



Yard Waste Recycling in the City of West University Place

HGAC Roundtable

November 15, 2018

City of West University Place, Texas



INTRODUCTION



- One of the 2015-2017 City Council Goals is to evaluate and make recommendations on Green Waste collection.
- This can be accomplished by increasing the amount of trash that is diverted from the waste stream (i.e. sent to landfill).
- One type of trash that can be diverted from the waste stream is **Yard Waste**.
- The Recycling Board has recommended Yard Waste Recycling Annually since 2010.



POINTS WE WILL BE COVERING



- History of Yard Waste in West U
- Cost
- Additional factors
- Why Recycling Yard Waste is Worth it
- Summary



HISTORY OF YARD WASTE IN THE CITY



2005

- The last full year the City collected yard waste separately (The service was ceased after the vendor sold their property and the option close to West U).
- The volume of yard waste was 1,508 tons.
- The total volume of garbage was 5,789 tons.
- The City's recycling/diversion rate, including waste recyclables and yard waste, was approx. **40%**.

2014

- The total volume of garbage was 6,750 tons
- The volume of yard waste is estimated to be 1,500 Tons
- The City's recycling/diversion rate, including only recyclables, is approx. **25%**.



HISTORY OF YARD WASTE IN THE CITY



2016

- The City restarted the collection of yard waste in March
- The total volume of garbage was 5,265 tons
- The volume of yard waste collected was 600 Tons
- The City's recycling/diversion rate increase to 32%.

2017

- The total volume of garbage reduced to 4,800 tons
- The volume of yard waste collected increased to 883 Tons
- The City's recycling/diversion rate increase to 37%.



WHAT IS THE COST?



2016 – (collection started in March)

- \$8,100
 - Savings from composting rather than landfill = \$12,300

2017 – (first full year of collection)

- \$12,000
 - Savings from composting rather than landfill = \$18,000

SAVINGS

- Using the 2017 numbers, this will result in savings to the taxpayers of roughly \$180,000-200,000 over the next 10 years.



WHY RECYCLING YARD WASTE IS WORTH IT



- Yard Waste is 100% recyclable and is full of nutrients that can be reused for compost or mulch to improve soils. Compost also helps prevent runoff that can pollute rivers and lakes.
- Diverting yard waste from landfill saves the City \$20/ton in tipping costs and prolongs the life of landfills. (This savings is calculated in the cost)
- The City does not own any landfills so it must constantly renegotiate with third parties as to the cost per ton to deliver garbage to their landfill.
- Currently, West U's recycling rate is about 39%. With separate yard waste collection, West U's recycling rate will remain well above the national average and quite possibly the highest in Texas.
- As responsible citizens protecting the environment, we can reduce the City's carbon footprint.



SUMMARY CHART FOR YARD WASTE



Issue	Trashing Yard Waste	Recycling Yard Waste
Waste	Increases waste by 1,000-1,500 tons/year	Decreases waste by 25% or 1,500 tons/year
Landfill	Reduces life	Increases life
Creates new product (compost and mulch) plus associated economic activity	No	Yes
Meets community's needs while not jeopardizing the needs of future generations	No	Yes
Carbon Footprint	Increases	Decreases
Conserves natural resources, saves energy decreases water and air pollution	No	Yes
Recycling Rate	25%	40+%
Additional cost to residents	Depends on cost to landfill	\$1.50 to \$2/month/household depending on volume
Who Benefits?	5,300 households save \$2/month	The City of West University residents and Greater Houston area residents (and future residents) have decreased air and water pollution, extended landfill life and reduced greenhouse gases.



THANKS!

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