



# Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: May 18, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)

SUBMITTED DATE: May 13, 2021

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 6, 2021

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 3, 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 draft ordinance was brought before Council on May 6<sup>th</sup>. It was approved pending clarifications and changes. It will likely be brought back to Council at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff is working on the following:
  - Correct the reference to the waivers section in 5.87.002a.
  - Clarify language related to what paper products are allowed in 5.87.002b.
  - Clarify if we need to expand the fluorinated chemical limit to other food ware.
  - Clarify if “by request only” is just a request by the customer or if a vendor can ask.
  - Confirm the definition of plastic, which excludes bio-based plastics.
  - Potentially add a condition that disposables must be recyclable or compostable. (Related issue: whether to keep the requirement that compostable materials meet a standard if they are not going to be composted.)
  - Clarify the fee for disposable food ware.
  - Clarify how the people on aid programs would get their fee waived.
  - Ensure waiver and exemption language is clear enough to support a determination.
- Staff will discuss options related to the items above with the Sustainability Commission at its meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. Battery Recycling Project

- Staff have collected and shipped six containers of batteries (approximately 210 pounds) since the last report.
- With facilities reopening, we expect drop-offs will increase steadily this summer.

### 3. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.

- Coordinator Sheldon has received the temporary signs and is scheduling a meeting with Maintenance to discuss sign placement.
- Commissioner McCann suggested that we work with stores in the downtown corridor to also post the signs so people get the message at the point of sale.
- Commissioner McCann will go to Ruth Hardy Park to see the newly painted trash containers. He will work with Manager Tallarico to determine any additional direction needed for maintenance staff.

### 4. Outreach

- Nothing to report.

### 5. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- Manager Tallarico received the current list of non-compliant facilities and has drafted a new letter to send to

businesses. The letter was reviewed by Legal Counsel. The City will send out an initial round of notices in May and assess responses.

#### 6. Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

- Nothing to report. The Capital Improvements plan was put forward to Council and included references to additional research needed on flare treatment and potential expansion to accommodate food waste.

#### 7. Neighborhood Earth Day Challenge

- Manager Tallarico recognized 6 neighborhood organizations at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting to acknowledge their accomplishments as part of the Neighborhood Environmental Challenge. He also presented them with certificates at the May ONE-PS meeting.

#### 8. 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. PSDS has developed a draft scope change, and the City has provided some suggested changes. This will be used to form the basis of the rate increase. Some of the features included are:
  - An “under sink” food waste collection pale for all customers.
  - A standard 3-cart system for single family residents – sizes may vary
  - One free additional cart for recycling and green waste, fee for additional trash cart
  - Bin inspection program

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

- The City collected about 10,000 pounds of e-Waste; 6,572 pounds of paper; 94.35 tons of trash; and 8.36 tons of metal.

#### 10. Composting Grant

- The Composting Coalition continues to meet to discuss opportunities for a community composting pilot and program. They are currently trying to identify an appropriate location. Ideally the location would be near a community garden.

#### 11. Sustainability Scholarships

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

#### 12. Organics Survey

- The City conducted a survey related to residential organic waste collection. There were 282 responses across almost all neighborhoods. Only about a third (102) of the respondents currently have organics service, and about 75% of those households said their bin is at least half full each week. Most people fill the cart themselves or fill it along with their gardener. Only about 10 of the respondents said their gardener solely fills the bin. Over half of all respondents indicated that they don't use a cart because they have a landscaper that takes materials away or they live in a complex that has a landscape service. Almost 200 respondents said they would use a small pail to collect materials at the sink, and most said they would put food waste in their green cart. 16 said they would be interested in a community composting program, and 20 said they already compost at home.
- The most common concerns were odors, messy carts, and animals.
- Comments indicate some key challenges:
  - Define “organics” and what is acceptable
  - How to deal with those that don't generate much or don't have room for a green cart
  - Making it clear why we are doing this and what advantage it provides
  - How to work with HOAs and complexes

