Travis County

Annual Sustainability Report 2023



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Message from the Director



Welcome to Travis County's FY23 Annual Sustainability Report.

Sustainability is our ability to maintain or support processes continuously over time - or adapt to changing conditions. From a governmental operational and policy perspective, sustainability represents our focus on efforts to prevent the depletion of natural or physical resources, so that they will remain available for future generations. The goal of Sustainability requires organizations to transform every aspect of their business in the face of a rapidly changing global environment.

And 2023 certainly showed us what a rapidly changing global environment will look like. El Niño brought us record global temperatures for both land and seas. Record rains and droughts brought floods and massive wildfires with great destructive force. The reality of climate change is upon us.

Sustainability must be a fundamental component in our Travis County strategies to serve the public today as well as for posterity.

The intent of this report is to provide an overview of Sustainability efforts and performance across county operations including energy and water usage, waste diversion and recycling, transportation, and other county policies and practices.

Collaboration and coordination are essential to our successes. We continue to enjoy excellent support from Facilities Management Department, the Office of Emergency Services, the Purchasing Office, Planning and Budget Office, and the offices of our Travis County Commissioners, and many others. We look forward to continuing these valuable relationships.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the figures, success stories, and information within this report. Sustainability is an organization-wide effort, and these results would not be possible without countless county employees helping to drive positive change day in and day out.

Sincerely,
Jon A. White
Director, Natural Resources & Environmental Quality Division
Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources Department



Highlights



RECYCLING & DISPOSAL SERVICES

- Expanded recycling services to include the new downtown Civil Family Courts Facility and five additional parks: Bob Wentz, Mansfield Dam, Mansfield Loop 360, Hippie Hollow, and Pace Bend.
- Performed site assessments to enforce contract compliance, accompanied by educational sessions to enlighten employees about services and resources provided by the Sustainability Team.
- Enhanced vendor partnerships via proactive engagement, fostering open communication and understanding. Conducted detailed contract reviews and renegotiations to streamline terms, boost efficiency, and drive cost savings.
- Re-established collaboration with the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Assisted in deploying forty brush roll-off dumpsters to Mansfield Dam and Northeast Metro Park following the February 2023 winter storm, which caused extensive tree damage throughout the County. Worked with Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) to provide for disposal of storm debris brush at no cost, where over 2 million pounds of brush was processed for mulch and compost. This effort was publicly accessible.

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Fitted lock bars on downtown recycling dumpsters to reduce contamination risks and safeguard recyclable materials.
- 57 Travis County buildings joined Austin Energy's voluntary Demand Response program, proactively cutting energy usage during peak periods from June to September. This effort slashed 336 kW, yielding $18,447 in revenue.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

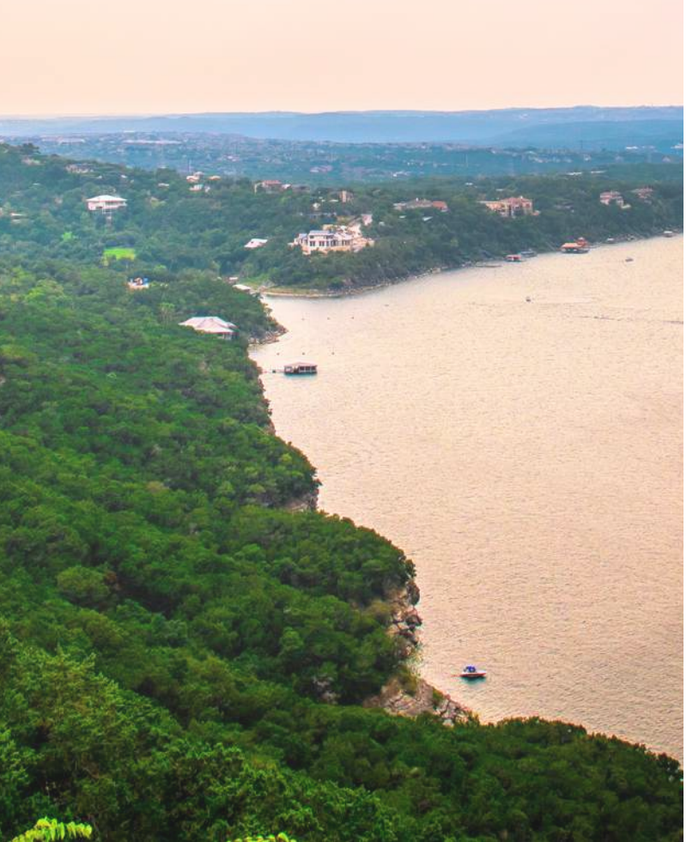
- Following the challenges of decreased participation due to COVID-19, our Green Team initiatives are being revitalized. Not only did we see a notable surge in meeting attendance, but also welcomed 8 new enthusiastic members.
- Revamped the Travis Central Container Request website, enabling employees from all facilities and parks to easily request recycling containers with a single click. This led to a doubling of recycling bin requests in June 2023 compared to prior months.
- Presented comprehensive trainings for employees on our disposal services, covering recycling, universal waste, and hazardous materials management.
- Boosted the number of employees committing to sustainability resolutions for the new year by over 100%.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Donated 775 gently used binders and attended events related to the Binder ReUse project, supporting educational initiatives in Austin ISD.
- Earth Day marked a triumphant return to in-person activities, with the Sustainability Team participating in and hosting waste disposal events and delivering presentations to Gardner Betts students.
- Secured funding for the upcoming eastside Spring Clean event.

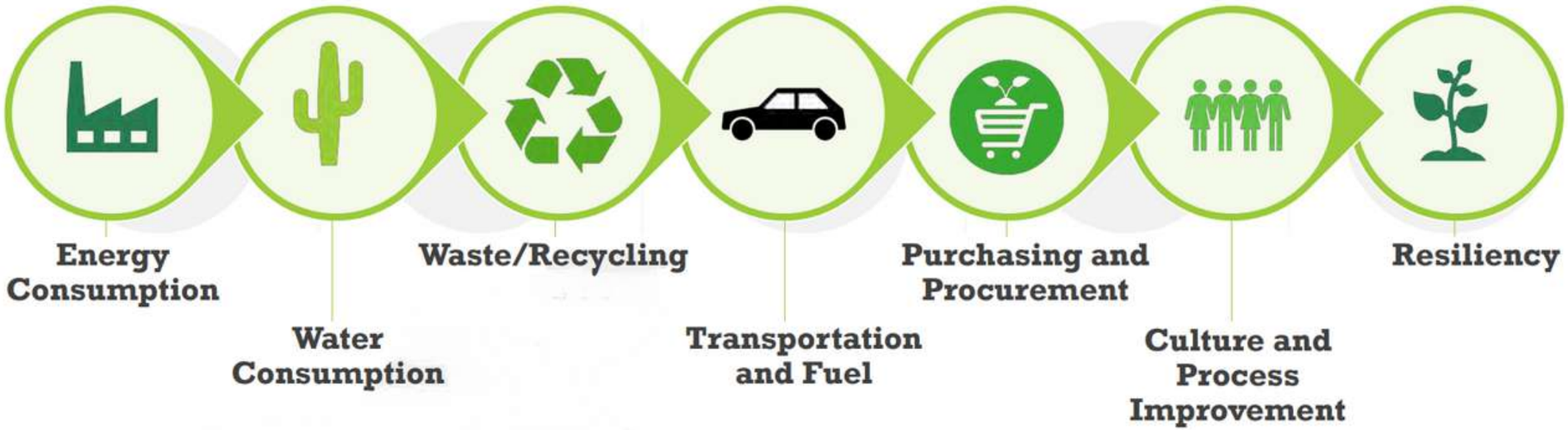


Climate Action Plan Updates



The internal Climate Action Plan was initiated in 2019 and formally approved in 2020, coinciding with the onset of the global pandemic. Divided into seven focus areas— energy consumption, water consumption, waste/recycling, transportation and fuel, purchasing and procurement, culture and process improvement, and resiliency— the plan delineated short-, medium-, and long-term goals for our organization's departments.

