



TRUE CERTIFICATION | FACILITY CASE STUDY

# AUSTIN FC Q2 STADIUM

Austin, Texas, United States

# Q2 STADIUM

Location: Austin, Texas, United States

Type of Facility: Sports & Entertainment

Website: [AustinFC.com](http://AustinFC.com)

Certification Level: Platinum

Diversion Rate Upon Certification: 97%

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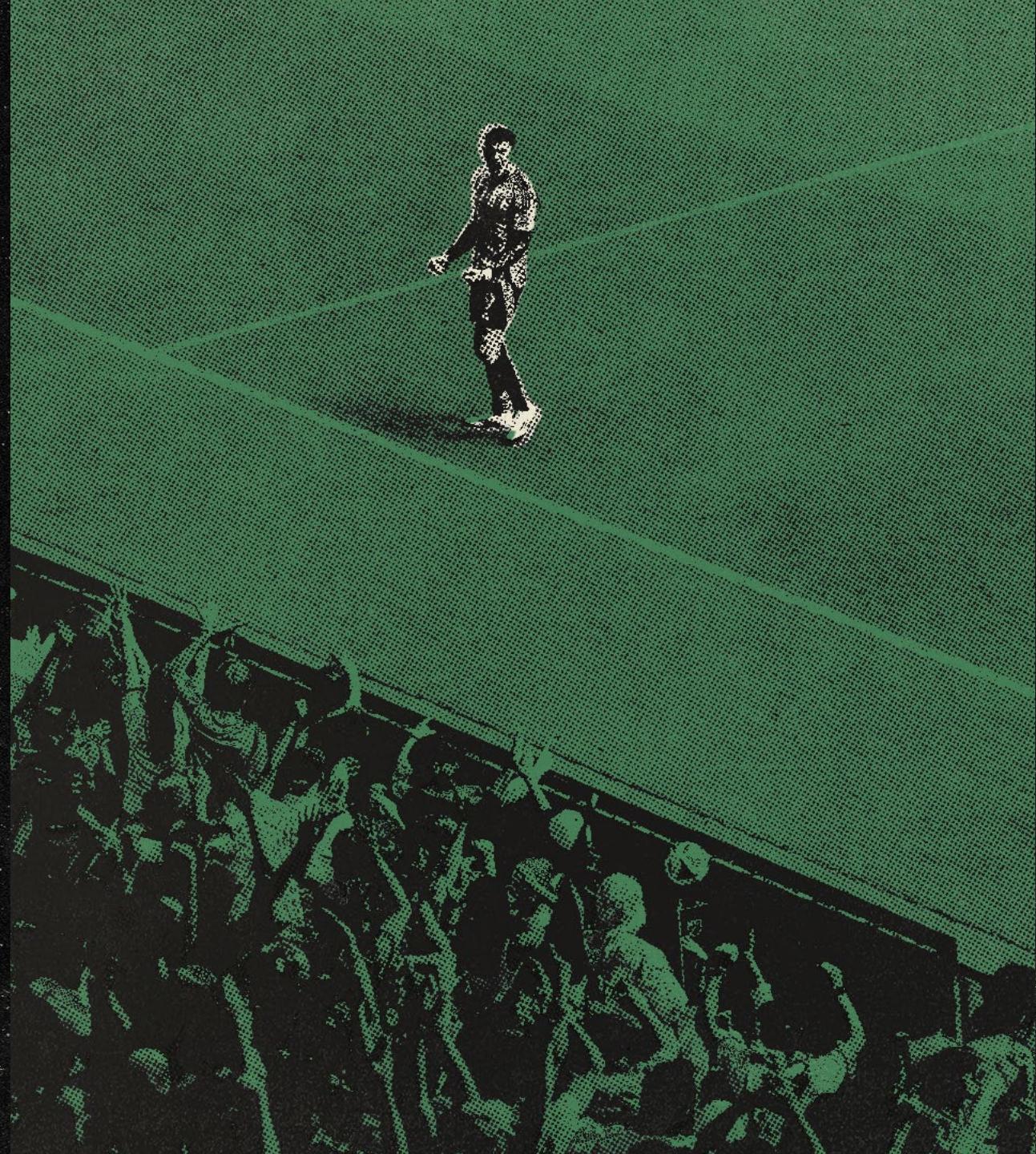
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# WHY ZERO-WASTE?

Since its inception, Austin FC has been committed to Sustainability as it remains a pillar of the brand and a guiding focus in the relationship with the Austin community. The Club's Zero-Waste goal is a key component of its overall Sustainability platform, Evergreen, which encourages fans to help protect and promote Austin's green spaces while highlighting resource efficiency and waste diversion. By annually diverting at least 90% of waste from landfills, Austin FC continually strives to create a cleaner environment at Q2 Stadium and in our community.



