Agenda

- Why
- Overview
- Outreach
- Results
- Processing
- Future Outlook
Why

• Recycle and Resource Recovery Plan Adopted June 2010
• Goal of 60% recycling rate by 2025
• Organics is a major component
Yard debris and food scraps comprise up to 50% of what gets thrown away in the brown cart and buried in a landfill.
Annual Residential Materials Collected by Type: 513,000 tons
Total SWMD Customers: 344,000

- **Garbage (brown cart)**: 336,000 tons, 65%
- **Bulky**: 50,000 tons, 10%
- **Brush**: 59,000 tons, 12%
- **Recycling (blue cart)**: 68,000 tons, 13%
- **Potential Organic Recycling**: 168,000 tons, 33%

**Potential Recycling (blue cart)**: 61,000 tons, 12%

**Total Recycled Material**: 127,000 tons, 25%

**Food - 56,000**
**Yard - 112,000**
Overview

• Pilot Program
  • Started September 2011
  • 30,000 households

• Subscription Program
  • Started February 2013
  • Service area of 120,000 households
  • Approximately 20,000 subscribers
What Goes In The Cart

- Yard trimmings
  - Branches
  - Leaves
  - Grass clippings
  - Hedge/floral trimmings

- Food scraps
  - Breads and grains
  - Fruits and vegetables
  - Spoiled food
  - Leftovers
  - Coffee grounds

- Compostable Paper
  - Pizza boxes
  - Coffee filters
  - Napkins
  - Popcorn bags

- Other
  - Shredded paper
  - Sawdust
  - Dryer lint
Taking The Cart Curbside

ORGANICS ONLY

Yard Trimmings
- Grass clippings, flowers, and weeds

Leaves
- Leaves, twigs, and small branches
- (no more than 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter)

Food Scraps
- Bread, pastries, fruits, vegetables, and paper from these items
- Dairy, eggs, and fish, as well as meat
- Leftovers from food preparation

Food-Spoiled Paper
- Coffee filters, paper plates, paper cups, and paper
- Napkins, paper towels, paper take-out boxes and containers,
- and unbleached paper

Shredded Paper
- Shredded office paper and cardboard

NOT ACCEPTABLE
- Metal
- Corks
- Glass
- Stones
- Ceramics
- Pet waste
- Styrofoam
- Non-compostable plastic
  (including biodegradable plastic)
- Paper with wax or plastic coatings
- Cooking oil and grease in large concentrated quantities

For more information, please visit our website at
www.sanantonio.gov/swm or call 3-1-1.
Servicing the Carts

• Collection conducted with automated trucks
• Rear load trucks took longer
• Nothing special with the cart
• 96 gallon cart most effective
Outreach

• Block-walking is the primary outreach method
• Residents can subscribe online, fax, or email
• Fall and Spring seasons are ideal times to expand
• Pockets of subscribers observed
  • Neighbors influence each other’s decision to subscribe
Outreach - Block Walking

• During Pilot City staff delivered kitchen bins by personally knocking on doors

• Residents were receptive

• Positive feedback
Outreach – Door Hangers

• Subscription Program Outreach
Outreach – Welcome Packet
Outreach – Post Cards

Now I’m Recyclable
Outreach – Post Cards

Not all trash is the same
Outreach – Community Events

- Community meetings with neighborhood leaders, HOAs, and Webinars
- Booths at schools, parks, and special events
- School presentations focused within the pilot areas
Outreach – Truck Wraps

TRIM YOUR "WASTE" LINE

Recycling more to achieve a 60% Recycling Rate by 2025.
### Common Concerns and Suggestions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Odors</td>
<td>• Freeze strong smelling foods and set-out on day of collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness</td>
<td>• Wrap messy and wet food scraps in newspaper or use paper bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodents/Critters</td>
<td>• Same material you currently place in the brown cart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage &amp; Space Constraints</td>
<td>• The City has smaller containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The footprint of 3 small containers is equal to 2 big ones</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Using The Kitchen Bin
No Plastic Bags
Cart Notes

- Solid Waste Inspectors
- Tags are placed on cart to educate residents
Residents within the pilot areas received an invitation
Organics Recycling Survey

- Random and anonymous surveys conducted by local university
- Pilot Pre-Implementation
- Pilot Post-Implementation
- City-Wide to estimate demand
Organics Recycling Survey

• Pre-Implementation Survey to establish baseline perception
  • Most residents favor the program
  • Most organic material goes into garbage
  • 49% would use it weekly
  • 32% would use it occasionally
Organics Recycling Survey

- Post-Implementation Survey to gauge cart usage and issues
  - Green cart mainly used for yard waste
  - Minimal issues with odors, rodents, or space constraints
  - 90% little to no effort required
  - 80% set cart out at least every other week; 15% used the cart occasionally; 5% didn’t use the cart
Organics Recycling Survey

- City-Wide Survey to estimate demand
  - Respondents who already knew of program were more than twice as likely to subscribe
  - Most interest in NW and NE areas
  - 23% of residents would subscribe
  - 48% knew of the program
    - 28% by news
    - 11% by friends or family
Results – Pilot Program

• Commenced Fall 2011
• 30,000 homes got a green cart
• 1,800 homes per route
• 425 lbs per account
• 26% average setout
• 1% towards recycle rate
Results – Subscription Program

• Transitioned Pilot Spring 2013
• Offered to 120,000 homes
• $3 monthly fee
• 3,600 homes per route
• 750 lbs per account
• 17% subscription rate
Subscription Rates - NE San Antonio
Seasonality
Compost Facility - New Earth
Processing the Loads
## Waste Characterization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Cubic Yards</th>
<th>Lbs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Styrofoam®</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>1,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>24.82</td>
<td>2,728</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>Yard Waste</td>
<td>412.01</td>
<td>151,723</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>455.42</strong></td>
<td><strong>157,440</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contamination by Volume</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3.80%</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contamination by Weight</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1.60%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Future Outlook

• Variable Rate Pricing with Organics
• FY2015 Program Development
• FY2016 Implementation
• FY2017 Complete Implementation
• Expected contribution to 60% recycling rate goal by 2025
  • 15% - 20% from Organics Recycling