

Meeting Summary

City of Palo Alto Zero Waste Policy and Strategic Plan
April 7, 2005, 8:15-10:15 am
Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Road

Next Meeting: April 21, 2005

8:15am-10:15am

Location: Palo Alto Art Center, Auditorium

Next Steps- Special meeting called for April 21 to continue discussion of policy options. Time 8:15a – 10:15a.

- I. Opening and introductions- Bud Mission, Co-Chair, City of Palo Alto Zero Waste Committee
- II. Zero Waste Business Survey- Bud Mission
 - A. Presentation of survey results
 - B. Estimated at least 1,000 businesses received outreach about the survey- 47 responses
 - C. Survey to be extended until April 30, 2005
 - D. Presentation posted to Zero Waste web page

III. Menu of Policy Options- Gary Liss

A. Comments recorded during meeting (compiled by Annette Puskarich and Gary Liss)

1. Need to make the connection between waste created at home versus waste created from purchasing products. Need to make business-resident connection
2. Clarify "Adequate in current space allocation ordinance.
3. Highlight on rating sheets overlap areas for sustainability and core solid waste options.
4. Include reporting requirements and public access to raw data
5. Include adequate space for reusable items (e.g., include at C&D site)
6. Explore if properties have truly achieved functional obsolescence vs. potential for rebuilding (can it be reused in place). How can we take what's there and recycle it back.
7. Perhaps develop some land bank or realtor matching service to accomplish above ideas.
8. Discuss comments on policies on Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PAZWTF>)
9. Add recognition program for adaptive reuse, to educate public on value of buildings (not just historical buildings and Eichlers). Work closely with city preservationists.
10. Monster houses could be hot button item and slow down other things in ZW Plan.
11. Any controversial zoning/ land use/property rights-type issues be incorporated into a Zero Waste Plan in a way that does not cause the entire Plan to be rejected based on that issue alone. Phase-in or pilot approach to provide case study of how policy could work
12. Adaptive reuse policies could be phased in. Berkeley has more stringent program as example. Perhaps Palo Alto should establish basic criteria for allowing residential buildings to be torn down without any problems.
13. For multi-family dwellings, adopt mandatory recycling now.
14. Policy 3, 4- Emphasis on importance of Recycling Market Development Zones (RMDZ) and funding opportunities through the State. San Jose, Oakland, and San Francisco named as examples of cities with successful RMDZs. Importance of developing local infrastructure.

15. Policy 6, identify what City could do on waste audits and list best practices.
16. Policy 6- Suggestion of packaging Utilities, Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance audit/technical services. Increase number of businesses certified under Green Business Program. Green Business is not even close to zero waste business but is a step along the way.
17. Policy 13, put costs in garbage rates. Note: franchise ends 2007, or 2009.
18. Policy 15, action needed includes modify space allocation ordinance.
19. Policy 19, include "renewable energy" as requirement to support other sustainability programs.
20. Policy 20, consider offering fee option, with opt out and pay with money going to phased in public outreach.
21. Policy 21, consider as part of Global Warming Goals (2006 education; 2008 REQUIRE lower level of LEED... put in dates for phased in education and incentives.
22. Policy 21, consider certification acceptable other than LEED.
23. Policy 21, recognizing that time is money, consider time as an incentives (e.g., streamlining permit processes or expedited review, if meet LEED certification)
24. Policy 21- Phase-in approach suggested. Concern that increased costs could discourage development within City. Policy would face developer opposition.
25. Policy 23, consider phasing in.

B. Comments submitted on forms after 4/5/05 meeting (compiled by Gary Liss)

1. Policy 15, for adequate reuse/recycling is modification of space allocation ordinance to discuss ZW goals for garbage enclosures.
2. Playa Vista – environmental community put big pressure on this project built on wetlands.
3. On any place in the document, surplus or reusables require space. Separate reuse out from recycling space.
4. Move Building – Identify Barriers. PG&E cost for wires – very expensive. What can the City do to help reduce this cost?
5. On LEED goals include some specific year goals (e.g., educate commercial LEED Construction 2006, City Property 2007, Commercial 2008, Commercial Remodel 2009, Residential 2010.

6. I'd like to see some specific goals for multi-family dwellings. Personally, it's time to make recycling at MFDs mandatory.
7. "I'd like to see #5-37 broken into additional subsets: Policy, Ordinance Changes, Contract Changes, Educational Programs."
8. Policy #6, should stress materials separation so that frequency of collection can be modified – requires resizing of bins.
9. Policy #15, building permits should require space allocation so that multiple bins are possible.
10. Policy #20, based on my understanding of the success of C&D ordinances, specifically San Jose's, it may be more appropriate that discounts in tipping fees be given to haulers bring material to 'certified recycling facilities' or fees builders are required to pay be given to the recycling facilities as subsidy (larger range implementation).
11. Policy #23, owners should be allowed to do what they want with their property as long as it conforms to existing zoning requirements. Require additional recycling or give incentives to accomplish policy goals.
12. Overall notes – while the policies listed are extensive and cover a lot of ground, it might be better if policy is separated from detailed implementation ideas (e.g., encourage C&D recycling by _____, encourage commercial recycling by _____, they are too mixed).
13. Concerned about eliminating some good ideas that may not be as high priorities compared to other 'big picture' ideas. Perhaps include a list of "other good ideas" in an appendix that may not be as broad in perspective."

IV. Next Steps- Special meeting called for April 21 to continue discussion of policy options.
Time 8:15a – 10:15a.

Attendees:

Michael Closson, Acterra, ZWTF of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties
Scott Nixon, Agilent
Yoriko Kishimoto, Council Member, City of Palo Alto
Robert Le, City of Palo Alto Public Works Refuse
Julie Weiss, City of Palo Alto Public Works Environmental Compliance
Annette Puskarich, City of Palo Alto Public Works Refuse
Russell Reiserer, City of Palo Alto Public Works Refuse
Wendy Hediger, City of Palo Alto Public Works Refuse
Landee Lopez, City of Palo Alto Economic Resources
Trish Mulvey, Clean South Bay
Maija McDonald, Palo Alto resident
Tom Moutoux, Foundation For Global Community
James Kao, Green Citizen
Jim Lord, Land First Consultants

Irene Sampson, League of Women Voters
Jim Burch, Mayor, City of Palo Alto
Karen Holman, Palo Alto resident, ZWTF of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties
Eric Hassett, Palo Alto Hardware
Melissa Stai, Palo Alto Medical Foundation
Jocelyn Dong, Palo Alto Weekly
Emily Renzel, Palo Alto resident representing Parks
Michael Kearney, Palo Alto Unified School District
Julie Muir, Peninsula Sanitary Service
Walt Hays, Palo Alto resident and Co-Chair, Palo Alto Zero Waste Task Force
Bob Wenzlau, Palo Alto resident, Terradex
Bud Mission, Roche Palo Alto and Co-Chair, Palo Alto Zero Waste Task Force
Greg Mize, Roche Palo Alto
Ann Schneider, Sierra Club Zero Waste Task Force
Mirna Cintron, Stanford and Lucille Packard Children's Hospital
Catherine Cervantes, Stanford and Lucille Packard Children's Hospital
Barbara Pressman, Stanford Terrace Inn
Henry Clark, TIBCO Software
Tony Stein, ZWTF of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties