



Solid Waste Resources TWG Meeting #1 Summary

March 21, 2018

5:00 PM-7:00 PM

1400 S. Flores - Main Conference Room

Introductions

- Doug Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, introduced representatives from the City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability, CPS Energy, UTSA, and Navigant Consulting. Nils Frenkel from Navigant served as facilitator for the meeting. Attendees from the technical working group introduced themselves.
- There was discussion around changing the name of this group from "Solid Waste Resources" to "Waste and Consumption".

Review of Process & Timeline

- Due to the short timeline, the group might have to meet more often than once a quarter. Meeting frequency will be determined after all technical working groups have met.
- The goal is to have a Paris-compliant GHG target by June 29, 2018 and a draft climate action and adaptation plan by the end of the year.
- Liaisons from the Steering Committee (SC) will be selected by the Mayor to help with communication between the Technical Working Group (TWG) and SC. Encourage the cross-pollination of ideas.
- TWG helps bring perspective of the community but also helps with engagement by communicating to respective organizations or companies about SA Climate Ready. TWG helps amplify the message and process.
- Equity is not just the responsibility of the Climate Equity TWG but a shared responsibility across TWGs and SC. The process should be transparent and fair and engage the most vulnerable communities. Be cognizant that climate impacts differ across demographic groups and understand vulnerabilities that exist in the community. Identify solutions that do not exacerbate equity issues.

SA Climate Ready Vision + Priorities Activity & Feedback Review

- Vision
 - Localize glass recycling
 - Create a local business sector around recycling – improved diversion and job creation
 - Create a materials exchange or reuse programs; salvage materials and incentivize it
 - Make all waste valuable (e.g. use air-conditioning condensate for irrigation, use waste heat for applications that need excess heat like for indoor agriculture, etc.)
 - Address food waste issues; excess food given to shelter or to farms before composting
- Priorities
 - Identify successful models and understand how to implement at larger scales, like the food bank.

2014 GHG Inventory Overview & 2016 GHG Inventory Update

- Default values for landfill gases were used for 2014.
- Comments:
 - The amount of annual waste produced in 1958 was around a 0.5 ton per household; in 2014, it was at 1.8 tons per household due to increased food waste and delivery boxes. More volume at the landfill equates to more methane production.
 - Landfill what needs to be landfilled, but other items that can diverted should be diverted.

GHG Mitigation Strategies: Best Practices

- TWG to review best practice documents shared in the Google Drive.

Future Meeting Schedule & Next Steps

- Every 6 weeks or monthly. As long as everyone does their homework, might not have to meet every month.
- Morning meetings (9-11 AM) work well.
- Need clear homework with deadlines.

Additional Comments

- Will strategies be included in the next budget year? It will most likely be included in the FY2019 process.
- A representative from the City Attorney's office or Development Services should attend meetings in case some strategies that are discussed are not legal or not enforceable. They need to be involved earlier.
- Different applications for using recycled materials in landscaping, concrete, road infrastructure, or buildings. For example, some glass is used in concrete or roads.
- City of Plano has a construction and demolition recycling ordinance that requires 50% recycling rate for new construction projects. City of Austin is implementing one next year. They are requiring 3 bins on site, but if that is not designed into a space, it can pose a problem. Consider the post-collection side challenges with these types of ordinances.
- Is there a mechanism to link entities together in regards to reclaiming food and giving it to those who need it?
- If you deal with transporting food in the waste business, it has to be reclassified as "special waste."
- Landfill diversion and reuse should be taking place at large cafeterias.
- In commercial composting, the infrastructure is currently not available for composting a lot of food. There is only one commercial composter in San Antonio that can handle food waste.
- Waste efforts on the residential side are on the right track, but we need to look at what incentives would be helpful for commercial properties.
- Restaurants want to recycle, but they cannot afford it.
- HEB should participate in this TWG.

Public Comment

- How can repurposing create green jobs and be potential sources of income for individuals? For example, aging furniture could be turned into art.
- Emphasize big goals and big visions. City of Boston has a Zero Waste goal. Reduce consumption and make waste more valuable. It is important that we know what we are doing and making data public. How much is San Antonio wasting, and what is being recycled? How much better can we be doing?
- Do something about plastic waste and plastic bags because they are causing problems in the environment.

