



# Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: November 19, 2019	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing SubCommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: November 14, 2019
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 7, 2019	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: December 5, 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 Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.
  - Manager Tallarico met with a sustainability consultant from UPSTREAM to discuss the draft ordinance on October 30 and November 12. They discussed outreach strategies as well as potential content changes to the draft ordinance language. Two key suggestions that emerged were to: 1) Eliminate the reference to banning polystyrene “foam” and reference polystyrene instead due to its health impacts. The foam version presents different environmental hazards because of its light weight and propensity to crumble. 2) Have a tiered approach to implementation focusing on banning polystyrene now, implementing accessory restrictions, and requiring reusable food ware. Phase 2 would include more instruction on acceptable disposable food ware. This is because we will not have a system in place to accommodate biodegradable food service ware and recyclables are typically food contaminated. A later implementation date will also coincide with state efforts to further define acceptable disposable food service ware. UPSTREAM is also working on language to clarify that reusable material for on-site food consumption should be reused on site.
  - Manager Tallarico is also working with UPSTREAM to include two additional components to the ordinance – a requirement that all dry cleaners make reusable bag systems available to customers at no charge and incorporation of the state law banning single-use toiletries in plastic bottles.
  - Food vendor surveys are continuing and will be completed in the next month.
  - The revised ordinance components will be presented to the Commission for further consideration at the November meeting and additional outreach will be conducted with the business community in December.
3. Battery Recycling Project
  - Staff continue to collect used batteries from the various locations around the city.
4. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
  - The group reviewed an updated version of the signage graphics at the November SSCoWR meeting. In

general, all images seemed acceptable. The only comments were to provide a more realistic used food packaging image and to eliminate the word “containers” from the Styrofoam picture. Manager Tallarico will work with the consultant to finalize the graphics and get it into final format. This will include development of the stickers that will appear on the containers.

- Manager Tallarico reported at the November SSCoWR meeting that he had met with Maintenance staff to discuss enhancing recycling and waste containers at the park. Manager Tallarico will meet with Commissioner McCann to develop a clear strategy for moving forward.
- The Airport has asked for input on the airport recycling containers. Manager Tallarico will follow up with them to look at what they plan to do.
- Downtown trash containers will be delivered in December. Manager Tallarico will check with City staff to determine how to approach signage.

#### 10. Outreach

- Manager Tallarico sent a note to Joy Meredith at Main Street Merchants to solicit interest in conducting the recycling and waste management brown bag. No response was received at the time of this report.
- Manager Tallarico, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner McCann gave a sustainability presentation at the October 17<sup>th</sup> ONE-PS Brown Bag. The presentation covered recycling and other sustainability topics.
- Manager Tallarico delivered a similar brown bag presentation at the Lions Club meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Manager Tallarico delivered a presentation to the CVAG Technical Working Group on Recycling and Waste Management on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The presentation provided an overview on the City’s efforts to reduce single-use plastics. Other cities in the valley have been considering efforts, but have not implemented anything. The group also discuss compliance with SB 1383. In particular, there was some interest in having CVAG conduct more research on organics treatment processes. Manager Tallarico will follow up with CVAG regarding this research effort.
- Manager Tallarico reviewed the proposed changes to the City’s recycling web site. Participants had minor comments and were asked to get additional comments to him by Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The group reviewed a draft press release for America Recycles Day. The group provided minor changes – eliminating the ellipses and adding a bullet about boxing loose paper due to windy conditions. Manager Tallarico will revise the press release and work with City staff to have it issued on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 11. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- Over 50 of the 140 site visits have been conducted. Unfortunately, very few of those establishments visited have followed up with PSDS to request changes in service.
- PSDS has contacted all multi-family units.

#### 12. Cultural Center Pilot

- Manager Tallarico conducted research into the installation of a water filler and provided that information to the Cultural Center representative.
- Manager Tallarico met with the Cultural Center Board on November 12 to discuss the three elements of the project – enhancing recycling infrastructure, the water filler conversion, and addressing the food service ware at the café.

### **Recommendation/Request**

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products to improving recycling rates and report on progress at future Commission meetings.

### **ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION**

Review and comment on next iteration of draft ordinance text or summary of proposed changes.

<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	Develop draft disposable food ware reduction ordinance and present to Council. Continue to work with Maintenance on downtown and other public spaces recycling programs. Work with Commissioner McCann on plan for park trash and recycling containers. Update website. Make additional efforts to coordinate with Main Street on Brown Bag. Begin additional outreach on single-use plastics ordinance.
<b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>	N/A