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# Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance

## Section 15-6, Article 5

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# Agenda

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- Background
- Current Ordinance Overview
- Best Practices
- Working through Ordinance Revisions
  - Subcommittee Goals
  - Roles and Responsibilities
  - Timeline



# Background

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- ❑ Comprehensive Recycling Resolution (19900111-48)
  - Passed January 11, 1990
  - Analysis of variable rate price structure for garbage collection
  - Recycling for multi-family housing and non-sludge composting
  - Develop a recycling plan that identifies and considers financial and economic impacts
  
- ❑ Recycling Task Force established, which developed a Recycling Plan
  - Multi-family recommendations included:
    - Universal fee
    - Rebates
    - Drop-off recycling centers
    - Recycling pilot program



# Background

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- ❑ Task Force Recycling Plan (continued...)
  - Business recommendations:
    - Educational and technical assistance aimed at small/medium sized business
    - Increased dumpster fees to fund waste minimization programs
- ❑ Draft Ordinance recommended 100 unit threshold
- ❑ Commercial Multi-family Recycling Ordinance (19981022-P)
  - Passed October 22, 1998
  - Effective April 15, 1999



# Recycling Ordinance (Section 15-6)

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- Applies to properties in Austin city limits that are:
  - Multi-family properties with 100 or more units
  - Businesses with 100 or more employees onsite
  - Multi-tenant (M/T) properties:
    - 100 or more employees or tenants onsite
    - Centralized garbage service



# Recycling Ordinance (Section 15-6)

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## ***Multi-family Basic Requirements***

- ❑ Set up onsite recycling of 4 materials
- ❑ File recycling plan form with Solid Waste Services
- ❑ Educate tenants about program
- ❑ Quarterly volume reports to Solid Waste Services

## ***Commercial and M/T Basic Requirements***

- ❑ Set up onsite recycling of 2 materials
- ❑ File recycling plan form with Solid Waste Services
- ❑ Educate employees and tenants about program
- ❑ Quarterly volume reports to Solid Waste Services



# Best Practices

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## □ Cities Considered

- San Francisco, CA: categorized/standardized
- San Diego, CA: phased approach
- Durham, NC: regulation of materials
- Gainesville, FL: applies to property owners



# Best Practices: San Francisco, CA

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- Universal Recycling Ordinance
  - First mandatory recycling ordinance in city
  - Passed June 2009
  - Effective October 2009
  
- Applies to owners/managers of:
  - Multifamily and Commercial properties
  - Food vendors and events
  - Collectors, transfer stations and processing facilities



# Best Practices: San Francisco, CA

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## □ Elements:

- Requires all persons to source separate into recyclables, compostables, and trash
- Requires subscription to “adequate refuse collection service,” defined as:
  - Recycling,
  - Composting, and
  - Trash collection
- Establishes standards for containers:
  - Color coding; and
  - Placement/storage



# Best Practices: San Francisco, CA

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## □ Elements (continued...)

- Requires collectors and transfer stations to report all tonnage by material type, annually
- Enforced jointly by:
  - Department of Environmental Services
  - Department of Health
  - Department of Public Works



# Best Practices: San Diego, CA

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- ❑ Passed November 2007
- ❑ Phased Effective Dates:
  - January 2008
    - Existing City customers with recycling services
  - February 2008
    - Single family served by private haulers
    - Apartments and condos (100+ units)
    - Commercial (20,000+ sq ft)
    - Special events
  - January 2009
    - Apartments and condos (50+ units)
    - Commercial (10,000+ sq ft)
  - January 2010
    - All apartments, condos, and commercial facilities



# Best Practices: San Diego, CA

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## □ Elements:

- Occupants “shall” participate
- Requires minimum material collection:
  - Multi-family: plastic bottles/jars, paper, newspaper, metal containers, cardboard, and glass containers
  - Commercial: in addition to materials listed for multi-family; “*other materials for which markets exist*” such as scrap metal, wood pallets, and food waste