**Recommendation/Request**

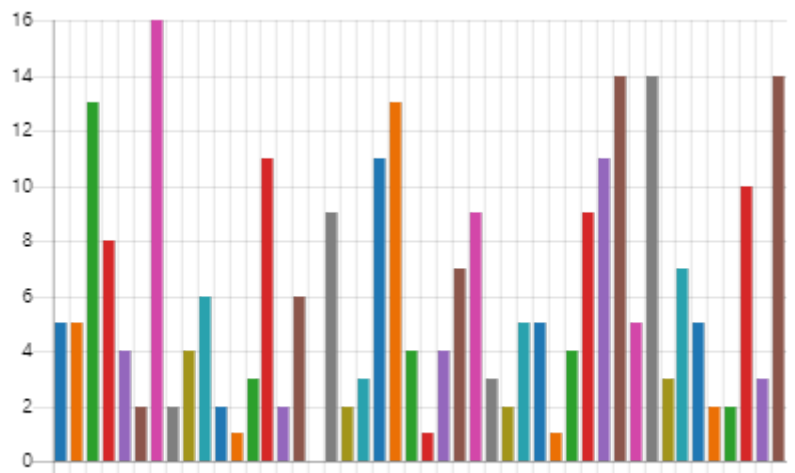
Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products to improve recycling rates and report on progress at future Commission meetings.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>	None
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	Follow up with businesses using the downtown 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

# Residential Organics Collection Survey Results

282 Responses - 7:09 Average time to complete

1. What neighborhood do you live in? (You can select "Other" at the bottom of the list if your neighborhood is not listed.)

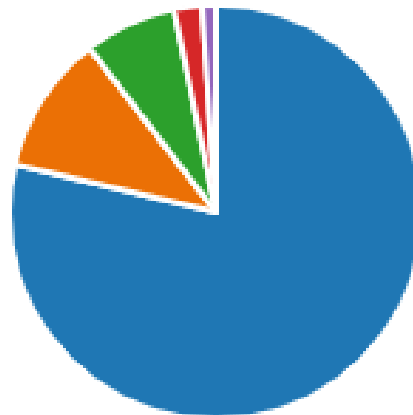
● Andreas Hills	5
● Araby Commons	5
● Araby Cove	13
● Baristo	8
● Canyon Corridor	4
● Canyon Palms	2
● Deepwell Estates	16
● Demuth Park	2
● Desert Highland Gateway Esta...	4
● Desert Park Estates	6
● El Mirador	2
● El Rancho Vista Estates	1
● Escena	3
● Four Seasons	11
● Gateway	2
● Gene Autry	6
● Historic Tennis Club	0
● Indian Canyons	9
● Lawrence Crossley	2
● Little Beverly Hills	3
● Little Tuscany	11
● Los Compadres	13
● Melody Ranch	4
● Midtown	1
● Mountain Gate	4
● Movie Colony East	7
● Oasis Del Sol	9
● Old Las Palmas	3
● Parkview Mobile Estates	2
● Racquet Club West	5
● Ranch Club Estates	5



● Rimrock	1
● Rogers Ranch	4
● Sonora Sunrise	9
● Sunmor	11
● Sunrise Park	14
● Tahquitz Creek Golf	5
● Tahquitz River Estates	14
● The Mesa	3
● The Movie Colony	7
● Twin Palms	5
● Upper West Side	2
● Vista Las Palmas	2
● Vista Norte	10
● Warm Sands	3
● Other	14

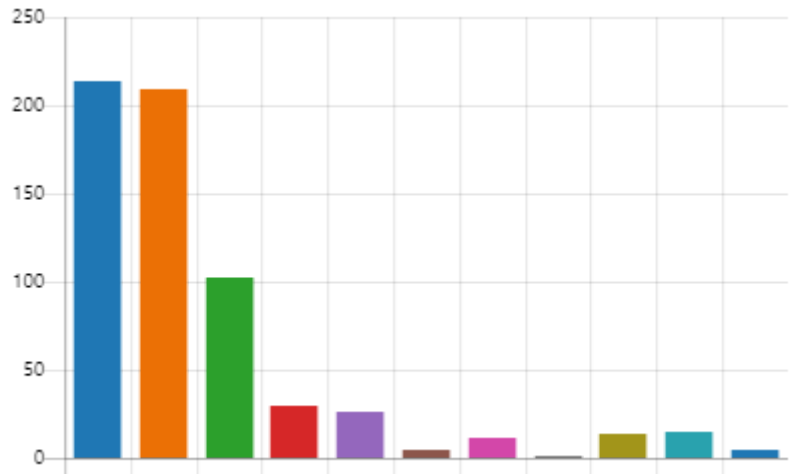
## 2. Which of the following best describes where you live?

