



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 18, 2019	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: July 9, 2019
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 30, 2019	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July , 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.
2. Reducing Single-use Nonrecyclable Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.
 - At the June 19th City Council Meeting, City Council recommended that staff proceed with the development of an ordinance to reduce the use of single use plastic food ware. They recommended that staff conduct additional outreach to the impacted community in the development of the draft ordinance. Staff will be developing an outreach strategy for July and August.
3. Battery Recycling Project
 - Staff continued to fill requests for home collection boxes. About 50 boxes were delivered to True Value. Five containers have been filled and collected to date. A new recycling station was added at the Farmers Market. Batteries can be dropped off there on Saturdays.
4. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
 - Rob McCann continued to refine results of the waste audit of downtown trash containers. He targeted Drink Cups (which make up approximately 25% of the items in unpaired trash containers) and Miscellaneous Plastic items (which account for 16% of the items). Breaking down Drink Cups into three subcategories: Paper cups, plastic cups with a recycling number of 1 (i.e., currently recyclable cups), and plastic cups with a recycling number >1 (currently nonrecyclable cups), it was found that paper cups accounted for 36% of the total number of drink cups counted, currently recyclable cups for 25%, and currently nonrecyclable cups for 36%. These results have implications for public education programs and container signage to reduce confusion as to what is and isn't currently recyclable and reduce contamination levels in recycle containers.
 - Breaking down Miscellaneous Plastic Items, it was found that the majority of the items in the category were plastic food ware, specifically, plastic utensils such as forks and spoons, plastic drink lids, and plastic straws. These findings have implications for the proposed city-wide ban on plastics food ware.

5. Palm Springs Waste and Recycling Materials Management Investigation.

- Lani Miller continued to research and review recycling program websites, web/mobile applications, and communications materials to identify potential good examples to inform future communication efforts.
- June 24. The committee met and discussed the results of the recycling survey. These results indicated that residents are confused about what they can and can't recycle and would like to see better and more consistent information available, especially on line. The committee agreed that the results reinforced the group's understanding of existing issues and agreed not to conduct additional surveys at this time. The committee agreed that this information would be combined with other information collected as part of the public spaces recycling efforts and reported on at the next Sustainability Commission meeting. Rob McCann agreed to coordinate that report out.
- June 24. Patrick Tallarico reviewed some of the takeaways from the recent visit to the Burrtec Materials Recovery Facility in Fontana. This takeaways will continue to be refined as the City learns more about how materials are handled. Patrick Tallarico will follow up with Burrtec on specific questions. This information will form the foundation of new communication materials as the City determines how to communicate changes in the recycling markets.

6. Waste and Recycling Reporting

- The group discussed the monthly reporting form and agreed that it would be helpful to simplify the types of charts presented to focus on how the monthly numbers contribute to our overall goals. It was suggested that we may also want to separate the reporting information into types of materials or generation streams to better understand how we are doing with green waste, commercial recycling, residential recycling, etc. Patrick will work with Gary to refine the reporting format.

7. Downtown Trash and Recycling Containers

- Committee members met with City Facilities and Maintenance staff on June 17th and members of the Main Street Merchants Board on June 25th to get input on container functional requirements and general recycling needs. On July 8th, the committee met to discuss feedback received to date. Council Member Roberts, the City Manager, and representatives from Facilities and Engineering participated. In that meeting, the group identified additional functional parameters that pointed to the purchase of new containers as the only viable option. Roy Clark will draft a motion for the Sustainability Commission to consider at its next meeting that describe these general parameters. Sustainability staff will work with Maintenance staff on a staff report that identifies specific containers and identifies the strong support for repurposing or reusing as many existing containers as possible.

Recommendation/Request

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products to improving recycling rates and report on progress at the Commission meeting in September.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	Review and vote on a motion to support the purchase of downtown trash containers.
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	N/A
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	Approximately 50% of the cost of the new containers will be paid for from the Recycling budget.