



# Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: Sept 24, 2018

SUBMITTED BY: Robert McCann

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)

SUBMITTED DATE: Sept 24, 2018

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July 23, 2018

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: Oct 2, 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 submitted in April.

### 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.
- July 23. Councilmember Christy Holstege attended July SSCowR meeting to discuss next steps in developing ordinance. It was agreed at the time to draw up an ordinance limited to making supply of plastic straws in PS to an “on-request” basis.
- August 9. The SSCowR completed a draft ordinance for “on-request-only” status for supply of plastic straws in Palm Springs bars and restaurants and submitted it to Councilmember Holstege and members of the Sustainability Commission for consideration at the September 24 meeting.
- August 24. SSCowR member Roy Clark forwarded news to Councilmember Holstege and members of the Sustainability Commission that the draft ordinance has been “overtaken by events” in the form of the State of California passing a law to force restaurants of a certain size to make plastic straws available on a “request-only” basis.
- September 20. In response to the passage of the statewide legislation, SSCowR members Roy Clark and Robert McCann will be meeting with Councilmembers Kors and Holstege on October 2 at 2 PM to discuss modifications to the proposed Palm Springs Ordinance.

### 3. Recycling Containers in Public Parks.

- Deployment of the new recycle containers in public parks has commenced, with full deployment having been completed in Ruth Hardy Park and ongoing in Sunrise Park.

### 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 recycle options for the wet organic fraction of the City of Palm Springs' Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) stream (estimated to be 30-40% of the total), all of which currently goes to landfill. Specifically, SSCowR members have been exploring Anergia Corporation technologies that would extract the wet fraction, deliver the fraction to existing anaerobic digestion facilities at the Palm Springs Waste Water Treatment Facility, and convert the fraction into energy. The most recent activities in this exploration include:

- July 23. Councilmember Christy Holstege was briefed on the initiative during the monthly SSCowR meeting. Her initial assessment was a positive "How do we make this happen?"
- August 16. Anergia representative Yaniv Scherson presented a draft version of Anergia's proposal to SSCowR members Rob McCann and Roy Clark, Veolia Corporation representative David Schneider, Joel Montalvio (Assistant Director of Engineering, City of Palm Springs), and Dan DeGarmo, Gary Calhoun, & Jay Virata (City of Palm Springs). Stakeholders reviewed the presentation and discussed modifications and edits.
- August 29. Following additional iterations with SSCowR members, Yaniv Scherson completed a final version of the Anergia proposal for presentation at an upcoming meeting with stakeholders and PS City Councilmembers Christy Holstege and Sustainability Commission liaison Geoff Kors. That meeting is currently being scheduled.

### 5. Battery Recycling Project

- July 24. The City of Palm Springs was awarded a grant from CalRecycle in the amount of \$35,450.00 for the battery recycling program.

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**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