Approaching Sustainable Recycling

**POPULATION** 820,611

**RECYCLING RATE** 38%

**RECYCLING PROGRAMS**
- Mandatory Residential & Commercial Recycling
- Food Waste Pilot Program
- Construction & Demolition: 50% recycling in downtown district

**MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**
- Single-family Residential: Municipal
- Multi-family/Commercial: Open-market (Recycling Ordinance)

**HIGH-ROAD ECONOMIC POLICIES**
- Residential Haulers: Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Multi-family/Commercial Haulers: Some contracts include living wage requirements
- Recycling Facility Workers: Living wage requirements

**Austin has emerged as a leader** as they work toward reaching a 75% recycling rate by 2020 and zero waste by 2040. In recent years the city took steps to strengthen Pay-As-You-Throw programs, switch to a single-stream system, and perhaps most importantly, the city passed the Universal Recycling Ordinance which will phase in a mandatory food scrap collection program. Although the city has taken many steps to create a high-road recycling sector that creates good jobs and economic development, there are opportunities to expand existing high-road jobs policies to raise standards for all recycling and trash workers.

**Source:**
- Interview with Austin Resource Recovery Department
- Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan (2010)