● Single family detached home	218
● Single family attached town home or condominium	30
● Multi-family/multi-story apartment or condominium complex	20
● Mobile home/Tiny home community	6
● Other	3



3. Please check the type of waste management service you have currently. Please check all that apply.

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Curbside trash cart	214
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Curbside recycling cart	209
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Curbside green waste cart	102
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Central trash bin	30
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> Central recycling bin	26
<span style="color: brown;">●</span> Central yard waste bin	4
<span style="color: pink;">●</span> Estate Service with trash and recycling only	11
<span style="color: grey;">●</span> Estate Service with trash, recycling, and green waste carts	1
<span style="color: olive;">●</span> Walk-in Service with trash and recycling only	14
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Walk-in Service with trash, recycling, and green waste carts	15
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Other	5



4. Do you collect green waste in your green cart each week?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	92
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> No	183



5. If yes, about how much?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> ¼ cart	26
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> ½ cart	41
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Full cart	25



6. If yes, who puts the material in the cart?

● You	52
● Gardener	10
● Both	30



7. If no, which of the following applies?

● I live in a single-family home, and the gardener takes it away	108
● I live in a complex, and landscape waste is managed by the HOA or a landscaper	57
● I don't have any landscaping	10



8. Would you use a small food waste kitchen collection container (1 gallon less) to collect food waste before you place it in a cart or container outside?

● Yes	196
● No	80



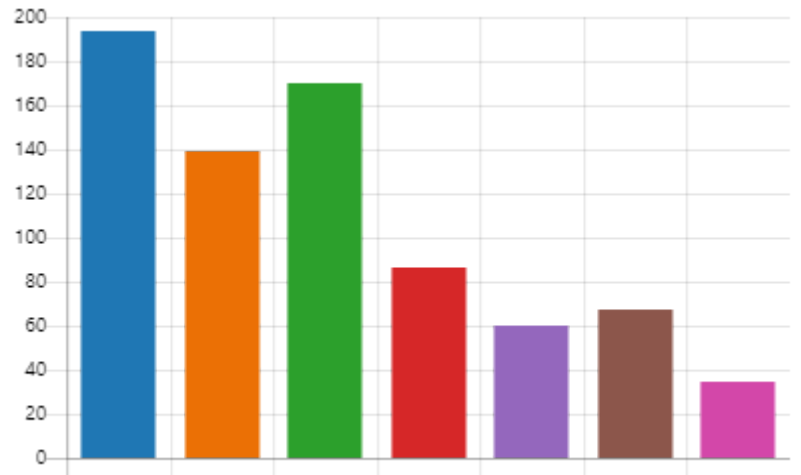
9. How would you prefer to manage the food waste you generate?

● I will put it in the green cart with my yard waste	134
● I would like a smaller cart or container for food waste only, because I don't generate yard waste	99
● I compost at home, so I don't need service	20
● I would bring my food waste to a central community composting site if one was available	16



## 10. What concerns do you have about food waste management at your home?

● Odors	194
● Messy carts	139
● Attracting animals	170
● I don't know if I will generate enough food waste or reen waste	86
● I don't have room for a third cart for organics	60
● Wind blowing the carts over	67
● Other	35





**Question #11****What comments, questions or concerns do you have that might help inform our future outreach efforts?**

We generate minimal food waste and do not use the green can as gardeners remove. Even a small repository would be wasteful.

We had a biodigester system in my former city of residence and it was a very good program.

I put all my yard waste in the trash bin with my food waste. This was not an option in the survey. I do my own gardening & do not generate lots of garden debris.

Does food waste need to be wrapped in any thing? If there was a central food waste collection site in an HOA, will food waste need to be wrapped?

We really appreciate what you do now. Please don't stop.

I think we need to do everything we can to help reduce our footprint on the environment.

Need better options.

This is over reach by the state and city. Food waste goes to landfill. It naturally decomposes. This is an answer to a problem that does not exist.

workshop classes on how it compost right

I have limited space for bins and am concerned about having another one added

I do not want to pay more

This is needed. Any negatives are negated to help the environment. A city compost program that would allow residents to pick up usable compost for gardens would be amazing.

