



Subcommittee Report

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 05/04/2023	SUBMITTED BY: Lindsey-Paige McCloy
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: August 31, 2023
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: April 6, 2023	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July 2023 (June 1 was not held)

Subcommittee Goal:

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

Summary:

Attendees: Subcommittee Chair Don Barrett, Commissioner Jake Torrens, PSDS – Liz Hernandez, Sustainability – Lindsey-Paige McCloy, 3 members of the public

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Abby Winston from Mesquite Country Club shared information and suggestions for short-term rental owners on how to encourage organics compliance in their community.

A. Subcommittee Chair Comments – Chair Barrett

1. Chair noted his hopes that new commissioners are soon to be appointed to the Sustainability Commission, which could result in new members being appointed to the Subcommittee.

B. Updates

1. E-waste and Shredding Event on April 29
 - a. Successfully executed e-waste collection with the Urban Conservation Corps sponsored by the Southern California Mountains Foundation. Residents filled 2 trucks with donated e-waste.
 - i. Chair Barrett echoed that e-waste collection seemed to go well.
 - b. Shredding did not occur due to contractual disagreement with targeted provider. Realtors’ Association event on the same day was overwhelmed by excess demand. As a result, staff covered the cost of the Realtors’ Association event and scheduled a makeup event for June. Future years will look at all events being scheduled at one time and developing long-term partnerships with specific vendors.
 - i. Looking to register interested residents so staff can notify of any changes or cancellations.
 - c. Chair Barrett commented that traffic flow remains a persistent challenge and that there was, indeed, a lot of anger about shredding. ONE-PS got a lot of calls about the event.

- d. Members of the public echoed some confusion with routing and with shredding.
 - e. The Chair and staff discussed a few attributes of the event:
 - i. Cost – ranges from \$5000 for one service to \$2000 for combined service, normally hovering between \$2000-4000 per event.
 - ii. Staffing – the April 29 event was also supported by staff from Parks/Public Works, in addition to 2 sustainability staff. Other events have been assisted by volunteers from other City departments and from the Commission.
 - iii. Value – staff is considering ways to partner with other organizations to increase visibility and reduce staff load. Other community organizations sponsor shredding events, and so it might be worth looking to co-sponsor events in the future.
 - iv. PSDS also offers e-waste collection at their headquarters.
2. SB1383 Progress
- a. PSDS updated on several avenues of focus:
 - i. Multifamily and residential with centralized collection – target of this year’s outreach. Shared the example of Horizon Mobile Home Park – recently distributed signage and met with management/residents to educate.
 - ii. Outreach team attended 4 meetings in April/May to provide signage and education, giving demonstrations of best practices for organics recycling.
 - b. Still at an estimated 60% of participation, though waiting for October to see when seasonal residents return.
 - c. Chair Barrett noted that his mobile home park is still not participating. He attempted to drop compost at the United Methodist Church. Abby Winston, an attending member of the public, let the Subcommittee know that the site is not currently accepting community drop-offs.
 - d. Outreach is now pivoting to focus on enforcement. PSDS is sending letters, particularly to multifamily, on service level adjustments that might be needed (I.e. more green bins) in order to be compliant.
 - e. Director McCloy shared that organics information will soon enter the vacation rentals guidebook.
3. Earth Day and Events waste recap
- a. Director McCloy encouraged anyone interested in a deep dive on Earth Day events to check the minutes from the April Sustainability Commission meeting.
 - b. How might we improve recycling and composting at public events, perhaps focusing on events in April or large events like VillageFest?
 - i. VillageFest draws a lot of tourists. This could be a good opportunity for visitor education.
 - ii. Chair Barrett encourages more outreach and promotion. For example, people still seem to be confused on what to do with batteries and aren’t aware that we have a program. This gets people thinking about recycling and stewardship. The physical box serves as a helpful reminder.

- iii. Director McCloy highlighted a focus on reuse for future events. For example, about 500 bags were distributed at the Farmers Market, but very few seem to return to the market for reuse.
- iv. Member of the public, David Scott, received collection buckets from City Hall for members of their community for batteries. He recommended that outreach on organics also feature some battery outreach.
- c. Director McCloy also shared a recap of the Art in the Park in the Dark event – broader attendee base, new type of event, and interactive art activity – collage.

C. New Business

1. Waste Evaluations

- a. PSDS now performs these as part of 1383 monitoring and compliance. Evaluations are done on a route basis, where 200 pounds are pulled out of a route's collected waste and then examined for contamination. Goal – under 20% contamination.
 - i. First truck evaluation – 300 pounds in total, where 53 pounds could have been diverted to organic recycling (about 17%), and 23 pounds could have been diverted to recycling (about 7%).
 - ii. Second truck evaluation – 440 pounds, where only 20 pounds were considered organics (about 4%) but recycling totaled over 50 pounds (11%)
 - iii. Third truck – 300 pounds, with organics at 20 pounds (6%) and recycling at 28.5 pounds (9%)
- b. All routes were considered to pass the evaluation. Some easy items were still found in the bins (I.e. bottles) but overall, contamination was below target levels.
- c. This audit was performed in March, and PSDS will do one more this year. This review focused on most of northern Palm Springs – above Ramon Road – and covered only residential routes. The process is extremely labor-intensive and messy!
- d. Chair Barrett recommends publicizing results of the waste audit via local news.
- e. PSDS found that the amount of unexpired canned goods being disposed was pretty surprising, especially given the focus in SB1383 on edible food recovery. Plastic bottles and cans were also still heavily represented in the trash.

D. Old Business

1. Approving meeting minutes

- a. March and April will need to be approved at a later meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.