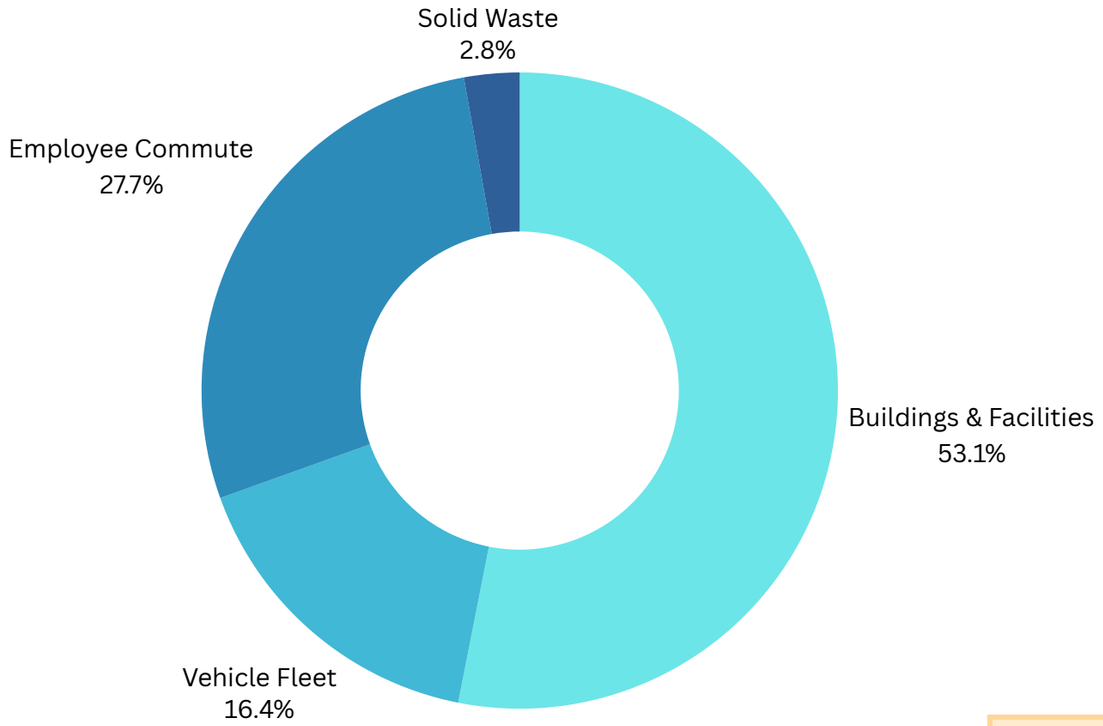
As it has been five years since its implementation, the Climate Action Plan is currently undergoing a comprehensive reassessment, especially given the shift to hybrid operations post-COVID. Departmental meetings are currently underway to review and update all goals, with plans to present the revised Climate Action Plan to the Court at a later date.

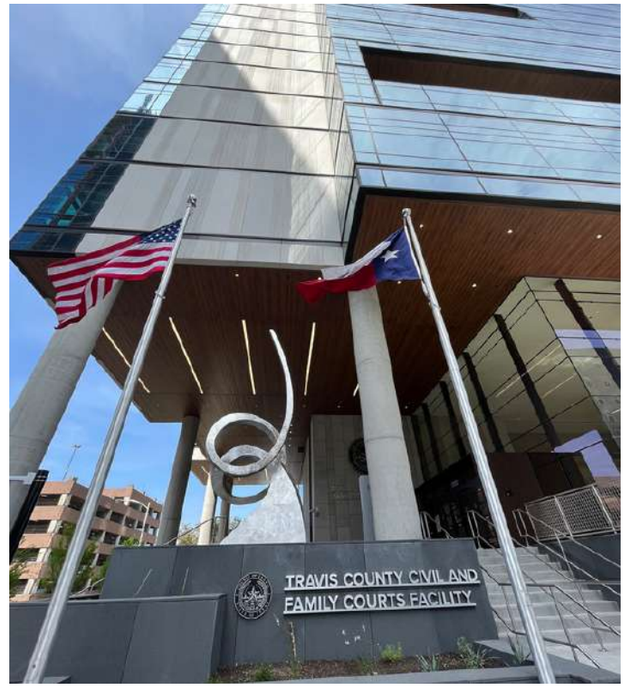


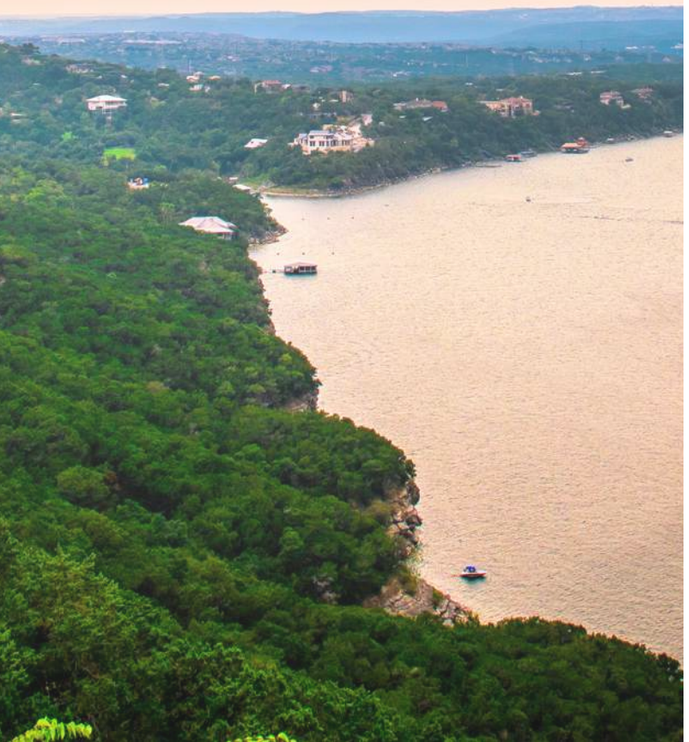
We've observed that numerous initiatives outlined in the Climate Action Plan have transitioned from being goals to established activities, indicating successful implementation. For instance, goals related to streamlining telecommuting processes and switching to digital over paper processes were accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting swift action.

Moreover, Travis County has made significant strides in sustainability efforts by incorporating water-saving plumbing features such as aerators, low-flow toilets, and implementing energy-efficient lighting in new construction projects. What was once a goal has now become standard practice in all our new County buildings, exemplifying our commitment to environmental stewardship and resource conservation.

GHG Inventory







Travis County experienced an uptick in overall internal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in FY23, witnessing a 14% rise, predominantly attributed to the introduction of the Civil Family Courts Facility in downtown.

In addition, the implementation of a more accurate reporting and data collection method led to an increase in employee commute emissions.

Travis County saw a 5% increase in emissions from buildings and facilities, a 3% increase from the vehicle fleet, a 40% increase in emissions stemming from employee commutes, and an 81% increase in solid waste emissions.

We're currently refining our approach to collecting data on solid waste emissions. As evident from the figures, there's a notable variance between FY21 and FY22/FY23. Additionally, the solid waste numbers initially reported in the FY22 Sustainability Report were inaccurate and have since been rectified in this report. While our efforts are ongoing, we're confident that these revised figures represent a significant step towards greater accuracy.

SECTOR	FY21 CO2e	FY22 CO2e	FY23 CO2e
Buildings & Facilities	23,700	24,646	25,995
Vehicle Fleet	6,768	7,825	8,035
Employee Commute	8,168	9,687	13,544
Solid Waste	4,404	761	1,378
Total	43,040	42,919	48,952

Transportation



In FY23, 493 employees enrolled in the **Commuter Leave Incentive Program (CLIP)**, comprising approximately 10% of the County's workforce. CLIP offers additional PTO as a reward for employees who opt for environmentally friendly commuting options such as teleworking or utilizing alternative transportation methods.

While this participation rate demonstrates a commendable effort towards sustainable commuting practices, there remains room for improvement. Encouraging more employees to join CLIP and embrace eco-conscious commuting choices not only reduces carbon emissions but also fosters a healthier work-life balance and contributes to the County's sustainability goals.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Transit Passes Distributed	601	789	616
Telecommute Participants	3,213	2,992	2,912
Telecommute Hours	3,261,935	2,531,770	2,169,448



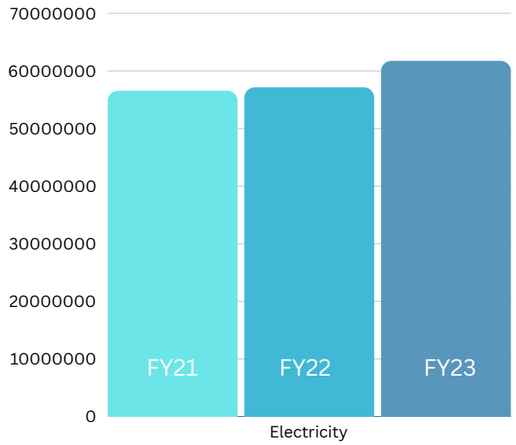
The electrification of county fleet vehicles holds significant importance in advancing sustainability and mitigating environmental impact. By transitioning from traditional gasoline-powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs), Travis County can drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, thereby contributing to cleaner and healthier community.

