



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 19, 2018

SUBMITTED BY: Robert McCann

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SCoWR)

SUBMITTED DATE: June 11, 2018

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 21, 2018

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July 23, 2018

Subcommittee Goal:

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

Summary:

1. C&D Waste Ordinance.

- Awaiting City Council action on revised C&D Ordinance.

2. Reducing Polystyrene Take-Out Containers and use of plastic straws for Restaurants.

- February 14: City of Palm Springs City Councilmember J.R. Roberts asked the Sustainability Commission to
 - Research City Ordinances that ban Extended Polystyrene (EPS) containers.
 - Offer recommendations and suggestions.
 - Provide an update on legislation seeking to provide a statewide ban on EPS containers and plastic straws.
- June 9. In collaboration with other SSCowR members, Jessica Spry completed online questionnaire to be sent to local restaurants to assess usage of non-recyclable food containers and plastic straws, and to assess owner acceptance of recyclable alternatives and/or adopting a “provide straws on request only” policy.

3. Recycling Containers in Public Parks.

- May 15. SSCowR members Rob McCann and Roy Clark attended the monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Rob gave a presentation on the current situation regarding recycle containers in public parks, and the procedures the SSCowR followed in coming up with a recommendation for a standard additional/replacement container. Our recommendation was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on a unanimous vote.
- May 16. Dan DeGarmo placed an order for 35 recycle containers from Trashcans, Unlimited.

- June 6. Dan DeGarmo received notice that the bins will ship on June 26, 2018. The shipment will probably take a few days to get here, so he anticipated being able to start placing them in the parks the first or second week of July. Dan also reported that significant additional funding is available to order more containers.

4. Managing organic material in the City's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) stream and diverting it from landfill:

Background: On January 1, 2017, CA AB 1826 mandated that all Palm Springs business that generate 4 cubic yards or more of organic waste per month must participate in an organic waste collection program that recycles at least 50% or more of the amount of organic waste they generated in 2014. For most businesses generating that amount of organic waste, the waste is of the dry variety, such as landscaping waste, and is recycled via a composting facility. On January 1, 2019, however, the requirement to participate in a recycling program for organic waste will expand to include all business that generate 4 cubic yards or more per month of *any* form of solid waste (SW), not just dry organic. Hence, starting next year, many businesses that generate wet organic (e.g., food) waste will be required, for the first time, to participate in a waste collection program that recycles at least 50% of their *wet* fraction. In addition, in 2011 the Governor and state Assembly approved amendments to CA Assembly Bill 341 that set an ambitious goal of achieving 75 percent recycling, composting or source reduction of *all* forms of solid waste by 2020. For its part, the Sustainability Plan adopted by the City of Palm Springs in 2016 sets a goal of 90% diversion of our MSW stream from landfills by 2030.

In light of the fact that upcoming goals and requirements will increasingly target wet forms of organic waste for recycling, the SSCowR has been researching possible options for Palm Springs to recycle the wet organic fraction of the City of Palm Springs' MSW stream (estimated to be 30-40% of the total), all of which currently goes to landfill. Developments this month on this initiative include:

- May 23. Rob McCann met with Yaniv Scherson, Managing Director, Western US Division of Anergia corporation, to discuss Anergian's capabilities in the areas of retrofitting existing waste water treatment plants with the company's pressure-based "OREX" machine that extracts and recycles wet-fraction (largely food waste) carbon-based material from existing (non-source-separated) MSW streams.
- May 31. Rob McCann briefed members of the SSCowR and associated stakeholders on Anergian's technologies and capabilities, and got feedback on whether the SSCowR should take further steps to explore the possibility of retrofitting our WWTF with Anergia's technologies. The consensus of the attendees was that we should continue. Those steps are now in progress.

5. SSCowR members Roy Clark, Jessica Spry, and Robert McCann defined and selected SSCowR proposals for spending \$1M recycling fund.

1. Develop Comprehensive Citywide Recycle Plan.
2. Fund feasibility study for retrofitting the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility to process and divert wet organic waste from the Palm Springs Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) stream. If the City were to approve the retrofit, provide seed money for initiating the retrofit.
3. Expanded battery recycle program; Fund home storage bags and collection containers.
4. Reinstate and fund curbside pickup program of household hazardous waste.
5. Fund installation of recycle containers for golf balls and tennis balls at relevant City facilities.
6. Fund transition support for city businesses to convert to recyclable food storage and take-out containers and recyclable straws.
7. Fund study to determine feasibility of expanding standardized indoor trash and recycle containers for city facilities such as the airport and inside commercial establishments, such as fast food restaurants, coffee shops, and others, that feature a high volume of trash that's self-disposed in onsite containers by customers.

8. Subsidize C&D hauling and disposal under the preferred hauler program for small haulers who would be granted an exception from the upcoming C&D ordinance requirements. Specifically, funds will be allocated to cover costs associated with Subsection F of Section 8.07.130, Exception Procedure, of the proposed C&D Debris Ordinance currently under study by Palm Springs City Council. Section F reads:

“If an exception is granted, removal of applicant’s Construction and Demolition debris will be handled under the Preferred Construction and Demolition Hauler Program (Section 8.07.150). Preferred hauler program costs shall be billed directly to the City of Palm Springs.”

Recommendation/Request

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