



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: September 28, 2023

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Solid Waste Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: David Newman

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Recycling Update

SUMMARY:

The Solid Waste Management Department will present an update on recycling in San Antonio, including an overview of performance metrics, and our new contract starting next year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) provides residential customers weekly curbside collection of recycling, organics, and garbage. The current recycling contract began processing in 2014 and is held by Republic Services. A new contract with Balcones Resources will begin in August 2024.

The City has historically measured recycling performance as the percentage of tons diverted from the landfill from the total tons of material collected by City crews. The City is currently diverting

away from the landfill 36% of all collected materials. With changes in the materials that can be recycled, changes in the weight of materials, as well as weather-related and customer-related variables, this measurement is difficult to track over time. Additionally, the current focus on recycling is for quality material collection and not quantity of material, due to the fragile nature affected by contamination. Many cities have begun to primarily measure the customer's ability to utilize the recycling system correctly.

The metric used to measure the customer's performance is called Capture Rate. This common industry metric is defined by the weight of recyclable materials collected for recycling (not including contaminants) divided by the weight of all potentially available recyclables in the waste stream. Capture rates can be calculated for individual materials or for the overall recycling stream. Overall, the City is capturing about 48% of all items that can potentially be placed in the blue recycling cart.

Through a competitive RFP process, Balcones Resources was selected as the next recycling processing contractor when the existing contract with Republic Services concludes. Balcones is in the process of building a new facility in the southwestern portion of the City. Their facility will begin accepting the City's recyclables in August 2024. The presentation will describe any differences between the current and future contracts.

ISSUE:

SWMD is providing an update to the Committee on recycling.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.