



City of San Antonio Sustainability Plan

Solid Waste Resources

Draft

Vision

All residents and businesses have access to and receive ongoing benefits from innovative recycling and solid waste diversion programs.

Outcomes

SW1: Increased composting, recycling, and diversion opportunities for all sectors in the community.

SW2: San Antonio is a recognized leader on best practices in solid waste diversion

SW3: Enhanced outreach for the curbside recycling and composting programs.

Strategies

- Design and implement an effective commercial business waste reduction and recycling program

Waste from commercial businesses in San Antonio is collected by private haulers and very little information is available on the amount and types of waste coming from that sector. This strategy would further develop the City's engagement with commercial businesses and help to identify how they can be part of the solution to reduce overall waste that is sent to the landfill.

- Partner with other Texas municipalities to improve statewide recycling framework

Working in collaboration with other cities throughout Texas could help create more incentives to support the collection of additional items for recycling and composting

- Identify opportunities to foster markets for commercial recycling and organic material composting

This strategy focuses on making connections between the materials that are being recycled and composted and those businesses that use the recycled materials as a resource for their products.

The Solid Waste Resources Focus Area assesses the solid waste cycle and current facilities to promote approaches that reduce the negative impact on the environment and public health.

- Conduct a waste characterization study

A waste characterization study determines the type of material that is disposed of and helps identify areas of improvement for diversion programs

- Convene a national working group to discuss the potential development of a standard methodology for calculating zero waste

This would be an opportunity for the City of San Antonio to coordinate with cities from around the nation to standardize how each is determining their path to a future that turns all waste into a resource.

- Develop new outreach and education materials specifically targeted at those audiences/neighborhoods with the lowest recycling rates to encourage proper recycling and composting through clear, multi-lingual messages

This strategy would be a targeted marketing and education campaign focused specifically on those neighborhoods that are underperforming as it relates to recycling and composting.

- Expand outreach and education on recycling and composting at City events

The City can support the education of the community through ensuring all City-sponsored events provide facilities and signage to properly dispose of waste.

- Identify opportunities to improve technology and processes at waste management facilities to expand the types of materials that can be recycled and composted.

This strategy would help make more items available to be recycled or composted.

- Develop a program to work with developers to reduce the amount of construction and demolition (C&D) waste sent to landfills.

With the expected increase in population, there will continue to be significant new development within San Antonio. It will be important to ensure that the waste associated with this new development is reused or recycled.