Yard Waste Recycling
in the
City of West University Place

HGAC Roundtable

November 15, 2018
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Trashing Yard Waste</th>
<th>Recycling Yard Waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste</strong></td>
<td>Increases waste by 1,000-1,500 tons/year</td>
<td>Decreases waste by 25% or 1,500 tons/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landfill</strong></td>
<td>Reduces life</td>
<td>Increases life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creates new product (compost and mulch) plus associated economic activity</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets community’s needs while not jeopardizing the needs of future generations</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carbon Footprint</strong></td>
<td>Increases</td>
<td>Decreases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserves natural resources, saves energy decreases water and air pollution</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recycling Rate</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40+%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional cost to residents</td>
<td>Depends on cost to landfill</td>
<td>$1.50 to $2/month/household depending on volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who Benefits?</td>
<td>5,300 households save $2/month</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANKS!

Gerardo Barrera
General Services Superintendent
City of West University Place
gbarrera@westutx.gov
713-662-5845