



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 15, 2021	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: June 10, 2021
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 3, 2021	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July 1, 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.
 - The group discussed the expected changes the food ware ordinance and the feedback from the Council Subcommittee. In particular, the Subcommittee recommended eliminating allowances for compostable bio-plastics and including a requirement that all non-reusable food ware be fiber-based compostable by January 1, 2023, when the City should have its residential compost collection program underway.
 - Commissioner Miller requested that we invite Burrtec to a future meeting to describe their new organic waste processing facility at Edom Hill.

2. Battery Recycling Project
 - Staff have collected and shipped two containers of batteries (approximately 70 pounds) since the last report.
 - City facilities reopened in June and we expect regular battery collection to resume.

3. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
 - City staff will be posting the recycling signs on the downtown recycling containers before the June 15th return of Village Fest.
 - Sustainability Staff will work with Maintenance staff to review the proposed changes at Ruth Hardy Park and determine a path forward.

4. Outreach
 - Nothing to report.

5. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements
 - Manager Tallarico sent out 60-day notice letters to commercial properties that are non-compliant for both organics and recycling. The City and PSDS have started to receive responses and will follow up with individual property owners as needed. Additional notices will be sent out to businesses that are either non-compliant for either recycling or organics.

6. Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
 - Nothing to report. The City is still investigating the feasibility of improvements to the WWTP to accommodate food waste in the future as detailed in the April Capital Improvements Project Staff report to City Council. No specific plans are in place at this time, but the City will take advantage of that potential waste treatment process for food waste when it becomes available.

7. SB 1383 Planning

- The City continues to have discussions with Palm Springs Disposal about the updates needed to the Franchise Agreement to incorporate SB 13838 requirements. These talks are taking longer than anticipated.

8. Composting Grant

- The Composting Coalition continues to meet to discuss opportunities for a community composting pilot and program. City staff met with representatives of the group in May and discussed changes needed to the Franchise Agreement to accommodate community composting. The representatives provided an example of some potential language, but it was not necessarily consistent with the language in the current Agreement. Manager Tallarico is working on draft language and will share it with the Commission when it is ready.
- Representatives of the Composting Coalition also met with Staci Schafer, head of facilities maintenance at the City to update her on the project concept and identify any questions she may have. One suggestion that was made at the meeting was that the group may want to consider integrating the project into the new Whitewater Park being planned at the north end of Sunrise Way. Another meeting is being planned with the Director of Parks & Recreation in June.

9. 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.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	None
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	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.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	N/A