



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 17, 2019	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing SubCommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: December 12, 2019
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: December 5, 2019	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: January 9, 2019

Subcommittee Goal:

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

Summary:

1. Reducing Single-use Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.
 - Manager Tallarico continued to work with a consultant from UPSTREAM to refine the draft ordinance based on other cities and a model ordinance. Manager Tallarico presented the latest draft that reflected input from the Commission in November at the Subcommittee meeting on December 5th. He also presented a phased approach to implementation of additional restrictions for and beyond food ware. The group agreed on the following:
 - Do not include the reference to the specific number of times a reusable product could be washed.
 - Confirmed the addition of a reference to using only either compostable or fiber-based accessories for off-site food consumption.
 - 5.XX.003 (e) should be revised to read “Food prepared for off-site consumption or leftovers of partially consumed food on premises shall not be **placed in** single-use plastic bags.” There was some discussion about including an exception for liquid food. Participants mentioned Panera uses paper bags, even for soup, so this exception was not added. This will require a change to the current bag ordinance.
 - Change the deadline for lodging establishments to comply with the state-required “personal care products in small bottles requirement” to January 1, 2022, instead of January 1, 2023, (for more than 50 rooms) and January 1, 2024 (for 50 rooms or less). Many hotels are already converting and alternatives are readily available that will save businesses money.
 - Retain the requirements for restricting retail sale of polystyrene and polystyrene foams.
 - Keep the non-food ware restrictions, including things like dry cleaning bags and polystyrene foam coolers, in a future phase. In particular, Manager Tallarico suggested that the City should focus on outreach campaigns to generate change in other types of practices before issuing the next ordinance.
 - Retain the takeout food container charge with a future implementation date.
 - Manager Tallarico visited a few retail stores to assess the potential impact on a polystyrene ban. He observed that stores such as the .99¢ Store and Smart & Final have significant stock of polystyrene and polystyrene foam. Ralphs did not offer the same proportion of polystyrene food ware and accessories.
 - The group discussed the need to offer technical consulting support and other support (e.g., signage, rebates, etc.) to businesses to help them figure out how best to comply.
 - Manager Tallarico continued to coordinate with consultants at UPSTREAM. They suggested adding an exception for use of plastic straws by people with disabilities.
 - Food vendor surveys are continuing and will be completed in the next month.

- The revised ordinance will be presented to the Commission for further consideration at the December 17th meeting and additional outreach will be conducted with the business community in January.
- Commissioner Clark also mentioned the need to address management of odd plastic items such as CDs. This could be addressed through additional information on the City's website.

2. Battery Recycling Project

- Staff continue to collect used batteries from the various locations around the city. To date, we have recycled 580 pounds of various types of batteries.
- Additional shipping containers should arrive in late December.

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

- Manager Tallarico reported that the downtown trash and recycling containers will be delivered in December.
- The group reviewed an updated version of the signage graphics. In particular, the group focused on the signage for downtown containers. Manager Tallarico stated at the December SSCOVR meeting that he would be preparing a staff report for the December 19th Council meeting to get their support for the signs based on a suggestion from Maintenance staff. He prepared a draft staff report, but this item was later pulled. It was decided that Manager Tallarico will simply do a presentation to Council noting that the new signage would be going up along with the new containers. The signs for downtown will be finalized and ordered in December. The group will focus on stickers for the containers after they are received to determine the best approach for on-container labeling. The group agreed to the following: make the Spanish and English lettering the same and keep them all on the sign if possible, make the lettering overall as large as possible so it is easy to read.
- Manager Tallarico was not able to meet with airport staff to discuss their containers but will do so in December.
- Chris Cunningham mentioned that Palm Springs Disposal is ordering new lids for temporary recycling containers. The group agreed that the imaging should be consistent with the signage. Manager Tallarico will be working with Palm Springs Disposal to coordinate the labeling efforts on the temporary containers.
- Commissioner McCann met with the students at Desert Learning Academy to discuss their recycling research. He will be helping them move on to the next phase of the project, which is to establish recycling containers.

4. Outreach

- The press release for America Recycles Day was issued on November 15th.
- The Recycling portion of the website was updated based on the feedback provided by the Subcommittee.
- Manager Tallarico will reach out to communications firms to start to explore outreach mechanisms for the spring.

5. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- No updates were provided this month. PSDS continues to follow up with those businesses that are not in compliance.

6. Cultural Center Pilot

- Manager Tallarico reported that he conducted additional research to support the efforts of the cultural center to move to more sustainable food service ware. In particular, he found potential alternatives to on-site disposable glasses that would only require about 12-16 washings to pay for themselves. Commissioner Garratt also was able to solicit a variety of samples for more eco-friendly food ware that could be explored for takeout and in-theater use.
- Manager Tallarico and Commissioner Clark met with Cultural Center staff on December 5th to discuss results of this initial research and how to move forward with the purchase of a water bottle filler that would be

reimbursed by the City and DWA. The Center will be purchasing branded reusable cups to promote the launch of that filler. Commissioner Clark and Manager Tallarico will meet with Cultural Center staff again on December 16th to continue to explore and implement changes.

7. Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Commissioner Miller participated in a tour of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). She shared her investigation on wastewater treatment plants and on Palm Springs WWTP specifically, to the SCoWR meeting on Dec. 5th. The waste stream was discussed and three sources of greenhouse gas emissions at the WWTP were pinpointed. She shared information on a municipal campaign which could be integrated with waste reduction/ recycling to address one of the three as stated above. In addition, she discussed and requested that the City staff investigate potential financial support for the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) efforts to pass legislation addressing the mislabeling of so-called "flushable wipes" which mislead the consumer and constitute a major portion of waste, both materially and financially, in the wastewater stream. Manager Tallarico will follow up with the City Attorney. Commissioner Miller will continue WWTP investigation and work with Manager Tallarico to identify other potential actionable items for the Commission.

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.
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	Check with City Attorney about support for CASA effort. Continue to support Cultural Center project. Update single-use plastic ordinance and meet with affected businesses. Begin staff report.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	N/A