Require food waste to be placed in a green waste bag and placed in central green waste bin at HOA

I have three carts already. Please figure out food waste without a fourth cart.

Please leave our system as it is.

I have used Bokashi composting in the past and am thinking of starting again since moving to PS. It's easy and there is no smell if done correctly. Perhaps explaining and providing information on it might get more households on board

Link / communicate food in landfills to Greenhouse gas emissions

I don't see the need for this - green cart is sufficient, no?

After talking to my neighbors, there is no way we need an extra can except on a voluntary basis for the few! We have taken this concept to the extreme at this point and I've lived here for 66 years.

I think for what we pay for trash services, separation of organics and yard waste from regular trash should be part of your jobs not the homeowners. We pay for the service, you do the work.

We already do this in Minnesota and it works well. We freeze our organics and place them in the bin on collection day.

Because of the wildlife, we keep two bins in our garage. If we go to three bins, I hope they are all a bit smaller. There isn't room for a third bin the same size as the ones we have

Need to clarify food waste - fruits & vegetables vs. meats/fish/poultry vs. fats vs. snack foods/desserts

Sounds like a great step forward to a better environment

Our "Private Drive" off Rim Road in Araby Cove does not get regular service, with pickup only one time per week.

If I don't buy organic food, won't my garbage "contaminate" organic waste

It's annoying to have the dumpster-divers pulling cans/bottles out and messing up the bin or leaving things on the street. I pay for walk-in service, but they never put the carts back in the right location.

I don't cook, eat grocery store frozen foods and have almost no food waste.

We don't generate enough food waste for its collection to be economical. The complex's individual storage place allows for only two trash cans.

Make it a clear option to REPLACE the current non-recyclable 'Trash' with a smaller organically trash container, to assure that space would not be an issue.

Love that you are doing this!

I think it's a great idea to offer food waste management

Generate very little food waste and use sink disposal for some of this waste.
PSDS is horrible - I wouldn't trust them to manage one more bin
Perhaps feature pics of gardens of those who compost
My concern is that if it is too complicated people will not participate. For me the simplest approach is the best approach to start off getting people on board.
Many single dwellers and senior couples in our neighborhood not a lot of food waste. Have to be simple process.
Enough with the separate barrels for every little thing! And why is the state so concerned about which barrel I toss my banana peels into?
A landscaping company is supposed to handle our yard waste, however, we have to sweep and collect leaves daily and dispose of them in the trash bins because the gardeners are overwhelmed.
Will there be a cost for this service?
Thank you for doing this. I'm a big fan of composting /recycling/reducing waste !
Would animal fats be included here? I already put fruit and vegetables in the green bin.
I don't currently compost but I have been thinking about it so I would likely get a composting bin and put food waste in there.
Most seniors are on SS, limited income, cannot afford extra charges.
In Seattle, we choose to freeze our green bagged food waste. No odor or animal attraction.
moving here from SF, we have been doing this for years. It is not very difficult once you get used to it.
IT SEEMS THAT THINGS THAT WERE RECYCLED NO LONGER ARE
I am shocked that Palm Springs does not have composting yet.
I don't want to pay extra for it
I see gardener's putting yard waste in the trash bins. They insist it ends up in the landfill anyway.
In other cities we combine food waste with paper and other compostable materials. This dramatically reduces our land fill bin. Including other compostable materials and not just food waste may motivate others to participate. Consider working with HOAs to implement a central location for shared organics waste cart. It would be relatively easy to walk my waste to a central location rather than keep a separate bin. This is how we do it in our condo building in San Francisco
I'm going to start paying for special pickup closer to my garage.
I think this is terrific and I look forward to this service being available.
It would be nice if the phone number on the web site was correct.
Need more info on what is food waste and how I could handle compost myself or most easily use a service specifically for it.
This is government over reach
I came from Seattle where food waste recycling was required. I absolutely loved not having all that material going to the landfill. I would love it if this was instituted sooner, rather than later. Thanks!
No concerns. I think it should be required for all residents.
Enthusiastically support residential food waste management program, either curb pick up or central location.
In Seattle we could compost all food waste. including bones etc will this be available?
I don't care to do this. I will still put food waste in the trash. I am not going to take up more space for another bin to separate food waste in my house.
Thank you. We can't wait to compost our organics like we do in st.
Wouldn't it be better just to grind it up in the garbage disposal in your sink. A can is going to stink, it's going to attract vermin and ants and fruit flies.
I think you have your hands full educating people on the importance of this project.
My HOA resists any type of change and will claim they are "grandfathered" in to avoid it. For example, they don't enforce glass/cans/paper recycling because they "don't have to."