As of FY23, Travis County has purchased the following EVs:

- Two EV forklifts for fleet shops
- Ten EV mowers (FY22/23)
- Six EV Utility carts (FY22/23)
- One Ford F-150 Lightning used for the ride and drive and by various divisions within Travis County (demo)
- Thirteen Ford F-150 Lightnings on order for FY23 (these units are coming in now)

There are plans to purchase more EV and hybrid fleet vehicles in FY24. There will be a full EV update given to Commissioners Court on April 30th, 2024.

Utility Usage



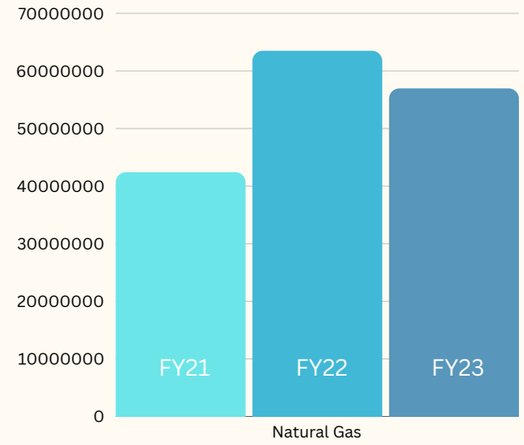
FY23 Electricity

- **Usage (kWh): 61,751,812**
- **Usage Per Capita (kWh): 12,089**

The 8% increase in electricity usage from FY22 to FY23 is largely attributed to the introduction of the Civil Family Courts Facility downtown.

Our primary electricity source remains non-renewable, with the exception of the Purchasing Warehouse, which has solar panels installed on its roof.

To effectively manage peak electricity demand, Travis County should increase its engagement in Demand Response programs, while also implementing energy-saving measures across county buildings to reduce costs and align with sustainability goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

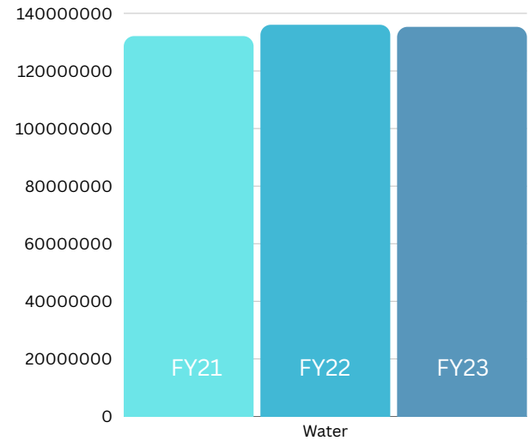


FY23 Natural Gas

- **Usage (ft3): 56,966,168**
- **Usage Per Capita (ft3): 11,152**

Travis County saw a 10% reduction in natural gas usage and a 14% decrease in costs between FY22 and FY23, mainly used for heating. An anomaly in reporting units caused discrepancies noted in the FY22 Sustainability Report, but recent data entries have improved consistency.

Moving forward, maintaining accurate data entry and enhancing energy efficiency remain priorities to reduce environmental impact and costs.



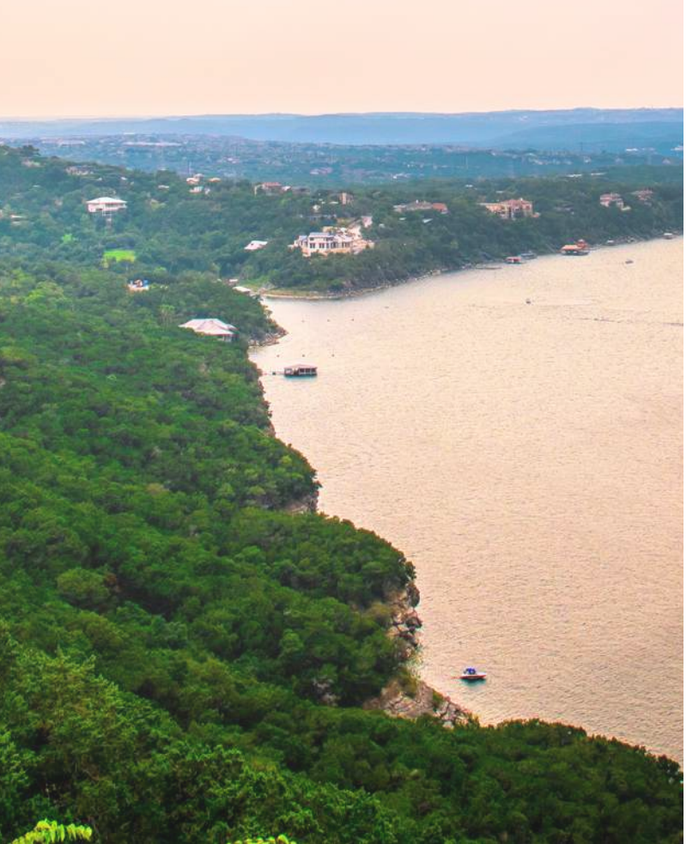
FY23 Water

- **Usage (gal): 135,313,934**
- **Usage Per Capita (gal): 26,491**

Water usage experienced a 1% decrease from FY22 to FY23.

The Civil Family Courts Facility (CFCF) was strategically constructed on the purple pipeline, denoting its utilization of reclaimed water. Travis County has forged an interlocal agreement with Austin Water to facilitate purple pipe services to both the CFCF and the Probate Court Building. Presently, five other county buildings benefit from this system, and all new county facilities will be built on the purple pipeline as well.

To further advance water conservation initiatives, it is advisable to extend these efforts to encompass existing buildings.



Success Story: Purple Pipe



Purple pipe reclaimed water is a term used to describe a specific type of water distribution system that delivers treated wastewater, also known as reclaimed water, for non-potable uses such as air conditioning and toilet flushing.

In this system, the pipes are often colored purple to distinguish them from pipes carrying potable (drinkable) water, which are typically blue or green. The use of reclaimed water helps conserve freshwater resources by repurposing treated wastewater that would otherwise be discharged into rivers, oceans, or other water bodies.

Purple pipe reclaimed water systems are increasingly used in regions facing water scarcity or where sustainable water management practices are prioritized. They offer a cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution for supplementing water supplies and reducing the strain on freshwater sources.

