



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: May 17, 2022	SUBMITTED BY: Tracy Sheldon
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: May 12, 2022
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 5, 2022	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 2, 2022

Subcommittee Goal:

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

Summary:

Subcommittee members present: Tracy Sheldon, Interim Director, Roy Clark, Sustainability Chair and Liz Hernandez with Palm Springs Disposal Services (PSDS.)

Subcommittee members not in attendance: Jake Torrens, Sustainability Commissioner, Don Barrett, Sustainability Commissioner and Chis Cunningham, PSDS.

1. SB 1383 Planning & Franchise Update

- The updated PSDS and City franchise agreement will be on the May 26, 2022 City Council agenda.
- City staff and PSDS anticipate the Prop 218 mailer being mailed the week of July 11, 2022.
- The hearing date for Prop 218 has been schedule for September 1, 2022.
- The City was notified on April 27, 2022 as a recipient of an SB 1383 grant in the amount of \$68,329.00. The grant will go towards the purchase of the mulch as mandated by SB 1383. The quote from CV Compost for the purchase of mulch is \$80,000.00. City staff is in the process of obtaining quotes from the landscape vendors for the application of the mulch at city parks.
- CalRecycle provided notification that the City is the responsible lead for the outreach, education and implementation of SB 1383 for Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD.) The reasoning is due to PSUSD district office being located in Palm Springs and the City is responsible for the 28 schools sites within PSUSD. City staff is in the process of contacting and working with the jurisdictions located within PSUSD for a unified approach for implementation.
- City staff and PSDS have been continuing site visits to HOA’s and multi-family units for implementation of SB 1383. Some HOA’s are requesting 5-gallon buckets and liners for food waste collection. City staff has suggested HOA’s and MFD’s to utilize the sustainability scholarship as a way to reduce the cost of purchasing the buckets and liners. City staff has contacted Riverside County and the County is not purchasing food waste containers. City staff has requested quotes from vendors on the cost of 1–5-gallon containers. PSDS will provide vendor contact information on 1.5- and 2.25-gallon containers so that container purchases can be consistent. There are three (3) neighborhoods which will require manual collection to accommodate SB 1383 requirements.
- City staff needs to begin capacity planning as required under SB 1383. The current challenges are due to staffing. Edible food recovery agreements need to be created and signed by Tier 1 food providers. Beginning January 1, 2023, Tier 2 businesses will also be included.
- Chair Clark inquired if mulch will be provided to residents at a no cost basis. Currently the answer is no. If mulch is provided at not cost, city staff needs to determine a location where the no cost mulch will be located. Per the report from the consultants performed in 2021, 99% of the required 3,820 tons of mulch can be applied to city parks.
- SB138 requires stickers be applied to all refuse containers. PSDS will be applying stickers during the summer months and also painting metal bins to follow SB 1383 requirements. The new carts PSDS has ordered will have hot stamps on them with information on acceptable materials per waste stream.

- City staff will be presenting on SB 1383 to ONE-PS on May 10, 2022.
- Residents have requested information on which products go into which bin. The information is available on PSDS's website as well as the City's website under Residential Collection.
- PSDS will provide a guide for residents prior to the implementation date of October 1, 2022.

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

- ReCreate Waste Collaborative, LLC, will be meeting with businesses in person the week of May 17-20, 2022. Abbe and Associates will also be meeting with businesses in person the week of May 23-26, 2022. To date, the consultants have met with all food providers and continue communications via phone, e-mail and in person visits.
- Both consultants have brought up the issue of enforcement as some business owners have stated no intention of adhering to the ordinance. In regard to enforcement, the ordinance allows for warnings, \$100, \$250 and \$500 fines. Staff is requesting direction from the Sustainability Commission on enforcement. Chair Clark recommends the SSCoWR committee provide recommendations to provide to the commission.
- Abbe & Associates and ReCreate have stated the creation of a recognition program will highlight those businesses that have done the work and are in compliance and may also be a method of incentivizing non-compliant businesses with compliance. Staff is requesting direction from the Subcommittee and Sustainability Commission on direction of a Recognition program. Chair Clark recommends the SSCoWR committee provide recommendations to provide to the commission.
- Chair Clark requested an update from McDonald's and Starbuck's for compliance status for the June meeting.
- Chair Clark inquired on an update of the compostable materials which will and will not be accepted at the Burrtec facility located at Edom Hill. Burrtec has previously stated the food waste collection facility will be open beginning October 1, 2022. To date, the City has not received any written confirmation of this dates. Burrtec has previously stated they will not be accepting compostable materials. Per PSDS, they anticipate the fiber based compatible clamshells and fiber based materials will be allowed. PSDS stated they will provide a written confirmation of which compostable materials Burrtec will accept at the Edom Hill facility. An update will be provided at the June meeting in regard to fiber based compostables, compostable cutlery, bamboo cutlery, etc. City staff has concerns if there is a conflict between acceptable materials at the Edom Hill facility and the Food Ware Ordinance.
- The Sustainability Commission requested a report for the May 17, 2022 meeting identifying which jurisdictions have Food Ware Ordinances and where they are at with their ordinances.
- City staff and the two consultants have been providing targeted outreach to business to apply for Sustainably Food Ware Scholarships by the June 10, 2022 cut off date to accommodate the end of the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2022.

