



# Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: January 20, 2017	SUBMITTED BY: Robert McCann
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Waste Reduction	SUBMITTED DATE: February 15, 2018
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: January 22, 2018	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: February 26, 2018

**Subcommittee Goal:**

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

**Summary:**

- C&D Waste Ordinance:
  - February 7. At the bi-monthly public meeting of the Palm Springs City Council, WRS member Robert McCann presented a two-minute argument to Commissioners for the C&D ordinance. Later in the meeting, Council members voted unanimously to move forward in developing the Ordinance. Councilmembers Lisa Middleton and J.R. Roberts were assigned to a subcommittee to work on development.
  
- Household Battery Recycling
  - January 22. At the monthly WRS meeting, WRS member Roy Clark reported on information he had gathered on the City of Indio’s recycling program, which involves dropping off household batteries in containers located within five City facilities, and utilizing Battery Solutions as the container provider and pickup/recycling vendor. Roy outlined a program for Palm Springs patterned after the Indio program. He recommended the City provide pickup containers in the form of cylinders on which we could stencil our Sustainability Commission logo. Small bags would be provided that people could collect their home batteries in and bring them to the container sites.
  - Rob McCann started to explore the feasibility of expanding the collection and recycling program to include retail establishments as drop-off points. In response to an inquiry with the manager of Ralph’s Supermarket at the Baristo/Sunrise location, a spokesperson for the parent (Kroger Corporation) replied in an e-mail that the organization would be amenable to placing a pickup container in the two Ralphs Palm Springs locations, but would have to get exemptions from all State and County legal and compliance requirements related to the program.
  - This can be pursued, but in the short term, the WRS recommends that we proceed with Roy’s plan to expand drop-off opportunities at City facilities only. Roy is working on the costs of the proposed program for presentation at the Tuesday Sustainability Commission meeting. Preliminary estimates for the City are that 4-5 containers would be shipped to Battery Solutions (30 lbs per container) per month. Roy is going to present some cost estimates for this level of program activity at the meeting.
  - February 15. New WRS member Jessica Spry reported that she spoke with the Director at Mizell about placing a used battery receptacle at their site. The director was amenable, but had some concerns that Seniors wouldn’t use the facility, and about non-seniors occupying front parking spots for their battery drops.

- Reducing Polystyrene Take-Out Containers for Restaurants.
  - Feb 14. WRS member Roy Clark reported on an update on his ongoing efforts with City Council member JR Roberts to eliminate polystyrene (styrofoam) take-out food containers. On Feb 14, Councilmember Roberts sent out an e-mail to Commissioner Clark, Councilmember Christy Holstege and others asking the Sustainability Commission to:
    - Begin researching and gathering information on existing successful ordinances that ban styrofoam take out containers in other cities.
    - Research take out package alternatives and offer recommendations/suggestions as part of the education component for the ordinance change.
    - Look into reasonable sunset provisions for such an ordinance giving business owners time to deplete their current stock and plan for the transition.
    - Track and provide an update on the state legislation which is trying for a statewide ban.
  
- Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration.
  - February 14. WRS member Roy Clark reported that Councilmember Geoff Kors has requested a meeting with him some time after the Feb 21 City Council meeting to discuss the monarch butterfly Mayor's Pledge.
  
- Public Beverage Recycling Containers.
  - January 22. At the monthly WRS subcommittee meeting, Gary Calhoun noted that the City of Palm Springs receives 13K annually from soda, beer, and wine purchases. This initiated a discussion on how to spend the funding. One focus was on the City's existing beverage container collection bins, which are deployed at locations such as Koffi. Various options were discussed, including:
    - Replacing the current containers with better quality containers that could have our Sustainability Commission logo, and could be deployed at more public events such as the Arts Festival.
    - Purchasing more containers.
    - Adding temporary containers.
  - February 15. Jessica Spry and Roy Clark announced plans to carry out a site inspection of the existing beverage recycling containers around the City to determine what condition they're in and whether some need to be replaced and to evaluate different types of containers. This information will help inform decisions such as whether we need new containers or need to add to the current inventory.

**Recommendation/Request**

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<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>	N/A
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	N/A
<b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>	N/A