



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (ES) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(ESAC)
WASTE DIVERSION, COLLECTIONS, AND EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

*Approved by the Subcommittee on January 6, 2016
Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 12:00 P.M.
Ward 6 Council Office West Conference Room
3202 East 1st Street, Tucson, AZ

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Margot Garcia, at 12:00 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Kristin Ginter	Representative, City Manager's Office
Margot Garcia, Chair	Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

Daniel Uthe	Representative, Ward 6
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Staff Members Present:

Pat L. Tapia	Deputy Director, ES
Fran LaSala	Environmental Manager, ES
Cristina Polsgrove	Public Information Officer, ES

2. Approval of Minutes for November 4, 2015

It was moved by Committee Member Ginter, duly seconded, to approve the minutes for November 4, 2015. Motion passed by a voice vote of 2 to 0 (Committee Member Uthe absent).

3. Chairperson's Report

Chair Garcia announced she would refer two articles on the subject of plastic bag regulation to Andrew Quigley, ES Director, for consideration at the next full ESAC meeting.

4. Director's Update

- **South Tucson**

Pat L. Tapia, ES Deputy Director, indicated the department would be working with an outside consultant to conduct a study to project the costs to provide collection service to the City of South Tucson. After the study was completed, ES would need approval of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) from the Tucson Mayor and Council to provide waste and recycling collection service. He indicated Brush and Bulky pick up services would probably not be included in the service provided to South Tucson residents. Mr. Tapia said the department hoped to receive approval in January 2016, to begin providing service in February 2016. In the meantime, the City of South Tucson would continue to service their jurisdiction using ES-provided equipment.

Committee members requested staff provide information on how a South Tucson residential low-income rate would be incorporated into the IGA.

- **Household Hazardous Waste Schedule Changes**

Mr. Tapia announced there would be schedule changes to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program at the Los Reales Landfill in response to decreased drop-offs. HHW drop-offs would be accepted at the landfill from Tuesday to Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Drop-offs at the Main Site on Sweetwater Drive would continue to be accepted on Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. He indicated a containment unit would be available at the landfill in the event HHW material was dropped off and experienced landfill staff would also be on site to address questionable drop-offs that might occur while HHW staff was not available. Mr. Tapia also announced both HHW sites would be closed on December 26, 2015 and January 2, 2016, and the Eastside HHW Collection would be canceled for January and would resume the first Saturday of February 2016.

5. ReCommunity Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Update

Fran LaSala, ES Environmental Manager, indicated he did not have an update on the funds received to date from ReCommunity for Fiscal Year 2016. He said it would be provided at the next subcommittee meeting. Mr. LaSala reviewed several changes to the contract between ReCommunity and ES, which were expected to be beneficial to both parties with a total financial impact of about \$568,000. The changes included: Neighborhood Recycling Center collection; tip fee cap removal; Consumer Price Index adjustment; removal of the minimum revenue sharing; adjusting fiber freight; residue removal; residue surcharge; and a new revenue sharing model.

- **Second Audit of the ReCommunity Materials Recovery Facility**

Mr. LaSala said a basic audit of the ReCommunity Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was done in April 2015, after which the department decided to look at specific areas and conduct targeted marketing to see if an impact on the contamination rate could be observed. The department did a follow up audit 6-months afterward. The follow up audit indicated that contamination rates did not change, and had stayed around 19-20% since the audit procedures were changed in April 2014. Mr. LaSala indicated weather conditions had been fairly wet during the last audit and as a result, tonnage was increased.

Committee members noted that the audit numbers indicated Old Newsprint (ONP) and Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC), i.e. mixed paper, were still the highest percentage of recycling materials received at the MRF. Mr. LaSala stated that although less aluminum was collected, the material generated some of the highest revenue. In response to questions from committee members, Mr. LaSala indicated the only time ES paid for Reject/Residue, i.e. waste, to be removed from the MRF was when a load being dropped off had over 50% contamination, which occurred about a couple of times a month.

6. “Zero Waste” Efforts at Civic Events

Pat L. Tapia indicated staff was compiling a list of civic events, particularly those where food was a major component, to identify where the department could promote waste diversion / “zero waste” techniques such as recycling and composting. Staff indicated the department had been hindered in its efforts to provide expanded recycling at some events due to its inability to provide comprehensive event services, such as portalet rentals in addition to waste and recycling service, and the department’s cost of service could also be higher than its competitors. It was speculated that the majority of waste generated at civic events was disposed of in the landfill.

Subcommittee members suggested staff provide rate sheets to event coordinators and convention centers, instead of focusing on specific events, and promote its “zero waste” techniques, which might provide cost savings on waste disposal rates if enough recyclables and food waste were separated from actual waste. Mr. Tapia said the department might consider establishing discounted rates for “zero waste” collection services for events. Chair Garcia suggested event coordinators could solicit aluminum and plastic bottle collection service from organizations and/or event volunteers.

7. Capital Improvement Projects Review

- **CNG Station at Price Service Center**

Pat L. Tapia announced new CNG tanks would soon be installed at the Price Service Center. It was expected the facility would be operational by the

middle of 2016 and the department expected to save on fuel costs, even with the current low price of diesel.

- 10th Avenue Container Maintenance Facility

Mr. Tapia announced the communication tower at the facility was expected to be moved in January 2016 and bids for the demolition of the former transfer station would be accepted at the same time. He said the department expected to start demolition around March 2016 and hoped to complete renovation of the site in February 2017.

8. ESAC Annual Report

Chair Garcia reviewed the last full ESAC Annual Report with the subcommittee. She indicated she would prepare a draft submission for the subcommittee to review and add to at its January meeting.

9. TreeCycle Update

Fran LaSala announced the TreeCycle program was active and had started promoting sites via flyers, the ES website, and phone app. The sites would be set up on December 24, 2015, in preparation of receiving trees through January 2016. Mr. LaSala indicated staff would report the number of trees received during the holiday season in February 2016.

10. Waste Diversion

- Contamination Study Audit

Fran LaSala announced an audit of about fifty-eight Monday Route recycling containers showed a net decrease of contamination of 7% after an initial audit was conducted in mid-October followed by recycling education.

11. Public Outreach

- Commercial Recycling Survey

Cristina Polsgrove, ES Public Information Officer, indicated an online survey was sent out to businesses through the local Chambers of Commerce. About ten responses had been received and it was hoped additional participation could be solicited with more follow up.

12. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The following topics were submitted for the next subcommittee meeting:

- Know Where to Throw (for January 2016)
- Family Fun Festival Debrief
- 10th Avenue Container Maintenance Facility Improvements (former Transfer Station)

- ESAC Annual Report
- Commodity Quarterly Report
- Neighborhood Association Meeting Update
- Truck Screens Update
- Tire Changes
- School Education Update

Subcommittee members agreed to tentatively schedule the next subcommittee meeting for January 6, 2016, at 12:00 p.m.

13. Call to the Audience

None.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.