# BIGGEST WINS

## CUSTOM-BUILT RENOVATION TO WASTE SORTING ROOM

Adding conveyer belts to Q2 Stadium's waste collection room to create a more efficient and more comfortable sorting operation

Eliminating ancillary landfill dumpster and combining all waste-collection containers into one space

## FULL REVIEW OF F&B PACKAGING AND EPP DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration with Levy, the Club's F&B partner to adopt an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) guideline designed to reduce waste

Continuous tracking of all purchases and identification of all EPP items in existing catalogs.

Consistent analysis of product offerings and packaging options, specifically as new food vendors are introduced

# BIGGEST WINS

## HYDRATION STATIONS

In partnerships with YETI, installation of three hydration stations strategically placed around Q2 Stadium

Implementation of a stadium policy allowing for fans to bring their own reusable water vessels with the intent to reduce the presence of single-use plastic water bottles

Resulting in the annual reduction of ~50,000 plastic bottles from the stadium's waste stream

## SOD REPLACEMENT

In April of 2025, Austin FC's Grounds Crew completed a full replacement of the Q2 Stadium pitch, amounting to roughly 2,500,000 pounds of sod spoils.

As a part of the Club's Zero-Waste initiative, 100% of that sod was diverted from the landfill and returned to the construction vendor to be repurposed in future projects.

# TRUE CREDITS

01	<b>Redesign</b>	09	<b>Leadership</b>
02	<b>Reduce</b>	10	<b>Training</b>
03	<b>Reuse</b>	11	<b>Zero Waste Analysis</b>
04	<b>Compost (Re-Earth)</b>	12	<b>Upstream Management</b>
06	<b>Recycle</b>	13	<b>Hazardous Waste Prevention</b>
06	<b>Zero Waste Reporting</b>	14	<b>Closed Loop System</b>
07	<b>Diversion</b>	15	<b>Innovation</b>
08	<b>Zero Waste Purchasing</b>		

# REDESIGN

- Continuous monitoring and updates to the locations of trash receptacles around Q2 Stadium
- Downsized 40-yard landfill dumpster to a 30-yard dumpster, and then again to an 8-yard compactor. Also added a 6-yard dumpster designated for grass-clippings
- Continued partnerships with Texas Disposal System (TDS) to help towards a path of zero-waste
- In collaboration Levy, the Club's F&B partner, identified products that did not align with the established Zero-waste goals. Alternative options were provided to all stadium food vendors



# REDUCE

- In partnership with YETI, installed hydration stations that help to eliminate more than 50,000 plastic water bottles from the stadium's waste stream annually
- Levy and TDS collaborated to ensure nearly all F&B products were recyclable or compostable to reduce waste
- Most office functions (scheduling, payroll, training) have transitioned to paperless operations, and all printers are set to double-sided printing (encouraged vendors to do the same)
- Exterior landscaping is made up of native plants to reduce yard trimmings that are maintained with grass-cycling when possible



# REUSE



- Each suite and employee kitchen is provided with durable food service ware as well as YETI reusable drinkware, and guests are encouraged to bring their own water vessels to reduce single-use plastic bottles
- Weekly pallet reuse is tracked by F&B personnel, caluating and recording by weight, size, and material
- Internal promotion of reuse by equipping staff members with their own computers, maintaining a reuse shelf for office supplies, using recycled printer paper, and donating unused furniture
- Food that is left over and safe for human consumption is donated to a local food bank

# COMPOST

RE-EARTH

- Compost collection bins are placed throughout the stadium, including back-of-house spaces, with housekeeping staff trained to properly separate waste
- Grass and tree trimmings are reused on-site in exterior landscaping, or sent to Austin Wood Recycling for further processing
- Food scraps and soiled paper are separated and hauled by TDS to an off-site composting facility
- The stadium partners with Clean Scapes who utilizes Austin Wood Recycling to purchase and reuse mulch derived from its own green waste



# RECYCLE



- Met the highest and best use for 100% of materials by weight for plant trimmings, food, polymers, wood, textiles, and soils
- Recycling collection bins are placed throughout the stadium, including back-of-house spaces, with housekeeping staff trained to properly separate waste
- The stadium collaborates with TDS, which operates their own Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to determine best end use and market for all recyclable materials