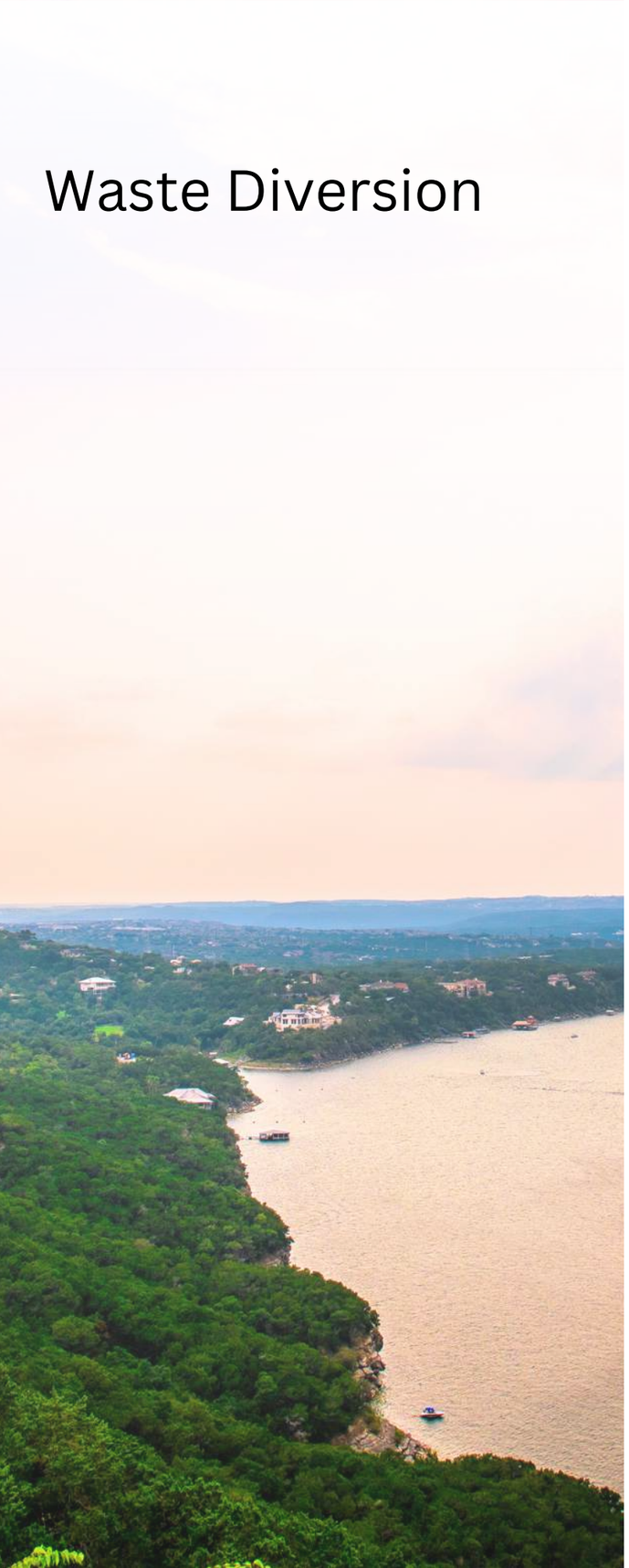
Travis County has an interlocal agreement with the City of Austin to extend services to the Civil and Family Court Building located at 1700 Guadalupe St. and the Probate Court Building at 200 W. Eighth St.

It is estimated that the purple pipe project would permanently eliminate Travis County's consumption of **45 million gallons annually**, leading to substantial cost savings for the County.

The following Travis County facilities currently using the purple pipe:
Ned Granger Building at 314 W 11th St.
Heman Sweatt Courthouse at 1000 Guadalupe St.
Administration Building at 700 Lavaca St.
Criminal Justice Center/Gault Building at 509 W 11th St.



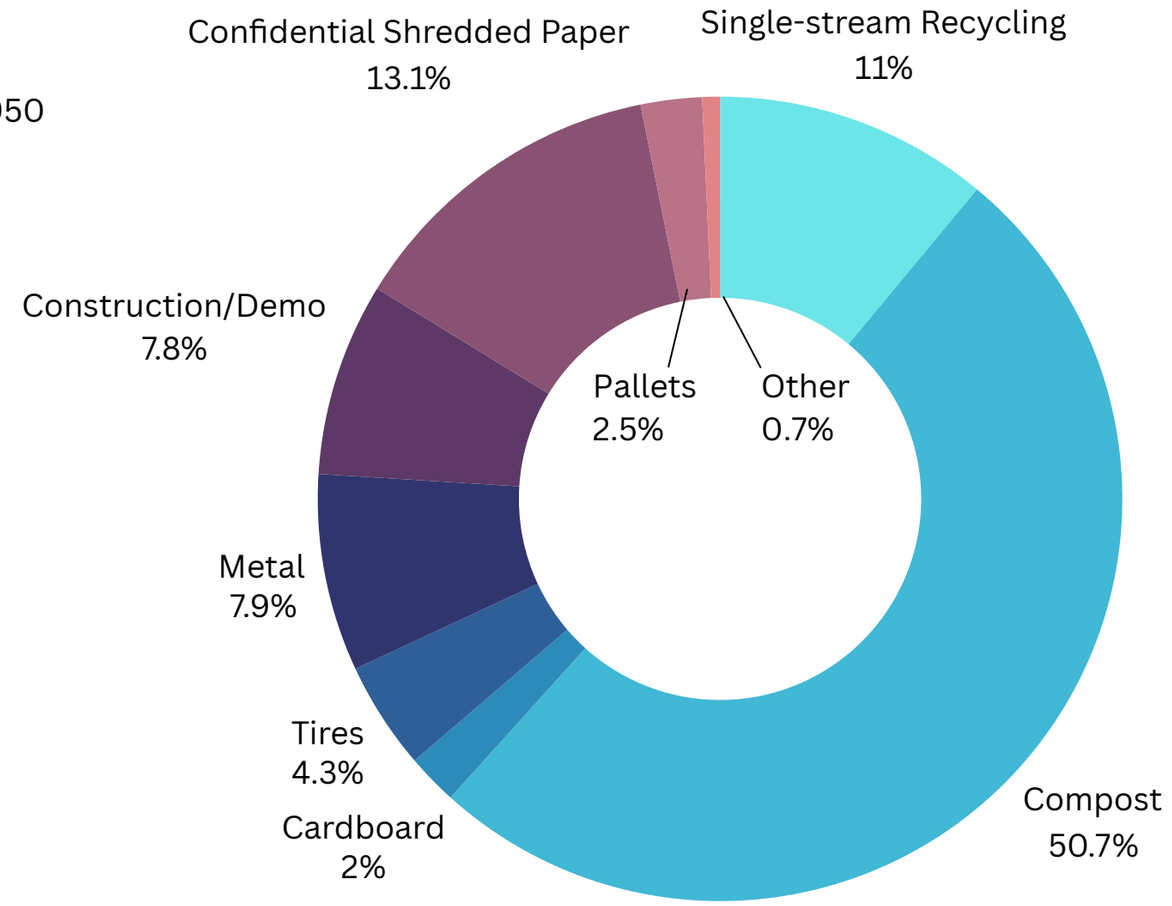
Waste Diversion



Travis County has made significant strides in waste management, boasting an impressive **waste diversion rate of 39%**, surpassing previous years. A substantial contribution to this achievement came from the composting of 2 million pounds of brush following the February 2023 winter storm, which toppled thousands of trees across the county.

Additional waste diversion streams for internal County operations include (in pounds):

- **Compost** - 2,302,353
  - Del Valle Correctional Facility - 7,915
  - Garder Betts Detention Center - 28,950
  - Animal Bins - 15,388
  - Brush - 2,250,100
- **Confidential Shredded Paper** - 594,124
- **Single-stream recycling** - 501,243
- **Metal** - 360,315
- **Construction/Demolition** - 353,247
- **Tires** - 196,980
- **Pallets** - 111,825*
  - *Using FY22 figure
- **Cardboard** - 92,800
- **Other**
  - **Automotive Fluids** - 25,619
  - **Batteries** - 4,134
    - Mixed Batteries - 1,186
    - Lead Acid Batteries - 2,948
  - **Printer/Toner** - 2,500





Success Story: Universal Waste



700 Lavaca Battery Recycling Station

COMMIDITY	FY21	FY22	FY23
Fluorescent Lamps (units)	1,472	1,465	582
Lamp Ballasts (lbs.)	97	33	33
Mixed Batteries (lbs.)	246	268	1,186

