



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:18-1391

Agenda Item Number: 2.

Agenda Date: 1/25/2018

In Control: Community Health and Equity Committee

DEPARTMENT: Solid Waste Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: David W. McCary

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Commercial Recycling Assistance Programs (ReWorksSA)

SUMMARY:

In keeping with the direction approved by City Council in the City's *Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan*, the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) has prepared a suite of recycling and waste reduction incentive and assistance programs to help "improve recycling opportunities for businesses."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In late 2010 and again in 2013, the City Council adopted the *Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan* which has three goals:

1. 60% recycling rate for single-family residents
2. Convenient recycling for multi-family residents
3. Increased recycling opportunities for businesses

In order to achieve the third goal, SWMD conducted several stakeholder meetings with the business community. This resulted in program recommendations that were presented to City Council during the FY2016 budget.

- Provide businesses with implementation support for businesses that want to recycle
- Create a recognition program for businesses with a successful recycling program
- Ensure any future business recycling ordinance will be phased in gradually and account for the diversity

of business' waste streams

Since that time, SWMD has expanded relationships with the business community, built the Commercial Recycling Team (branded ReWorksSA), and worked with stakeholders and other COSA departments (e.g. Information Technology Services Department, Government & Public Affairs, Office of Sustainability) to design and conduct limited tests of recycling incentive and assistance programs based on those recommendations.

The ReWorksSA programs are designed to connect businesses to cost effective recycling solutions, with a focus on small and medium sized businesses. They include consulting services, a recognition program, free indoor recycling containers, and a website with informational resources and interactive tools.

ISSUE:

As part of the implementation of the City's *Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan*, and in concert with the City's other sustainability and climate action plans, SWMD has developed a suite of recycling incentive and assistance programs for local businesses.

SWMD prepared to begin public rollout of the ReWorksSA program on February 1, 2018.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Department could delay the rollout of some or all of the programs until a time specified by the City Council, or cancel the program by amending the Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan to remove the commercial goal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For briefing purposes only, there is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is prepared to begin public rollout of the ReWorksSA program on February 1, 2018.