



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 18, 2019	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing SubCommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: May 13, 2019
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 30, 2019	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 24, 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.
 - This item will be discussed at the June 19th City Council meeting.
3. Battery Recycling Project
 - The program was announced at World Environment Day and through a press release on June 3rd. Recycling collection tubes have been positioned at the various locations around the city. The residential boxes arrived and were distributed to the various locations collection locations.
4. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
 - June 2: Rob McCann provided a draft proposal to Lynn Yada, Desert Learning Academy, entitled "Evaluation of Waste Disposal Behavior in Outdoor Spaces as a Function of Waste Container Placement, Design, and Education." Ms. Yada has forwarded the proposal to the Principal of the Academy for consideration.
 - The April-May Subcommittee report was updated to reflect that Debbie Calhoun participated in one of the waste audits.
5. Palm Springs Waste and Recycling Materials Management Investigation.
 - May 29. Lani Miller met with Dan DeGarmo and Patrick Tallarico to discuss next steps on the materials management investigation.
 - May 30. The Committee met and finalized the goals document and provided some minor edits to the materials flow diagram. The group also discussed a draft survey to obtain feedback from residents on their recycling practices and questions.
 - June 1. Rob McCann completed an analysis of contamination rates in paired and unpaired blue recycle containers across Demuth, Sunrise, and Ruth Hardy Parks. The primary result was that contamination

rates averaged 67% in the unpaired recycle containers, versus 40% in the paired containers.

- June 2. Lani Miller attended the World Environment Day and collected feedback from residents using the survey tool discussed at the Committee meeting. She later compiled this feedback to identify themes.
- Lani Miller conducted further investigations into various local outlets for recyclable materials.
- June 11. Lani Miller, Dan DeGarmo, Chris Cunningham traveled to the Materials Recovery Facility at Fontana to gather information on their materials handling practices. Rob McCann visited the Palm Springs Recycling facility to gather additional information on local recycling processes.

6. Waste and Recycling Reporting

- May 30. Gary Calhoun presented a draft report outline that will be used as a guide for developing future monthly reports to the full Commission on recycling and waste management activities and progress towards goals.

7. Downtown Trash and Recycling Containers

- June 5. Rob McCann submitted a SScowR position paper for Geoff Kors, Palm Springs City Council, entitled “Palm Springs Sustainability Commission Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction: Position Paper on Agenda Item 5.A: Purchase of New Trash/Recycling Bins for the Downtown Area”, opposing a “Yes” vote on Item 5.A on the June 5 Council Meeting agenda. The agenda item called for discussion and vote on the purchase of 130 identical combination trash and recycle containers to be placed in the downtown area.
- Previously, Committee members had provided input on the design of the downtown trash and recycling containers to council in a staff report. In response to the Staff Report and SScowR position paper, City Council decided to postpone discussion of Agenda Item 5.A until a meeting in July so that the Committee could identify some additional alternatives. Members of the Committee met on June 10th to develop an outreach and assessment strategy.

Recommendation/Request

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products and report on progress at 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