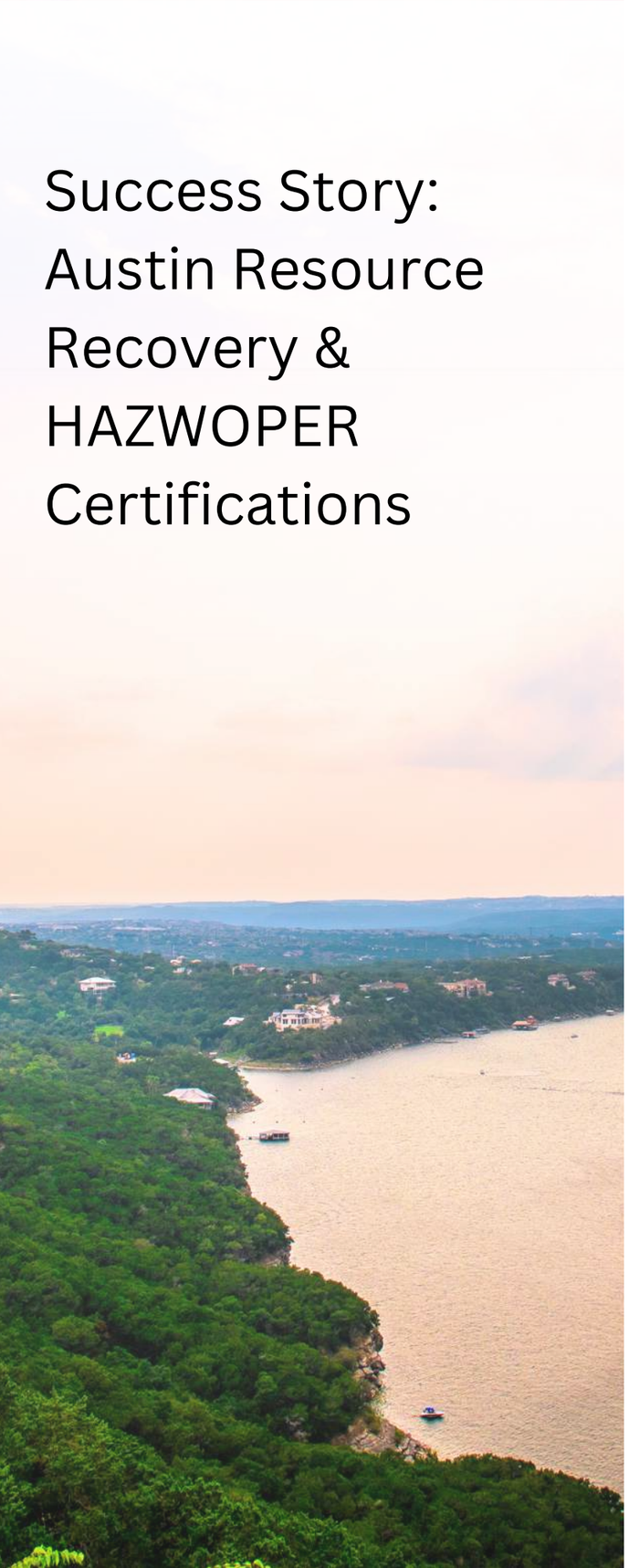


In FY23, Travis County made significant strides in expanding universal waste disposal efforts, exemplifying our commitment to environmental stewardship. Through a collaborative effort between the Sustainability Team and Facilities Management, more **battery recycling stations** are in the process of being established across the County, with a notable expansion of the existing station at 700 Lavaca. The impact of these initiatives was remarkable, as evidenced by the substantial increase in the pounds of mixed batteries disposed of, soaring from 268 pounds in FY22 to over 1,000 pounds in FY23.

This exponential growth can be directly attributed to the accessibility, convenience, and education of County staff regarding battery recycling stations strategically placed throughout County facilities. These stations feature multiple bins with clearly labeled compartments for different battery types, facilitating environmentally responsible disposal. Looking ahead, Travis County is poised to further expand its battery recycling infrastructure, ensuring continued progress in waste diversion efforts and promoting a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

Additionally, in FY23, Travis County observed a decline in the disposal of fluorescent lamps compared to previous years, signaling progress towards more sustainable lighting practices. This decrease is attributed to the County's ongoing efforts to transition from fluorescent lamps to energy-efficient LED bulbs whenever feasible, as outlined in the Climate Action Plan. By embracing LED technology, Travis County not only reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions but also minimizes hazardous waste generation.

Success Story: Austin Resource Recovery & HAZWOPER Certifications



Since 1997, Travis County and the City of Austin have coordinated on providing household hazardous waste services at the Austin Recycle and Reuse (ARR) Drop-off Center. Under the agreement, Travis County residents can drop off household hazardous waste at ARR. The county provides funding support for waste processing and disposal as well as for a staff position.

The amount of household hazardous waste diverted from landfills increased from 35% in FY22 to 42% in FY23! This increase can be partly credited to the development of a more streamlined process for hazardous materials disposal, in addition to the certification of two Sustainability Team staff members in HAZWOPER, made possible through a collaborative partnership with ARR and the Travis County Stormwater Team.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
County Households Served	2,039	4,268	4,762
Cost	$136,939	$197,442	$228,406
Percent Diverted	23%	35%	42%





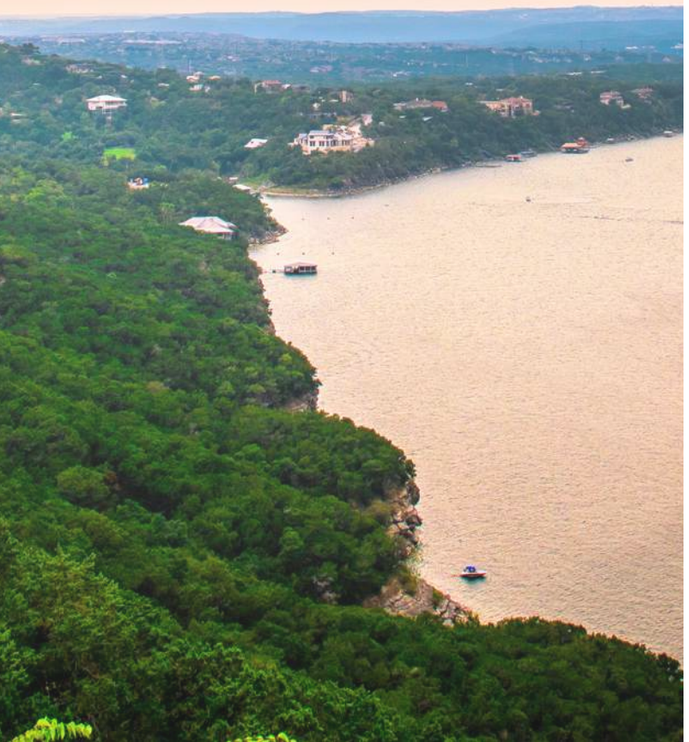


Diverting hazardous waste is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, hazardous waste poses significant risks to human health and the environment if not properly managed. By diverting it from landfills, we reduce the potential for contamination of soil, water, and air, thereby safeguarding public health and ecosystems.

Additionally, many hazardous materials contain valuable resources that can be recovered and reused through recycling or other recovery processes, promoting resource conservation and reducing the need for raw material extraction.

Finally, proper hazardous waste diversion helps to comply with regulatory requirements, ensuring that these materials are handled in accordance with environmental laws and regulations, ultimately contributing to a safer and more sustainable future.

Success Story: Del Valle Correctional Facility



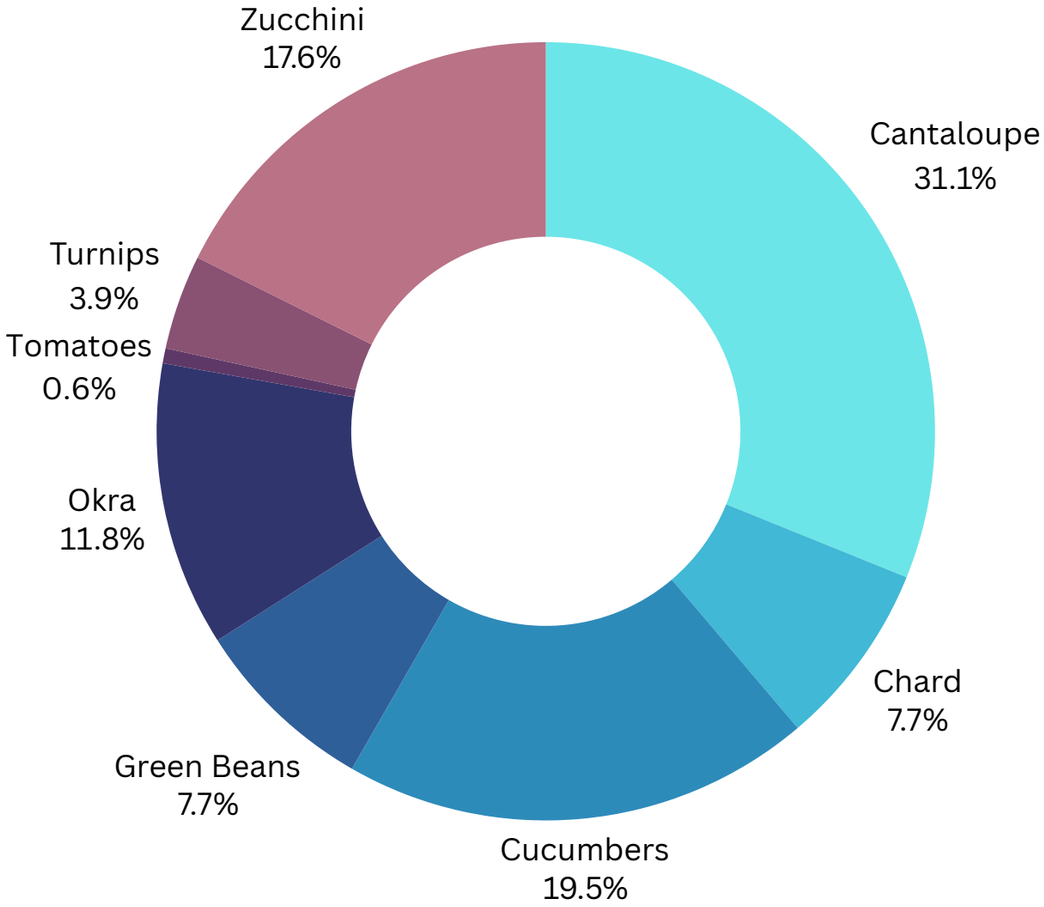
Beyond garden composting, the Del Valle Correctional Facility hosts various sustainable initiatives. For example, a fully equipped greenhouse employs an aquaponics system for compost/mulch for plant care, plastic screen protectors repurposed from Covid-era desks serve as garden bed containment, and the facility donates garden-grown food to the local food bank.