# Best Practices: San Diego, CA

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- Elements (continued...)
  - Requires properties to use container/signage guidelines established by the Department
  - Requires haulers to:
    - Submit annual reports of solid waste and recyclables collected
    - Notify their customers of the ordinance and requirements
  - Funded by \$10/ton trash fee on haulers
  - Enforced by Environmental Services
    - 2 Recycling Specialists
    - 2 Code Officers
    - ½ Admin Assistant



# Best Practices: Durham, NC

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- ❑ Passed 1997, effective 1998
- ❑ Applies to all waste generators
- ❑ Elements:
  - Unlawful of property owners to dispose of “target recyclables”
  - Target recyclables include:
    - Aluminum and Steel cans
    - Glass bottles and jars
    - Newspaper
    - Plastic bottles
    - Corrugated cardboard
    - Computer equipment/televisions (2011)



# Best Practices: Durham, NC

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## □ Elements (continued...)

### ▪ Enforcement

- Originally enforced against haulers at city-owned landfill and violators charged double to dispose
- Currently 1 Enforcement Officer on staff, planning to hire 2 additional officers

## □ Ordinance difficult to enforce

- Amendments being considered
- May mandate recycling programs



# Best Practices: Gainesville, FL

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- ❑ Passed and effective 1997
- ❑ Applies to all commercial waste generators, including construction projects
- ❑ Elements: Hotels, Motels, Restaurants, Bars, Retail Stores, Offices and Institutions
  - If the following materials comprise 15% or more of waste stream, the items must be recycled:
    - Corrugated cardboard, or
    - Newspaper, office paper & junk mail, or
    - Metal cans, or
    - Glass bottles and jars, or
    - Plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs (#1 – #7)



# Best Practices: Gainesville, FL

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- Elements: Commercially Collected Residential
  - Paper Products
    - Newspaper
    - Magazines/catalogs/phone books
    - Brown paper bags
    - Corrugated cardboard (flattened)
    - Office paper and junk mail
  - Co-mingled Products
    - Plastic bottles, jugs, jars and tubs (#1 – #7)
    - Glass bottles and jars
    - Aluminum cans
    - Steel/tin cans
  - Inspected by Solid Waste Division



# Working through Ordinance Revisions

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- Identify the issues/concerns, examples:
  - Zero Waste goals
  - Cost and implementation
  - Monitoring
  - Enforcement
  
- Identify methods to resolve the issues



# Subcommittee Goals

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- Step 1: Identify the Issues/Concerns
- Step 2: Determine Applicability
  - Who/what shall the “fixes” apply to?
  - When will the ordinance take effect?
- Step 3: Identify specific ways to address the stated concerns, for example:
  - Zero Waste - Should a diversion goal be created?
  - What materials are included?
  - Will there be any exemptions?
  - Who will enforce the ordinance?
  - What are the penalties for violations?



# Roles and Responsibilities

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- ❑ Subcommittee serves as voting body
  - Listens to and considers public input
  - Reviews documentation provided by stakeholders/staff
  - As a body, makes recommendation to SWAC and Council
  
- ❑ Staff serves as a resource
  - Communicates to all stakeholders – meeting notices, notes, etc
  - Identifies impact to city operations, legality, etc
  - Researches issues
  - Provides staff recommendation on:
    - Subcommittee recommendation to SWAC
    - SWAC Recommendation to Council



# Roles and Responsibilities

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- Stakeholders provide input to Subcommittee:
  - Impact of ordinance to operations, costs, customers, markets, etc
  - Suggestions to modify recommendations being considered
  - Stakeholder “needs” to implement the ordinance and make it effective



# Timeline

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- ❑ Subcommittee shall meet twice per month
- ❑ November 5, 2009
  - Provide progress to SWAC and Council
  - Progress can be in the form of a report/memo
- ❑ December 9, 2009
  - Full SWAC discussion and action
- ❑ January 1, 2010
  - Submit recommendations to City Council



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# Question & Answer

[www.austinrecycles.com](http://www.austinrecycles.com)

