

Community Zero Waste Meeting Notes
June 1, 2005, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Mitchell Park Community Center, Main Hall
3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto @ East Meadow, Palo Alto

- Introductions by Co-Chairs Walt Hays and Bud Mission of Zero Waste Task Force members and City staff present who are working on the Zero Waste Strategic Plan.
- Remarks on subject of Sustainability and Zero Waste by Mayor Jim Burch
- Introduction to Zero Waste PowerPoint presentation by Gary Liss
- Overview of Zero Waste Planning Process and work of Zero Waste Task Force
- Residential Zero Waste Survey- Survey is available online until June 15 and residents are encouraged to complete the survey
- Questions and Discussion

Challenges:

- Recycling: ice cream cartons (plastic coated paper), pasta bags (crinkly plastic)
- Toxins in packaging > problems with composting?
- Non-numbered plastics > not included in recycling
- Businesses need to hear we want them to follow protocols so items can be reused/recycled
- Restrictions needed on packaging so non toxic to compost
- Toxicity of biodegradable plastic
- Need to get schools sustainable! (e.g. use of polystyrene trays)
- Issue- Online shopping = more packaging

Plastics

- Always end up with (especially bags)

Education

- Education needed for people to understand problems in recycling process and problem in the environment.
- Disconnect re: where recyclables are going – educate so community becomes connected with the cycle
- Tell how we have verified that things are being recycled

Textiles

- What happens to things you donate that are unwearable.. Market exists for textiles which are recycled into rags and rag-products (e.g., rag rugs)
- Carpet companies/padding . Few markets exist for recycling of this material.
- Need for “nice” clothes reuse