This garden-grown food is grown by inmates through the **Marketable Skills Program**. The food that goes to the food bank can be used by the family of inmates, which in turn can make the inmates feel like they are helping to support their family.

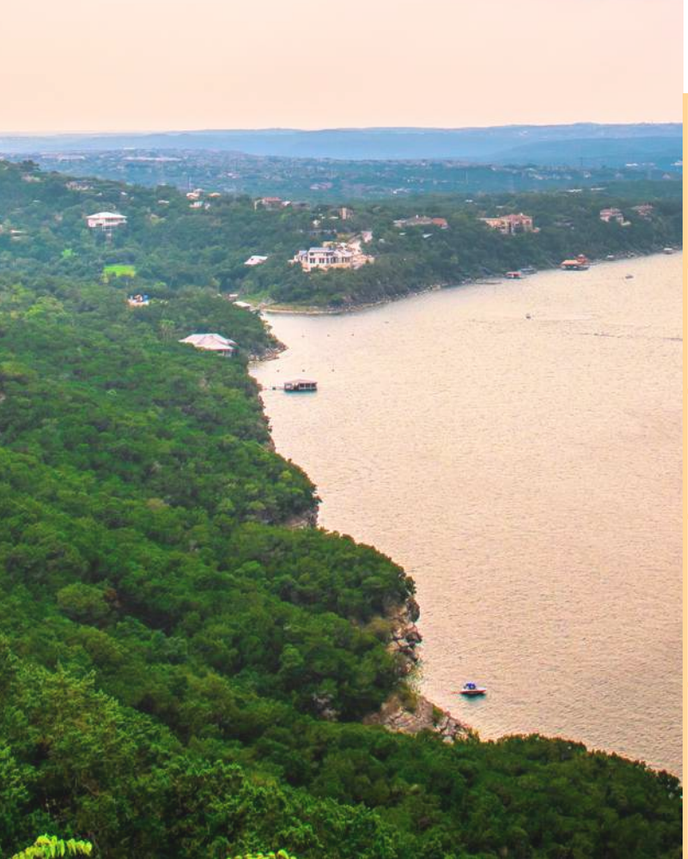
The vegetables from the Del Valle Correctional Facility yielded **482 pounds of produce**, equating to **402 meals** donated to the food bank. While the facility does not utilize this food for inmate meals due to logistical constraints—such as the inability to harvest sufficient quantities for 2,000 meals at once and challenges aligning with dietary guidelines—it significantly benefits the broader community through charitable donations.







Revenue

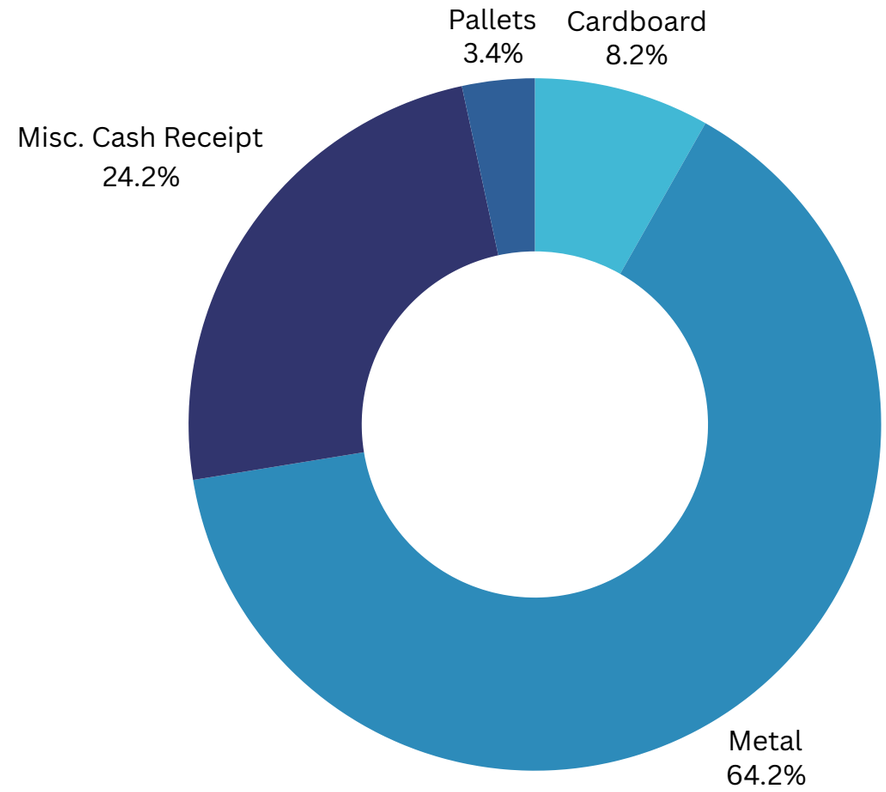


Recycling revenue serves as a significant boon to county operations, not only by promoting environmental sustainability but also by providing a valuable source of income. In fiscal year 2023, our efforts in recycling yielded a commendable revenue of $17,817, underscoring the financial benefits of our recycling initiatives. Among the various recyclable materials, metal emerged as the primary contributor to our recycling revenue, reflecting the success of our metal recycling programs and the demand for these materials in the market.

In addition to specific revenue streams, our recycling endeavors also encompass a miscellaneous cash receipt portion, representing general recycling revenue without a designated source. This flexibility allows us to capture revenue from various recycling activities, further bolstering our financial resilience and operational efficiency. The miscellaneous cash receipt portion does include our revenue from lead acid battery recycling, which generated $475.74 in revenue in FY23.

In FY23, Travis County experienced a decline in revenue from recycling compared to FY22, primarily due to the completion of the significant Civil Family Courts Facility in downtown Austin during the previous fiscal year. The construction of this large-scale project in FY22 resulted in a substantial amount of metal and cardboard recycling, contributing to higher revenue levels during that period. With the completion of the facility, the volume of recyclable materials generated from construction activities decreased in FY23, leading to a corresponding decline in recycling revenue. Despite this decrease, the County remains committed to sustainability efforts, continually seeking opportunities to enhance recycling initiatives and promote environmental stewardship across all operations.

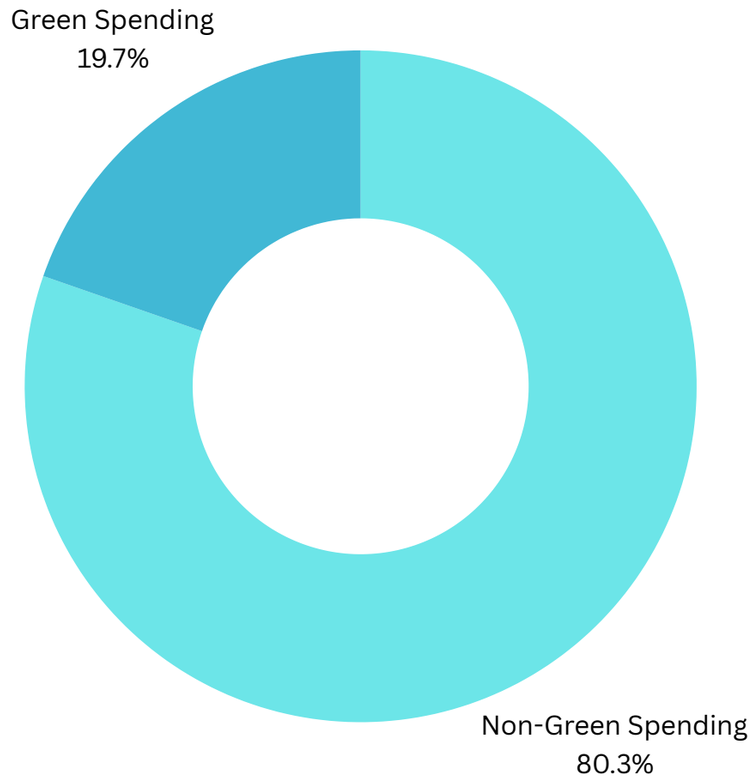
COMMODITY REVENUE	FY21	FY22	FY23
Cardboard	$1,586	$4,687	$1,522
Metal	$17,526	$18,014	$11,924
Pallets	$1,393	$1,740	$628
Revenue Total	$20,505	$24,181	$17,817



Green Spending

Green spending within county government organizations plays a crucial role in advancing sustainability initiatives while also driving positive environmental and social impacts. With 20% of our purchases meeting green criteria, Travis County demonstrates a commendable commitment to environmentally responsible procurement practices.

