



# Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: April 20, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)

SUBMITTED DATE: April 15, 2021

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: April 8, 2021

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 6, 2021

## Subcommittee Goal:

Divert 90% of waste generated by the City of Palm Springs from landfill by 2030.

## Summary:

1. Reducing Single-use Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.
  - Manager Tallarico reported this item is being brought back to the Council, but the date has been fluid. He will continue to update the group as to the status of the presentation.
2. Battery Recycling Project
  - One container (25 pounds) of used batteries was shipped since the last report.
3. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
  - Coordinator Sheldon presented the updates of the signage for the downtown recycling containers at the Sustainability Commission meeting in March and confirmed final changes with the group at the SSCOWR meeting in April. Staff will make the temporary signs and work with maintenance to discuss posting the signs.
  - Manager Tallarico and Coordinator Sheldon met with Maintenance staff and discovered that Maintenance had painted some of the trash cans in Ruth Hardy Park gray – consistent with the new guidelines. They went to see the painted containers and shared photos at the April 8<sup>th</sup> SSCOWR meeting. Manager Tallarico will follow up with Commissioner McCann to discuss next steps.
4. Outreach
  - Nothing to report.
5. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements
  - Manager Tallarico will continue to coordinate with Palm Springs Disposal Services to identify non-compliant businesses and will develop an outreach campaign in late April.
  - City Council approved on April 8<sup>th</sup> the fine amounts for violations of the mandatory recycling and organics requirements.
6. Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
  - Nothing to report. Sustainability staff has not been informed about when the WWTP Capital Improvements staff report will be completed. He will provide an update to the SSCOWR as appropriate.
7. Neighborhood Earth Day Challenge
  - Two neighborhoods actively participated in the Neighborhood Environmental Challenge and will be recognized on Earth Day in front of City Council.

#### 8. SB 1383 Planning

- Manager Tallarico reported on progress related to SB 1383 at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. No additional direction was received, but two Council members – Kors and Holstege – were identified as liaisons for this topic moving forward.
- The City continues to have discussions with Palm Springs Disposal about compliance efforts, including updates to the Franchise Agreement and development of an ordinance.

#### 9. Bottle Fillers

- The City provided a request for reimbursement to the State for the installation of bottle filling stations purchased in late 2020 and early 2021 as part of the Beverage Container Grant Program.

#### 10. Shredding and E-waste Event

- The City is hosting an Electronic Waste, Shredding and Recycling event on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on the South Parking lot of City Hall. Additionally, Palm Springs Disposal Services will host a Bulky Items Collection event on the same day in the North Parking lot of City Hall from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### 11. Downtown Trash Enclosure Improvements

- No updates. Thai House continues to be the only business that has adopted organics service.

#### 12. Composting Grant

- SSCOWR members received a presentation on the community composting efforts to date. The presentation focused on the potential benefits of such a program. The project still needs to identify a space to move forward with a pilot effort to demonstrate the feasibility and assess the impact of the process. There is a growing number of community members interested in the topic, and the program could provide an opportunity to process food waste for multi-family complex dwellers, because they may not receive food waste management services like single family homes. The presentation is attached.

#### 13. Additional Materials Recycling

- No updates.

#### 14. Sustainability Scholarships

- Sustainability scholarships continue to be requested. The status of that program is reported under a separate Sustainability Commission meeting agenda item monthly.

### **Recommendation/Request**

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products to improve recycling rates and report on progress at future Commission meetings.

<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>	None
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	Follow up with businesses using the downtown trash enclosure. Continue Franchise Agreement discussions with PSDS. Follow up on community composting idea. Follow up on organics compliance efforts.
<b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>	N/A