



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: March 15, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: Tracy Sheldon

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)

SUBMITTED DATE: March 10, 2022

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: March 3, 2022

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: April 7, 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

- The draft franchise agreement is in the process of being reviewed by PSDS and City legal counsel. Once approved by both counsels, the franchise agreement will be provided to the City Council Subcommittee consisting of Councilmembers Holstege and Kors for review.
- PSDS has produced labels for green cart organics. Commercial organics collection has been in effect since 2016 under AB 1826. Residential organics collection will begin on October 1, 2022. PSDS is including this information in their April mailer and will be asking residents to select from cart sizes of 35 gallon, 65 gallon and 96 gallon organic carts.
- City staff submitted SB 619, the Notification of Intent to Comply to CalRecycle by the March 1, 2022 deadline. The purpose of the application is to protect the City from fines for the delayed implementation date of October 1, 2022 for Residential organics collection.
- Liz Hernandez of PSDS advised that all of the carts and bins, including landfill, recycling and organics, will receive new labels advising of which materials are acceptable and which materials are contaminants. The new labels will also contain a QR code linking customers to PSDS's website with additional information. Beginning March 19, 2022, PSDS's website will be updated and will offer customers the ability to select their cart size for organic collection at www.palmspringsdisposal.com
- Residential organics collection will begin on October 1, 2022. PSDS will begin delivering carts September 6 through 30 and residential customers will have their carts at least 7-days before their 1st organic waste collection day. Residents will have a choice of 3 cart sizes: 35 gallon; 65 gallon; 95 gallon. The default size is 65-gallons. The following recommendations are being made for sizing:
 - Households with 1 or 2 occupants and very little yard waste will find that the 35-gallon cart will meet their need. This size cart might also be a good choice for dwellings with limited storage space.
 - Households with 2+ occupants and limited yard waste should find that the 65-gallon cart will meet their need. (For reference, this is the size of your BLUE recycling cart.)
 - Large households or properties with a considerable amount of weekly yard waste may find that the 95-gallon cart is their best choice.
- Outreach and education efforts for SB 1383 have continued during the month of March. Upcoming outreach has been scheduled for the Certified Farmer's Market on March 5th, the ONE-PS meeting at the Mizell Center on March 8th, the ONE-PS meeting of the Melodie Ranch neighborhood on March 12th, the ONE-PS picnic on March 19th, the ONE-PS neighborhood in Sunrise Park on March 26th and at the Family Fun Fest on April 13th. A presentation was given to the Palm Springs Realtor Association group on February 16, 2022.
- City staff received a letter from Riverside County and they will be collecting all of the capacity planning documentation from local jurisdictions and providing a county wide comprehensive report to CalRecycle on August 1, 2022.

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

- ReCreate Waste Collaborative, LLC, met with businesses the week of February 22-24, 2022. Abbe and Associates met with businesses the week of February 28, 2022. To date, the consultants have met with over 200 food providers and continue communications via phone, e-mail and in person visits.
- Site visits to food vendors has been positive and many have made a variety of improvements including replacing disposable products with reusables for onsite dining, replacement of plastic straws with paper/wheat/hat/bamboo/seaweed straws, replacements of single use plastic bags with paper bags and replacement of polystyrene products with approved plastic and compostable products for take out orders.
- Businesses have been slow to take advantage of the scholarship funds offered to reimburse them up to \$750.00 for compliant products. City staff will continue contacting businesses and encouraging use of the scholarship funding.
- Chair Clark asked staff to review the data and provide an update on the percentage of businesses that are complying with the ordinance at the April meeting.

3. Downtown Trash Can Signage

- Nothing to report.

4. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- 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. Below are the most recent compliance figures:

Commercial Subject to AB 341 (recycling)	494 (total number of commercial)
Total # Not Recycling	96
Multi Family Subject to AB 341 (recycling)	374 (total number of MFD)
Total # Not Recycling	24
Commercial Subject to AB 1826 (organics)	613 (total number of commercial)
Total # Not Recycling	265
Exempted	191
Multi Family Subject to AB 1826 (organics)	382
Total # Not Recycling	37
Exempted	11

5. Community Composting

- City Council has identified Community Composting as a priority in the 2021/22 Strategic Plan under Environmental Stewardship. City staff has a meeting scheduled with Abby Winston and Susan St Louis of Desert Compost on March 4, 2022 to discuss the necessary elements to have a Community Composting in Palm Springs.
- City staff is currently working with airport staff to determine the availability of the site located at Civic and Alejo.
- Desert Compost has established a community compost location at St. Margaret's in Palm Desert and is consulting on making a closed loop system with creating compost from the scraps from their food bank and fertilizing an onsite garden.

6. Outreach

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

7. Battery Recycling Project

- Staff have collected and shipped seven (7) containers of batteries (approximately 245 pounds) since the last report.
- City staff is in the process of researching alternate battery recycling vendors as the City's Procurement Department does not agree with the indemnification clause from the current vendor Battery Solutions.

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, 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.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	N/A