The increase in our green spending from 17% in fiscal year 2022 to 20% in fiscal year 2023 signifies a significant improvement in our sustainability efforts. This positive trajectory underscores our dedication to continuous progress and the effectiveness of our initiatives to promote green purchasing practices across county departments. By increasing our investment in sustainable products and services, we not only align our procurement practices with our environmental values but also position ourselves as a leader in sustainable government operations.





MEASURE (cases)	FY22	FY23
Virgin Paper	263	0
25% Recycled Content Paper	2,930	2,965
30%+ Recycled EPP Quality Paper	0	0
Per Capita Purchased	0.57	0.58

For paper to be considered an Environmentally Preferred Purchase (EPP), it must be made of 30% or more recycled content. According to our Print Shop, all the paper they procure is made of 25% recycled materials, which does not qualify as EPP.

According to Chapter 107.09c (2) of the Travis County Conservation Plan, “the cost of the product determined by life-cycle cost accounting does not exceed by more than 10% the cost of similar alternative products determined by life-cycle cost accounting not made of recycled material.” 30% or more recycled content paper is more than this 10% rule.

While current purchasing rules impose limitations on the option of acquiring paper with 30% recycled content, our steadfast commitment to promoting recycled content paper remains unwavering. In FY23, despite constraints, we procured nearly 3,000 cases of paper containing 25% recycled content, just below the 30% EPP qualification threshold. This increase in the amount of recycled content paper cases from the previous year demonstrates our dedication to sustainability efforts and signifies progress towards our goal of maximizing the use of recycled materials in our procurement practices.

Employee Engagement



Being a **toner ambassador** involves promoting eco-friendly disposal of toner and ink cartridges, crucial for minimizing ecological footprints. In FY23, Travis County had 62 dedicated toner ambassadors. Similarly, County **battery ambassadors** play a vital role, leading us to launch new battery recycling training and website updates, recognizing the importance of proper battery disposal in environmental sustainability.

The Travis County **Green Team** is pivotal, fostering a sustainable culture and driving environmental initiatives. Serving as a catalyst for change, we promote education, collaboration, and innovation to reduce environmental impacts. In FY23, our monthly attendance nearly tripled, showcasing increased employee commitment to sustainability.





Providing **recycling and universal waste trainings** to staff promotes proper waste management and regulatory compliance. These empower employees with skills to sort and dispose of materials safely, minimizing environmental impact. In FY23, Travis County's Sustainability Team significantly expanded efforts, training nearly 70 employees.

In FY23, we updated the sustainability section of **New Hire Orientation** to highlight our achievements and initiatives, ensuring staff are engaged from day one. Over 1,000 staff completed NHO, with over 800 completing **Environmentally Preferred Purchasing training**.





This fiscal year, updates to our **Recycling Bin Request** website simplified the process for all staff to request recycling and universal waste containers, improving accessibility and management of waste disposal needs. In FY23, 236 recycling containers were provided to County facilities and parks through this platform.



Public Engagement



Since 1994, the **Lake Travis Cleanup** has become a highly anticipated event, engaging the community and enhancing the cleanliness of westside waterways. Volunteer participation and litter removal nearly doubled from FY22 to FY23, with 600 volunteers removing over 4 tons of litter and recycling materials, showcasing the community's commitment to preserving our local waterways.



The **Christmas Tree Recycling** event flourished, mulching 1,124 trees—an 84% increase from the prior year. We enhanced accessibility by adding a new location at Northeast Metro Park. Recycling trees diverts organic waste, enriches soil health, and offers an eco-friendly holiday option for residents.



Travis County joined the **Creedmoor Bulk Cleanup** event, enabling responsible waste disposal for southeast Travis County residents. We safely landfilled 17.7 tons of trash and recycled 2.9 tons of metal, providing crucial disposal options and promoting sustainable waste management in underserved communities.



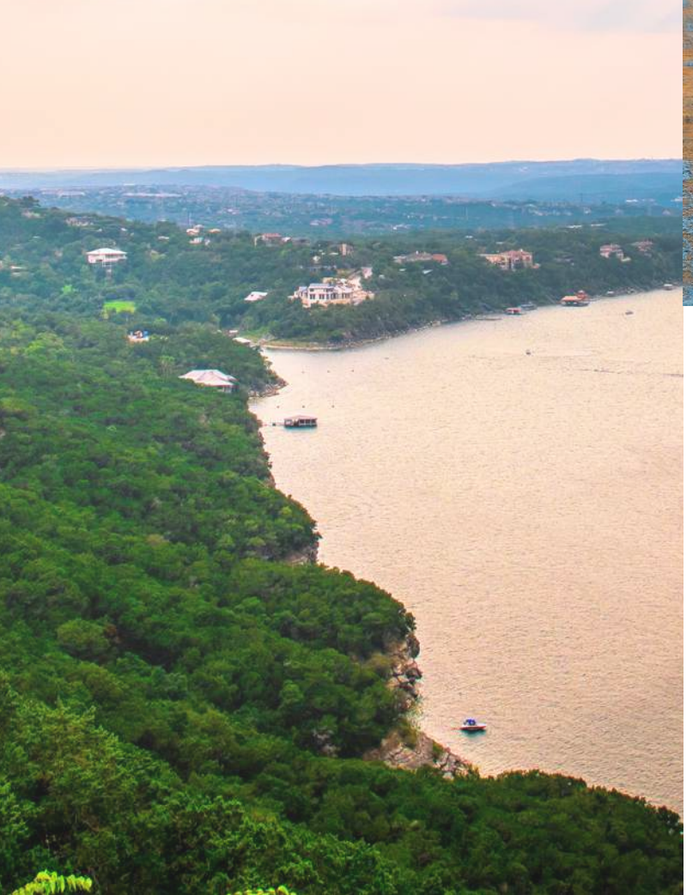
Our **donation of 775 binders** to the Austin Independent School District not only assists in providing teachers and students with essential educational materials but also contributes to waste reduction efforts by repurposing gently used resources.



Drug Take Back Day prevents improper pharmaceutical disposal, safeguarding waterways and health. In FY23, Travis County collected 1,310 pounds of medication through events and permanent disposal kiosks at all five Constable Precinct locations.



Success Story: Earth Month



Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22nd, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness and inspiring action for environmental protection. It serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving our planet's natural resources and ecosystems for future generations. On Earth Day, individuals, communities, and organizations worldwide come together to participate in various activities such as tree plantings, clean-up events, and educational workshops to promote sustainability and address environmental challenges.

The Travis County Sustainability Team eagerly embraces Earth Day, extending our efforts throughout the month to celebrate and promote environmental awareness and sustainability initiatives.

The 2023 Earth Day theme was **"invest in our planet,"** highlighting the critical need to prioritize investments in environmental conservation and sustainability initiatives to mitigate climate change and protect the health of our planet.



During **Earth Month**, the Sustainability, Environmental Resilience, and Stormwater teams collaborated to deliver engaging environmental presentations to **Gardner Betts** students. Covering themes such as the history of Earth Day, environmental justice, and environmental job opportunities, these presentations provided valuable insights and practical tips for fostering a more environmentally conscious lifestyle.