What kind of food waste? Just organics, i.e. fruit & veggie waste, cooked food, meats, sauces, grease,...?
We need this! I already let much of my food waste dry & put it out with my yard waste
use other avenues in addition to nextdoor. Newspaper ads, Patch, desert sun online ads
Concerns over decomposition with high heat temps
I think this is necessary to help eliminate compostable garbage from goin to the dump
We are only there part of the year, so paying for this monthly is annoying
Please make sure that this movement reacher every household by sending a mail in survey to get better results.
Increase trash removal cost to encourage recycling/compost. Our complex has four dumpsters for trash (3/4 full when picked up, but only five blue bins for recycle (always full, with overflow going into dumpsters).
I think residents need more information about recycling, in general. I live in a gated condo community, and I notice that owners throw such items as paper towels and kleenex in the recycling bin. They also do not fold down boxes, using up too much room in the bin and causing other owners to put recycling in the trash.
It seems very expensive to collect food waste from homes that will likely be contaminated and rotten.
Supply customers with small composting items and give classes so as to get it right when compared mposting foird waste.
Curbside pickup in Sahara Park would help tremendously.
I use my kitchen trash can for food waste and non recyclable packaging. I'm willing to do my part on separating food waste, but I wouldn't like having to keep a second trash receptacle in the kitchen.
Excited about this option, coming from a city that offered this type waste disposal, (Portland, OR) and found that our garbage was drastically reduced by eliminating food waste from our daily trash.
We would like a family friendly composting program to encourage everyone to start separating their food waste and save landfill space.
Grateful you may be offering green waste bins next year. Would love help dealing w/ food waste and to be able to add our food waste to a green waste central bin. We have a small compost maker in our backyard but it fills quickly and is awkward to empty (and no place needs our compost, all desert landscaping.) Thanks!!
How many carts are we going to end up with? I'm at two now; some have three; I don't want another card.
A smaller green cart would be more useful then the current one we have - especially if we add food waste weekly.
Know that most of these answers are not based on confident knowledge. I feel uncertain.
I won't be doing this
Could we put compositable trash in the green bin now?

**Question #12**

**If you live in a multi-family residential complex and you believe your management or HOA would be interested in participating in a pilot food waste collection program, please provide contact information.**

Beth Robinson. Beth@bethrobinson.com  
Sunrise Palms

Bryan Dittmer  
bldittmer@msn.com Mountain Gate

Cathedral Canyon County Club #9

I believe our board reviews such items and makes their choice everyone's choice while owners never knew a choice was being made.

Did it in SF in a condo complex. Took a while to get everyone on board with the program. So surprised how much food waste two people generate...several times what I thought.

I am a renter, so I don't know if they'd be interested but the HOA is Palm Springs Villas II and the email for the management is: wendy.cross@seabreezemgmt.com

I don't know if Roman Estados would be interested.
I don't speak for the HOA but I would like them to consider this. Mark Gilbert, Escena, mgilbertsf@gmail.com
Kate Castle-K8castle@yahoo.com-Canyon Sands
Kellin Defiel-Scudder, kdefiel@yahoo.com, Canyon View Estates
Laurie Haas Young haiparu@sbcglobal.net not sure if management is interested. They seem overwhelmed, but if it didn't cause them to add more tasks nor more costs to the corporation that owns the park, they might agree. Healing Waters Senior Mobile Home Park
Mesquite Canyon Estates LesleyMCline@gmail.com I can forward any information to the appropriate person in charge of this type of program within our HOA
Michelle Moran michellemoran@gmail.com Riviera Gardens Condominiums (on Via Miraleste between Vista Chino & Via Escuela)
Property Manager St Tropez Villas 1111 E Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 112 Palm Springs CA 92262
SAHARA MOBILE PARK
See above. I can't stand Casa de Oro!
Yes - Sunshine Villas
Zach Weingart zweingart@hotmail.com Sahara Park, off Camino Real, near E Palm Canyon, behind the Ace Hotel