



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: January 18, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: Tracy Sheldon

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)

SUBMITTED DATE: January 13, 2022

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: January 11, 2022

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: February 3, 2022

Subcommittee Goal:

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

Summary:

1. SB 1383 Planning & Franchise Update

- City staff, PSDS and the City Attorney’s office are continuing to meet and review the Franchise Agreement and it is anticipated to go to City Council in February 2022.
- The Solid Waste Ordinance Update went into effect on January 9, 2022.
- City staff has developed an FAQ document which is currently being reviewed by City Attorney’s office.
- The implementation date for residential customers has been pushed out to October 2022 due to delivery of new equipment such as trucks and carts to collect organic waste to PSDS.
- City staff is applying for a CalRecycle grant, SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program (FY 2021–22). The maximum award amount is \$63,654.00. Eligible projects include: education and outreach, edible food recovery, procurement requirements, record keeping (Recyclist), enforcement and inspection and program evaluation and gap analysis.
- City staff is continuing work on the communications strategy. The City Manager was interviewed on NBC Palm Springs on January 3, 2022. Additionally, the City Manager and Chris Cunningham with PSDS were interviewed on January 4, 2022 which aired on KESQ. The interview can be viewed at <https://kesq.com/news/top-stories/2022/01/03/what-you-need-to-know-about-californias-new-composting-law/?minutetv=true>

2. Reducing Single-use Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.

- The Food Ware consultants, Abbe & Associates and ReCreate Waste Collaborative, LLC, have contacted and met with 91 businesses during the month of December. Common feedback from businesses is:
 - Businesses feel overwhelmed with the financial impact of COVID restrictions and losing customers.
 - Businesses feel overwhelmed with supply chain issues and cost of replacing cheap single-use items (like styrofoam and plastic bags) with compostable products and paper bags.
 - Businesses don’t have the budget for dishwashers for dine-in reusables (some quoted dishwashers between \$5,000 - \$10,000). Some businesses do not have space for dishwashers.
 - Businesses don't have the staff hours to wash reusables by hand (in the case where there is no dishwasher), especially with minimum wage going up.
 - Businesses are concerned that distributors will increase the price of acceptable products once they catch wind of the requirements.
 - Plastic is “necessary” for product sale.
 - Businesses are more concerned with meeting SB 1383 compliance.
- The consultants will have in-person site visits January 19-21, 2022.
- City staff has produced outreach materials of the following: Food Ware Ordinance overview, No Sale of Polystyrene products, Please Take Only What You Need, Upon Request Only, What Does the Food Ware

Ordinance mean to Me. All materials have been produced in English and Spanish. Informational videos were filmed the week of January 10th in English and Spanish for additional outreach to the community.

- The city declined both submissions for the Reusable Food Ware pilot due to the recent roll out of the new Food Ware ordinance and vendor requirements. A Reusable Food Ware pilot program and will be revisited at a later date.

3. Downtown Trash Can Signage

- Chair Clark and Program Coordinator Sheldon performed a recycling container audit on December 31, 2021 and found the sticker signage is not effective as used coffee cups and smoothie cups are continuing to be disposed of in the recycling containers.

4. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- City staff continues to contact businesses who have been previously unresponsive to AB 1826 organics and AB 341 recycling management in an effort to achieve 100% compliance.

5. Community Composting

- Nothing to report.

6. Outreach

- Staff is continuing to work on outreach material for residents on refuse, recycling and organic waste.

7. Battery Recycling Project

- Staff collected and shipped a total of 50 containers of batteries totaling 1,471 lbs. in 2021.

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

- Nothing to report.

9. Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

- Nothing to report.

10. Shredding and E-waste Collection Event

- The City hosted a shredding and e-waste recycling event on January 15, 2022. The next shredding and e-waste recycling event is planned for Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 8am-12pm at City Hall.

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	Conclude Franchise Agreement discussions with PSDS. Continue following up with businesses who are not in compliance with recycling and organics requirements. Prepare new rates for waste management services.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	N/A