FY23 marked the beginning of a return to in-person Earth Day-related events after a period of remote or limited gatherings. As we look ahead, we are thrilled about the prospects of reinstating these events, fostering community engagement, and promoting environmental awareness. The resumption of these activities signifies a positive step forward in our collective efforts to celebrate and protect our planet, filling us with optimism for the future of Earth Day celebrations and their impact on sustainability initiatives within our community.

Environmental Resilience



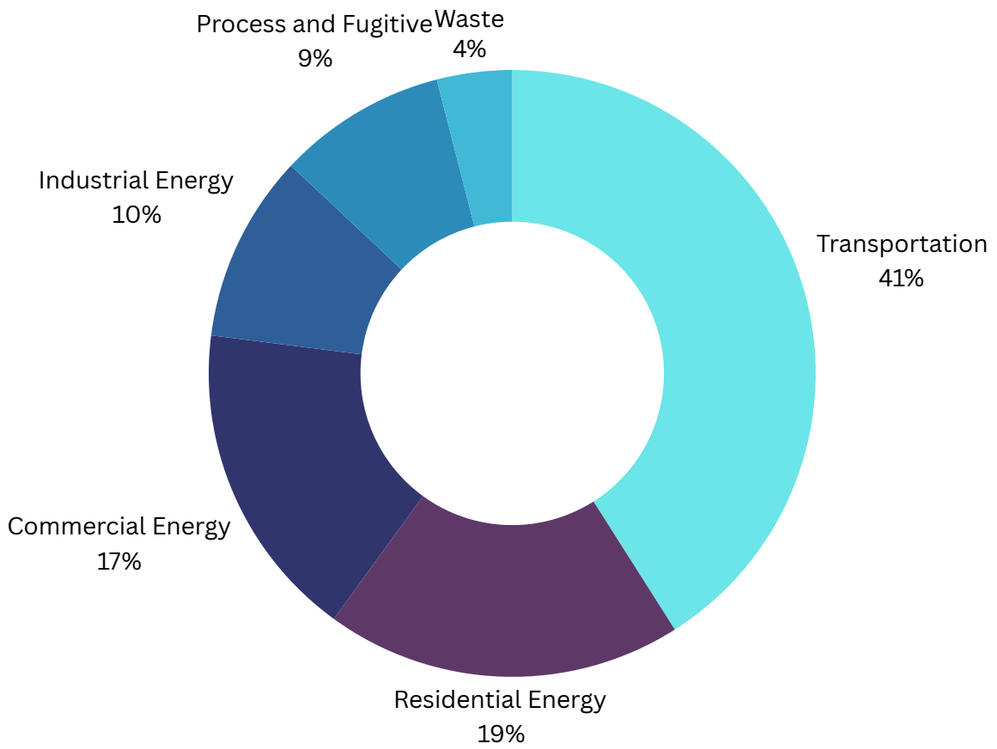
In its first two years, the **Environmental Resilience Program (ERP)** has worked collaboratively towards a safer, more resilient future for the Travis County community through comprehensive planning, strategic partnerships, research, and education.

Key Milestones:

- Developed Travis County's inaugural **community-wide greenhouse gas inventory**, in collaboration with the City of Austin's Office of Sustainability, with technical expertise provided by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, and using data provided by key stakeholders in the county. These findings were presented to Commissioner's Court.



2021 Travis County Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory:



- Launched a public-facing website that provides resources and guidance on climate change including local projections, resilience strategies, and climate-smart actions that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public health.
- Engaged with the Texas State University's Center for Government Innovation to develop an internal planning tool. Travis County departments will be use it to better understand how County infrastructure, facilities, and operations may be affected by climate change and what strategies and practices can increase resilience to climate impacts (this project is ongoing).
- Through a joint application, Travis County and the City of Austin were chosen to participate in the international Cities Forward Program, funded by the US State Department. This initiative supports local governments in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States in creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient futures. It offers peer-to-peer project consultations, facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity-building, and fosters diplomatic engagement. The Austin-Travis County team was paired with Merida, Mexico. Staff is currently collaborating with their Mexico partners on food system resilience planning.

Environmental Resilience Cont.



Key Milestones Continued:

- Played a key role in the development of the Austin-Travis County Food Plan, which is now nearing completion. Contributed to other local planning efforts including Travis County's Land Water Transportation Plan update, the Travis County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan update, and the City of Austin's One Austin Resilience Strategy and Heat Resilience Playbook.
- Changed name from Community Resiliency Program to Environmental Resilience Program to better align with its mission and purpose.
- Created a webpage to address common water-related concerns including drought, flooding, and conservation strategies.
- Co-hosted internal cross-departmental Travis County Resilience Stakeholders meetings with the Office of Emergency Management to discuss climate change's impacts on Travis County infrastructure and operations and to explore mitigation strategies and funding opportunities.
- Partnered with regional allies on several grant opportunities aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and bolstering climate resilience.

Next Steps:

In FY24, ERP is launching a community-wide planning effort to achieve the Travis County Commissioners Court's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Travis County community to net-zero by 2050. The plan will prioritize addressing equity, maximizing community benefits, and facilitating cross-sector collaboration in achieving the Court's ambitious goal.

Together, we are building a community that is prepared, informed, and empowered to face the challenges of climate change, while also doing our part to reduce our climate impacts.



Recommendations



- Update our Climate Action Plan
- Increase Green Team participation and active membership by identifying opportunities for engagement in Green Team activities
- Implement the Green Team Incentive Program for County employees
- Provide an FTE for the Sustainability Team that will focus primarily on sustainable initiatives at Del Valle Correctional Facility and Gardner Betts
- Collaborate with TNR-HR and participate in New Hire Orientation (NHO) meetings. Provide new employees with an overview of the Sustainability Program and the services we provide (ambassador programs, EPP training, Green Team membership, disposal assistance, education and outreach, etc.)
- Require a sustainability refresher course to be completed by all employees every two years
- Work with vendors and Purchasing to improve EPP tracking and reporting
- Encourage County employees to reduce paper consumption and purchase paper made from recycled content
- Augment the copier paper budget to accommodate the cost differential for recycled content paper
- Initiate a contract with a supplier of recycled-content paper
- Provide formal annual universal waste management training to employees who manage and/or handle universal waste as part of their job responsibilities
- Reduce trash collection services and utility usage in buildings/facilities where most employees are telecommuting
- Expand County participation in additional electricity demand response programs
- Deploy additional water bottle filling stations in County facilities
- Create a dedicated webpage or reuse platform for accessing county resources and supplies
- Amplify the Travis County and Travis Central Conserve webpages to help the Sustainability Team share our message more widely and ensure regular updates to the content



Acknowledgements

- Paiton Upshaw and the Sustainability Team for collecting, analyzing, and summarizing all the data that makes up this report
- Climate Resiliency and Air Quality staff for their collaboration with the Sustainability Team and special project contributions
- The CARS Department for their work in supporting sustainable paper purchasing and records management recycling
- To all Green Team members and other employees who have worked as a Toner or Battery Ambassador, or who have gone the extra mile to assist the county with waste diversion
- Parks and Road & Bridge staff who assisted with Christmas Tree recycling efforts, in addition to their ongoing dedication to proper disposal methods
- Parks staff for their efforts in the Lake Travis Clean Up
- Travis County Constables for their collaboration with the national Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to ensure the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals
- The Web Team and the Public Information Office for their constant support in helping promote Sustainability Team events and messages
- The Auditors Office and Facilities Management staff for their assistance and support in collecting information for this report
- Purchasing and Auditor's Office staff working to improve and advance County Environmentally Preferable Purchasing efforts
- Steven Wentrcek and the entire team at the Del Valle Correctional Complex for taking ownership and making innovative sustainability ideas come to life
- Gardner Betts and John Furnis for their work on the juvenile probation composting program
- TNR Fleet staff for their help in ensuring an accurate greenhouse gas inventory and for their efforts to reduce the fuel consumption of the county vehicle fleet
- ITS staff, Human Resources staff, and Adele Noel (Air Quality Project Manager) for their continued efforts to assist county employees with effective telecommuting
- Travis County Health and Human Services, our local medical experts, essential workers, and front-line staff for their unwavering commitment to protecting our community and maintaining essential services throughout the pandemic
- Facilities Management staff for their work in energy reduction, waste diversion, and overall conservation efforts for existing and new building complexes
- Human Resources staff and Donna Winters for their assistance in creating SAP trainings
- County Judge and the Commissioners for all of their continued support of our sustainability initiatives



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