



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: May 21, 2019	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing SubCommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: May 13, 2019
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: April 23, 2019	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 28, 2019

Subcommittee Goal:

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

Summary:

1. C&D Waste Ordinance.

- No developments to report. Feedback from Chris Cunningham of PSDS indicated that most are already complying.

2. Reducing Single-use Nonrecyclable Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.

- At the May 1 City Council Meeting, Council Member Holstege requested that the potential ban on plastic straws, Styrofoam and foodware be added as a discussion item to the Council’s agenda as soon as possible. The Office of Sustainability is working with the City Attorney to develop a draft Staff Report for the May 22nd or June 5th meetings.

3. Battery Recycling Project

- Recycling collection tubes have been received. Containers for household battery storage are being printed. Program should be ready for launch in time for the World Environment Day.

4. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.

- May 8. Patrick Tallarico met with the City Manager, Maintenance Director, and Director of Procurement to discuss how to advance the purchase of downtown trash containers. Mr. Tallarico received cost information from the vendor for the modifications suggested by the Sustainability Commission and is preparing a Staff Report for the May 22nd Council Meeting.
- April 28. Rob McCann submitted a report for Phase 1 of the Palm Springs Public Spaces Recycling Program focusing on waste containers in public parks. The report captures findings from a recent audit of trash and recycling containers in Palm Spring’s public parks, identifies gaps and inconsistencies between the current state of Park containers and the recommended guidelines for public space waste container placement and design set out in the SSCoWR’s March 14 Report, and provides recommendations for closing or eliminating the gaps.
- May 5 and May 8. Patrick Tallarico and Gary Calhoun conducted a waste and recycling audit of DeMuth Park.

- May 6. Patrick Tallarico, Rob McCann and Gary Calhoun conducted a waste and recycling audit of Ruth Hardy Park. Preliminary analyses of the data indicate that the waste discarded in Ruth Hardy's recycle containers is contaminated by large amounts of non-recyclable material. Less contamination was found in the form of recyclable materials in the trash containers.
- May 8. Rob McCann and Patrick Tallarico met with Lynn Yada of Desert Learning Academy (DLA) to discuss a potential collaborative science project between the Sustainability Commission, The Palm Springs Office of Sustainability, and the DLA. The project would entail DLA students leading a systematic empirical evaluation of DLA waste container placement and design features on contamination of the waste stream collected from outdoor trash and recycle containers at the Academy. "Lessons learned" from the evaluation could inform future decision making for the Palm Springs Public Space Recycling project.
- May 16. Rob McCann and Patrick Tallarico met with Lynn Yada and Dr. Todd Reid, Principal, DLA, to familiarize Dr. Reed with the potential project.

5. Palm Springs Waste and Recycling Materials Management Investigation.

- April 23. Lani Miller presented three draft products at the monthly SSCoWR meeting for the Subcommittee's feedback:
 - A draft list of potential messages designed to improve how residents recycle.
 - A materials flow diagram that showed how recycling and trash moves through the municipal system from collection to ultimate recycling facilities.
 - A set of goals for an analysis to identify the following:
 - Investigate, catalogue, and accumulate pertinent data on landfill (LF) services, transfer stations, and material recovery facilities (MRF's) pertaining to the Palm Springs, Coachella Valley, and Riverside County network.
 - Update or develop best practices for recycling in Palm Springs. In addition to the developing a reality-based sorting list for recyclables, best practices could include proper pre-disposal preparation.
 - Launch a unified recycling campaign with clear, strong consumer messaging.
 - Project future optimization of Palm Springs waste management systems in order to minimize municipal production of greenhouse gases, as well as protect our air and environment from particulate carbon and chemical impact.

6. NUSA Presentation.

- May 9. Rob McCann met with David Freedman and Patrick Tallarico to critique early drafts of his presentation.
- May 17. Rob McCann gave a presentation entitled "Community Partnering to Divert Municipal Waste from Landfill" at the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) 2019 Conference: "Opening Doors to the Future".

7. Waste and Recycling Reporting

- April 23. At the monthly SSCoWR meeting, it was decided that Patrick Tallarico will work with Gary Calhoun to refine the monthly waste and recycling report.
- May 2. Patrick Tallarico, Gary Calhoun and Dan DeGarmo met to discuss report contents and format.

Recommendation/Request

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products and bring recommended actions to the Commission in June.

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