



## **WHISPERS**

**Thursday, October 6, 2016 by Nora Ankrum**

### **Airport recycling takes off**

Recycling at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport has more than doubled since the airport began a partnership with Texas Disposal Systems one year ago, according to TDS.

Apparently weary travelers are no longer too weary to separate trash from recyclables thanks to TDS' efforts, which have included increasing the number of recycling bins, improving signage and expanding training of airport staff.

Overall, the amount of landfill-bound waste was down 13 percent in the last year compared to the previous year. This early success is just the beginning, according to TDS. Next on the horizon for ABIA: composting.

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## City of Austin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Texas Disposal Systems diversion rates more than double in first year of recycling at airport



Increase comes in just first year of partnership.

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS), a leading resource management company that helps customers manage and divert waste to beneficial uses, is celebrating one year of partnership with Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA), where diversion rates have more than doubled under TDS supervision. Together, the amount of materials being sent to the landfill has been reduced by 13 percent, compared to the previous provider's final year of operation.

The company began trash and recycling operations at ABIA in October 2015 to improve diversion rates, which jumped significantly in the first month of service and have continued to increase over the past year. TDS services the entire airport and currently employs five full-time employees who are located onsite. The terminal recycling program collects an average of 52 tons of recyclable material every month, which translates to 15,600 cubic yards over the course of a year.

"Together, TDS and ABIA are committed to diverting waste from the landfill to beneficial uses whenever possible," said Jen Sembera, Recycling and Composting Coordinator at TDS. "We are excited to continue our partnership with ABIA and help them work toward growing their diversion rates even more and further reducing the impact to our environment."

To help diversion efforts, ABIA significantly increased the number of terminal recycling containers, and the airport's blue bag program ensures that recyclables make it to the correct TDS collection container. ABIA also attributes the increased diversion rate to a high level of customer service and improved employee education. TDS has trained all ABIA custodial staff regarding proper recycling and disposal techniques, and will soon expand training to include airline, restaurant and retail employees. The company also introduced new signage in areas such as employee break rooms and luggage carts on the tarmac to encourage good recycling habits.

"TDS and the airport are committed to reducing waste," said Kane Carpenter, Environmental Services Manager at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. "We look forward to working with TDS to exceed next year's waste diversion goals."

In the near future, TDS will begin composting services at ABIA. All food and beverage vendors will be trained by TDS and ABIA staff and have behind-the-scenes composting stations for compostable waste.

### About Texas Disposal Systems

Texas Disposal Systems is one of the largest independently-owned solid waste collection, processing and disposal companies in the nation. Our fully integrated facility incorporates solid waste disposal, compost production and recycling operations. We provide the highest quality and most environmentally friendly services in the best interests of our customers, employees and the community. Learn more about how TDS helps communities, organizations and schools manage and divert waste to beneficial uses at [www.texasdisposal.com](http://www.texasdisposal.com).

### About Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

The airport of choice for Central Texas is Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). Austin-Bergstrom extends a thank you to its airport partners and its 11.9 million passengers in 2015. Fly Austin on new nonstop destinations including Guadalajara, Mexico on Volaris, [www.volaris.com](http://www.volaris.com), Mexico City, Mexico on AeroMexico, [www.aeromexico.com](http://www.aeromexico.com), and to Cleveland, Pittsburgh and St. Pete-Clearwater, Fla. on Allegiant, [www.allegiant.com](http://www.allegiant.com). Find all nonstop routes with the free interactive flight guide on [www.abia.org](http://www.abia.org). Connect with us on Twitter, [@AUStinAirport](https://twitter.com/AUStinAirport), and Facebook, [www.facebook.com/abia](http://www.facebook.com/abia).

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