# ZERO WASTE REPORTING

- In partnership with TDS and Okapi Environmental Consulting, all data is tracked and documented in a comprehensive dashboard for easy and thorough analysis
- Event-by-event diversion percentages are reported on the Austin FC website to encourage awareness and accountability
- Expenses and other financial data related to waste diversion efforts are tracked and consistently included in regular business reviews

# DIVERSION



97%

In 2025, Q2 Stadium achieved a 97 percent diversion rate

# ZERO WASTE PURCHASING

**An Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) guideline was developed to minimize waste, prioritize sustainable goods, and educate stakeholders**

- The policy emphasizes durable goods in purchasing decisions, including reusable drinkware
- All janitorial paper products contain at least 20% post-consumer recycled content and office paper must be at least 30% recycled, with a strong preference for 100% recycled content in both categories
- Purchasing catalogs highlight sustainable products, with vendors providing alternative options when available
- Levy tracks monthly and yearly purchases of EPP items, and works with vendors to reduce landfill waste generated through packaging
- Operations staff prioritizes reusing existing furniture to reduce unnecessary purchases
- Q2 Stadium purchases products in bulk whenever possible to reduce packaging waste

# LEADERSHIP

- Austin FC's upper management has formally adopted a Zero-Waste policy
- Waste diversion performance, associated cost, and operational adjustments are all reviewed in quarterly meetings
- Employees are incentivized through training and recognition programs
- Vendors are required to manage their transport and delivery waste responsibly, returning pallets and excess materials
- Austin FC supports local environmental projects, such as park and lake cleanups, through Austin Parks Foundation



# TRAINING

- All employees receive a zero-waste policy document through the Club's online HR portal
- Zero-waste principles are included in employee orientation, along with documents from the City of Austin Commercial Recycling Program
- Waste diversion updates are communicated quarterly in staff meetings and community impact reports
- Recycling, compost, and landfill bins are clearly labeled, with staff training provided by TDS
- Purchasing agents receive training on EPP guidelines, ensuring alignment with sustainability goals
- The Vice President of Stadium Operations leads zero-waste initiatives, overseeing waste diversion, vendor coordination, and sustainability strategies
- Zero-waste training materials are available digitally, and physical resources and references are provided in waste sorting areas

# ZERO WASTE ANALYSIS



- Annual waste audits are conducted to assess and improve diversion efforts
- Audit findings are analyzed to implement waste reduction recommendations
- TDS conducts recycling stream audits to monitor contamination levels
- Waste diversion tracking is updated based on audit results, ensuring accurate contamination adjustments
- Employees actively participate in waste audits to support sustainability efforts

# UPSTREAM MANAGEMENT

- Vendors receive educational materials and are encouraged to eliminate non-recyclable packaging, especially plastic wrap and Styrofoam
- Vendors that agree to a zero-waste commitment receive preferred status
- A vendor pledge was introduced in June 2024 and included as a part of all third-party event contracts
- Austin FC works with partners to redesign product packaging for sustainability, reducing individually wrapped giveaway items

# HAZARDOUS WASTE PREVENTION

- Batteries and lightbulbs are collected and recycled using RecyclePak containers
- A Hazardous Waste Reduction Policy was implemented to minimize risks and provide guidelines for safe purchasing and handling
- Employees are encouraged to use designated universal waste collection containers for proper disposal



# CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM



- Green waste from exterior landscaping areas is recovered by CleanScapes, and later reused on stadium grounds
- CleanScapes uses locally sourced compost and mulching material throughout the landscaping areas at Q2 Stadium
- Office paper must contain a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content, with a preference for 100% recycled product
- Janitorial paper products must contain at least 20% post-consumer recycled content, with a preference 100% recycled paper

# INNOVATION

- Stadium waste collection room was renovated into a state-of-the-art material recovery facility. Project included custom-built conveyor belts, an adjustment to the existing trash chutes, a new split compactors, and additional digital and physical signage.
- To address large volumes of non-recyclable signage from events, Q2 Stadium worked with local reuse organizations and upcycling vendors to repurpose materials previously destined for the landfill. Single-use event specific signage has now been upcycled into art supplies, reusable bags, and clothing.
- Beginning in May 2025, Q2 Stadium developed relationship with H-E-B to deliver packaging plastic a local grocery store. Plastic that was once a consistent contributor to the stadium's landfill stream is now included in H-E-B's recycling operation.



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Sustainability was an integral part of Q2 Stadium's design, and it continues to be a top priority as we strive to make the venue a home that Austinites can enjoy for years to come. It's an honor to officially become the first soccer-specific stadium to earn this TRUE certification, in our commitment to a greener future.

-Andy Loughnane, Austin FC President