3. Downtown Trash Can Signage

- Nothing to report.
- Chair Clark suggested revisiting alternative signage and sticker options for the Downtown trash cans.
- City staff suggested utilizing the same stickers PSDS is developing as part of the mandated sticker requirements under SB 1383. The sticker size is approximately 4" x 6". PSDS has ordered the stickers and the stickers have not been received to date. The stickers and a mock up on the trash cans will be provided to the subcommittee at the June meeting.
- Signage suggestions will be provided at the June subcommittee meeting for feedback and recommendations.
- Chair Clark suggested a historical timeline be provided of the Downtown trash can signage to provide to future commissioners.

4. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- PSDS provided updated compliance numbers as noted below;

Businesses	
Total Subject to AB 341	490
Total # Not Recycling	84
% Not Recycling	17%
Multifamily	
Total Subject to AB 341	365
Total # Not Recycling	22
% Not Recycling	15%

Businesses	
Total Subject to AB 1826	611
Total # Not Recycling	255
% Not Recycling	41%
Exempted	193
Multifamily	
Total Subject to AB 1826	374
Total # Not Recycling	187
% Not Recycling	50%
Exempted	4

This number is higher now due to 1383 Organics included for our purposes.
We will keep at 37 for CalRecycle reporting of 1826

- PSDS recommends the City mail out a letter to remaining businesses that are not in compliance. City staff will draft a letter and provide to the subcommittee to review and advise of edits and/or acceptance at the June subcommittee meeting.
- PSDS stated the business not in compliance have de minimus exemptions.
- City staff and PSDS staff have continued meeting with businesses for AB 1826 organics and AB 341 recycling management in an effort to achieve 100% compliance. City staff and PSDS staff performed in person site visits to commercial accounts on April 5th and 6th in an effort to increase compliance numbers.

5. Community Composting

- City staff has continued working on identifying a location for community composting. The sites previously evaluated have not been available due to lack of water sources. Accessibility issues for drop offs and the approval of composting activities on airport owned sites which has been rejected by the FAA. The City’s intent is to have a site location which will provide Community Composting and aluminum can recycling.
- Chair Clark inquired of the value of community composting. Staff stated the value is to offer residents composting options of both industrial composting which will be provide by PSDS and community composting offered by Desert Compost.
- Chair Clark stated the request of having residents drive and drop off compost to a community compost location is an additional use of a vehicle trip which increase greenhouse gas emissions. In comparison, the industrial composting option provided by PSDS is by pick up by CNG fueled vehicles which have a reduced GHG footprint.
- Chair Clark inquired how we can determine the percentage of residents which prefer community composting vs. industrial composting. AN option may be a community survey. This discussion will be continued during the June subcommittee meeting when other p members are present.
- Chair Clark inquired if the mulch produced by community composting would be in compliance with the standards set forth by CalRecycle. Has testing been in place? Is the mulch produced by Desert Compost at the Palm Desert facility acceptable by CalRecycle with the requirements per SB 1383.

6. Outreach

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

7. Battery Recycling Project

- City staff reported City’s legal department, Procurement Department and Battery Solutions have agreed to a resolution to remove the indemnification clause and that the requisition which has been on hold can be released and that a purchase order can be placed for the battery recycling containers.

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 next shredding and e-waste recycling event is planned for Saturday, October 15, 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	Continue following up with businesses who are not in compliance with recycling and organics requirements.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	N/A