



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 12-19-2023	SUBMITTED BY: Don Barrett
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Waste-Reduction	SUBMITTED DATE:
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 12-07-2023	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 01-04-2024

Subcommittee Meeting Goal:

- Review recycling audit
- Review progress on SB 1383 requirements: PSDS’s implementation & monitoring on compostables, status of edible food recovery planning and on foodware. Discuss event and downtown waste issues.
- Battery recycling updates
- Website and recycling education needs.
- Discuss approaches to formalize water conservation as topic
- Discuss community clean-up proposal

Summary:

Recycling:

- PSDS reported on recent audits of recycling in SFR collection in two areas. Found that in north Palm Springs trash was contaminated with recyclables more than 30% of the time, but less than 20% in southwest Palm Springs, thus need for an education campaign in north PS (20% is the cutpoint). Similar audits of multi-family can be conducted on request.
- Commissioner Walker asked about work with vacation-rental cleaners and providers; PSDS noted they have ambassadors working with two of the large companies; there was discussion about **expanding vacation-rental outreach.**

Edible food-recovery: Director McCloy noted this is largely in place for tier 1 (grocery stores) and tier 2 (larger restaurants), but contractor needs to be identified for operation and recording of tier 2. FIND Food Bank has **offered a proposal but costs are high.**

Foodware:

- Restaurants: Ad hoc evidence indicates good reduction in to-go Styrofoam, with notable exceptions at some popular restaurants. Also noted problems in finding suitable substitutes. **Suggested exploration of identifying a restaurant to model substitution, with a scholarship for that.**
- Retail: Stores are checked if selling Styrofoam foodware and most large stores are not, with only one exception identified.
- Coolers: Questions were raised about regulation of Styrofoam coolers. **Commission Clark noted that coolers are not covered in the Food Ware Ordinance and may need to see how that is addressed in other cities and to ask Council to modify or amend the ordinance to cover that.**

Events: **Discussion of waste at large events was tabled** for time reasons (see 11-02-23 notes).

Battery recycling: Noted need for future discussion to consider using non-city collection sites, whether to create new collection boxes, how to address non-battery contamination (e.g., medical and e-waste), issues with larger batteries (e.g., motorcycle, golf cart), and working with schools.

Websites: Director McCloy noted changes that have been made by Specialist Wheeler to the website to make it more attractive and navigable. It was noted that **additional information is needed for recycling by businesses.**

Community clean-up: Mark Gavigan of Bread and Flours Bakery came to the meeting with a proposal to begin to have community clean-up events sponsored by them or other businesses/groups, with assistance from the Office of Sustainability. Director McCloy noted that if we sponsored such that would provide for city cooperation and proposed setting up a program to **provide a shell for sponsored clean-ups**; commissioners were supportive but there was some concern about **liability and access to privately-owned properties**. **Director McCloy will check on that.** There will be additional discussion at the January 4 meeting.

Water conservation: Commissioners discussed various ways for the commission to identify and approach water conservation issues that the Commission can work on. All agreed it was important but needed more work. It is recommended that the **full Commission establish an ad-hoc subcommittee on Water Conservation** that will be charged with establishing an approach to be taken and may lead to formation of a standing subcommittee.

Recommendation/Request

Needs for further discussion and action by SSCoWR are noted in bold above.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	See 'Water Conservation' above
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore modeling by/for restaurants on take-out foodware 2. Issues of property access in community clean-up actions.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tier 2 food-recovery monitoring 2. Scholarship on modeling foodware