



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney Street  
Denton, Texas  
[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Solid Waste and Recycling

**CM/ DCM/ ACM:** Mario Canizares

**DATE:** January 8, 2018

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding Multifamily and Commercial Recycling.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Denton has active recycling, yard waste, construction and demolition, and home chemical/pharmaceutical waste diversion programs. Recent contacts from citizens demonstrate a need to better communicate with our community about our programs. This year the Citizen Connection distributed with the utility bill and available online will focus primarily on Utility Programs. This provides an opportunity to further enhance education and information efforts.

One area of concern that has seen success over the last year is multifamily recycling. Through voluntary participation we have achieved our baseline goal of 40% participation in the program. Staff has been able to work with many apartment complexes to identify options for successful recycling and solutions for difficult situations. The multifamily recycling collected through this program has been identified by PRATT as the least contaminated multifamily waste that they have seen come through the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). We are aware of one local community with mandatory recycling that Pratt has not renewed a contract, in part due to our increased participation, but also due to contamination issues.

Staff has strived to address recycling concerns and plans to shift to a much more proactive approach for multifamily and commercial recycling with the new year. We feel that the voluntary approach, working with varying sizes of complexes has provided solutions and tools that will translate well to other like size communities. With this knowledge in hand staff will begin reaching out to complexes that are not currently recycling with the goal of increasing participation by ten percent this year.

As the shift is made from solid waste to recycling it is important to right size containers and service levels this is also true of commercial accounts. Staff believes that ramping up commercial outreach is the next step to identifying opportunities for additional waste diversion, or tracking of current waste diversion.

All work to date for multifamily and commercial recycling has been performed in house, staff is reviewing options for a consultant to review our plans and goals, ensure we are in line with best practices and that all avenues are being appropriately explored. Staff is reviewing firms that have specialization in multifamily and commercial recycling.

If the committee is in favor of further study of recycling programs staff would welcome ideas and concerns to be included in a scope of work to be brought back to the committee for review.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP**

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

**Related Key Focus Area: Sustainable & Environmental Stewardship**

**Related Goal: 5.2 Reduce and divert waste**

## **EXHIBITS**

1. AIS

Respectfully submitted:

Ethan Cox

Director Solid Waste