security of your business and to the global environment by reducing pollution, preserving landfill space and likewise saving trees, water and energy resources.

The above results are calculated based on the shredding orders serviced on your account(s) during the time period referenced, using average container weight calculations. For additional information regarding the environmental benefits of Iron Mountain® Secure Shredding solutions, visit our website at www.ironmountain.com/services/secure-shredding.

REFERENCES

All calculations for metrics in this report were calculated by an independent third party named Quantis, a leading lifecycle assessment consulting firm specializing in supporting companies to measure, understand and manage the environmental impacts of their products, services and operations.



Assumes that, for each short ton of paper recycled, 17 trees are preserved (USEPA 2013a, Communicating the Benefits of Recycling, <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/tools/localgov/benefits/>).



Assumes the density of dry office paper entering landfill is 5 cubic yards per short ton (Iron Mountain's measurement).



Assumes a notebook laptop computer is rated 120 watts, used eight hours a day, 365 days per year (estimation).



Assumes a household in-ground pool volume of 12' x 24' x 5' (estimation)



Assumes each short ton of CO2-eq emissions saved is the equivalent to 0.189 cars taken off road annually (USEPA 2013b, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>).

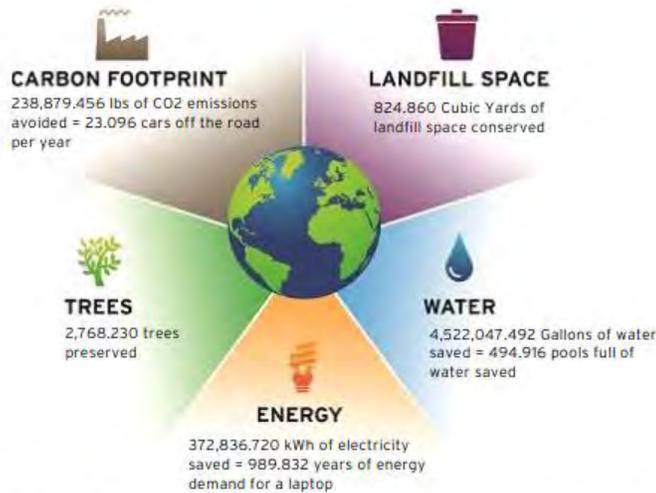
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REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

AF249 TRAVIS COUNTY ALL DEPARTMENTS

Your organization's eco-friendly decision to securely shred and recycle 164,972 short (US) ton(s) [329,944,536 Pounds] paper with Iron Mountain resulted in the following environmental benefits between October 2016 and October 2017:



UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS

Once Iron Mountain securely shreds information, the processed materials are transported to paper mills for pulping. This destruction process provides benefits to both the security of your business and to the global environment by reducing pollution, preserving landfill space and likewise saving trees, water and energy resources.

The above results are calculated based on the shredding orders serviced on your account(s) during the time period referenced, using average container weight calculations. For additional information regarding the environmental benefits of Iron Mountain® Secure Shredding solutions, visit our website at www.ironmountain.com/services/secure-shredding.

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Assumes a notebook laptop computer is rated 120 watts, used eight hours a day, 365 days per year (estimation).

Assumes a household in-ground pool volume of 12' x 24' x 5' (estimation)

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Keep Austin Beautiful & Travis County
Anti-litter Education

Keep Austin Beautiful is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide resources and education to engage citizens in building more beautiful communities.

During the FY17 reporting period Keep Austin Beautiful was involved in many activities within Travis County's jurisdiction:

- Facilitated 27 Community Cleanups including, but not limited to, the areas of Garfield, Pflugerville, Cedar Park, Sunset Valley, and Westlake.
- Supported ten events with Event Recycling, including Euphoria Fest and the Radha Madhav Dham Celebration
- Equipped seven community groups with garden tools through the Tool Shack program;
- Coordinated 17 volunteer sites along and in Lake Travis for the Annual Lake Travis Cleanup. During the event, 475 shoreline volunteers and 412 dive volunteers collected 3,080 pounds of litter and 1,211 pounds of recycling;
- Facilitated Adopt-A-Creek projects in Gilleland Creek with the City of Pflugerville and Onion Creek with Jet Blue;
- Distributed a monthly email newsletter to 11,500 individuals, received 12,000 hits per month on the website, garnered 13,500 social media followers;
- Partnered with Travis County, The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks, and Wildlife, Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful to educate the community about the importance of implementing environmentally wise practices which ultimately improve the quality of life for all Central Texans.

Summary:

- Number of total volunteers: 1,736
- Number of total volunteer hours: 5,975
- Value per volunteer hour: \$25.15*
- Total cost savings attributed to Keep Austin Beautiful activities: \$150,271
- Total pounds of garbage collected: 3,560
- Total pounds of recycling collected: 730
- Cubic yards of soil and mulch spread in restoration projects: 29 and 53 respectively

*Value of a Volunteer Hour, by State for 2016

<https://www.independentsector.org/volunteertime>

Keep Austin Beautiful Funding Allocation

Contract Specification	Program/Activity	Specific Service	Staff Time	Financials
1	Community cleanups, Tool Shack, Event Recycling, and Adopt-A-Creek	Cleanup site identification, volunteer recruitment and training, trash collection coordination, and cleanup supplies and garden tools provision	0.20 FTE	\$10,000
3	Clean Sweep	Cleanup site identification, volunteer recruitment, trash collection coordination, cleanup supplies provision, and volunteer meals	0.15 FTE	\$7,500
3	Lake Travis Clean-up	Event planning, shoreline site identification, volunteer recruitment, trash collection coordination, cleanup supplies provision, and volunteer meals	0.30 FTE	\$12,500

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE AT WORK? ¿QUÉ SE PUEDE RECICLAR EN EL TRABAJO ?



PAPER (MIXED & OFFICE)
PAPEL (MEZCLADO & DE OFICINA)



PLASTICS #1 - #7
PLÁSTICOS #1 - #7



FLATTENED CARDBOARD
CARTÓN APLANADO



ALUMINUM & STEEL CANS, FOIL, & PIE PLATES
LATAS DE ALUMINIO Y ACERO PLATO DE TARTA
Y PAPEL DE ALUMINO

Want to learn more about Travis County's
waste reduction program?

Please visit
<http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/conserva>
for more information.



CONSERVE

