



Desert Community College District

Sustainability Council

Minutes for Tuesday, October 15, 2019

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room, Cravens Student Services Center

Attendees:

Students: Alex Quintero, Anika Acosta, Brianna Butler, Christina Schneider (Co-Chair & President of Ecologic Club), Cassidy Arce, Dennisse H. Flores, Isabel Olea, Lizeth Isidoro, Mayra Alcaraz-Lopez, Melody Berg, Nick Enciso, Olivia Hall, Olympia Fick, Patrick Hilbur, Yazzmine De Leon,

Faculty/Staff: Candice Weber (Adjunct), Linda Costagliola (Staff)

Guest: Rev. Ronaldo Gouldlock, Sr. (District Environmental Coordinator at Burrtec Waste & Recycling Services, rgouldlock@burrtec.desert.com)

1. Student Report

1.1 Student Co-Chair: Christina Schneider, reported on the items listed under 1.1.

Ecologic Club Update

1.1.1 Secretary Position: The secretary position has been filled.

1.1.2 Biological Monitoring (11/9 or 11/16): Currently working out the details with Ryan Llamas with the Audubon Society for a trip out to the Salton Sea either November 9th or November 16th to monitor the water and what the impacts it has on the organisms. This is the research part following the Salton Sea Summit.

1.1.3 Carrizo Canyon Guided Hike: This hike is guided by the Friends of the Desert. Christina will email the Eco Club more information.

1.1.4 Volunteer Fair: The Volunteer Fair will take place on October 24th. There will be different organizations at the fair. Anyone that wants

to volunteer stop by the fair and see what opportunities are available for volunteering.

- 1.1.5 Shirts and reusable utensils coming soon: There was a vote at the last meeting for Eco Club clothing and it was decided to order shirts. Tried to get reusable utensils but they are too expensive. Looking at getting paper straws.
- 1.1.6 Salton Sea Summit: The Salton Sea Summit is on Friday, October 18, 2019, at the University of California, Riverside, Palm Desert Campus from 1:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. with Ryan Llamas and others. Register online at <https://forms.gle/Fc4YG5ur2fwZcgnAA>.
- 1.1.7 Recycling bins: The City of Palm Desert donated four recycling bins to the Eco Club to assist with fundraising for the club. They have been delivered and the Art Club will start painting them this Friday. The placement of these bins will be by the MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement) office, Beeps Cafe, TASC (Tutoring & Academic Skills Center) and the Applied Sciences building at the Palm Desert Campus. The bins will be for recycling plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans (with a CA Redemption Value (CRV) symbol). The profits will to the Eco Club and Art Club.

2. Faculty Report

2.1 Burrtec News by Rev. Renado Gouldlock, Sr., District Environmental Coordinator from Burrtec Waste & Recycling Services.

- Received handout "Burrtec News, Waste and Recycling Newsletter."
- Burrtec serves customers in the Coachella Valley, all cities except Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs.
- China discontinued taking everyone's recyclables. It was estimated that a ship container that was supposed to be recycling materials (aluminum, plastic, cardboard, paper, etc.) was actually 30% or more trash. Now everyone is trying to find out what to do with their recycling. There is a material recovery facility in San Bernardino/Fontana area.

- AB 341 – California Assembly Bill 341 (Mandatory Commercial Recycling) requires businesses and public entities that generate four (4) cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week, to have a recycling program in place. This includes multi-family houses complexes with five (5) or more units within one building. Recycling not only conserves our natural resources, but can save money by reducing waste disposal costs. Burrtec representatives can assist in selecting the appropriate recycling service level, along with the necessary education and outreach to residents and managerial staff. To schedule a complimentary waste and recycling assessment, contact Burrtec's customer service department at (760) 340-2113. Majority of businesses in the Coachella Valley comply.
- Contamination of Recyclables could result in a fee: Burrtec is working with Coachella Valley cities to raise awareness of the importance of recycling, increase recycling participation, and eliminate contamination from recycling and organics collection containers. This initiative is pertinent to the efforts of your community's continued recycling success as the state of California mandates become more critical. An example of contamination would be if you had a recycle bin filled with recyclable cardboard and you threw an old shoe in that bin then the entire recycle bin has been contaminated and cannot be recycled.
- Burrtec's contamination fee/policy: Trash and other contaminants in the recycling or organics collection container(s) could result in a fee and non-collection due to contamination. After the first warning, customers may be charged a contamination fee and the container may not be serviced until contaminants are removed. A contamination fee will be automatically assessed if hazardous or biohazardous materials are placed in any collection container. Not sure what goes in each container? Visit www.burrtec.com or call Burrtec Customer Service at (760) 340-2113 for assistance.
- Assembly Bill 1826 (Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling) requires all businesses generating more than four (4) cubic yards of

solid waste per week to recycle food waste and landscape waste and multi-family housing complexes with five (5) or more units within one building, that generate four (4) cubic yards of solid waste or more per week, to recycle their organic waste material. Organic waste includes food, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, and nonhazardous wood waste. More than a third of our waste in the landfill was organic. What happens with organic waste in a landfill is when you start to turn over the trash in the landfill over and continuously burying this organic waste it produces methane (odorless flammable gas). They are trying to take all of these types of wastes out of the landfills and send them to a compost facilities. Burrtec has two compost facilities; one at the Indio/Coachella boarder and one in the hills in Cathedral City north of I-10 and Date Palm Drive at Edom Hill. Edom Hill landfill closed in 2005 because it filled up. There is a large transfer station where trucks dump their waste load and the waste loads are put into a much larger semi-trucks and delivered to other landfills. The nearest one to the Coachella Valley is in Beaumont called Lamb Canyon Landfill. About 90 percent of the restaurants in Rancho Mirage actually collect organic waste which eventually end up in a compost facility. Burrtec is working with Palm Desert and the other cities to get to that point too.

- Assembly Bill 1383 – The State is going to require the Counties and Cities to put processes in place to measure and determine who is and who is not complying with recycling, if not a fine will be assessed. This Bill takes the organic component to another level and focuses primarily on organic/food waste. In this state, we throw about seven to eight million tons of edible food waste annually. Trying to get the edible food waste into a facility that could distribute to a food bank for families in need. The organic waste would go to a compost facility where it is ground up with other organic waste and made into other materials such as mulch. According to the state mandate, we need to be at 50% less of the

organic waste that we put into our landfills by 2020. By 2025, the threshold goes up to 75%. This will eventually reach down to the residential sector as well.

- Burrtec has a bin for green waste for residential.
- Sustainability in Construction: Most cities have an ordinance/process (AB 939) for construction waste. This includes wood waste, wood, concrete, and drywall, which are recyclable.

3. Other Business

- Recycling Program: Need to develop a recycling program for the college including educating people on recycling and providing a standard for the recycling and trash receptacles. Candace reported that a student in the GIS (mapping tool) class last semester went around the campus and mapped out and took photos of every single recycling and trash bins including bicycle racks. There is a web application with this information you can interact with. It is a visual collection of what is on campus in terms of our recycling efforts. Candace will share this information at the next meeting. Need Maintenance and Operations assistance.
- Agricultural Department: Student brought up an idea about composting in the agricultural area of the campus. The student will contact Professor Jeff Place about this item and report back at the next meeting. Composting needs to be actively managed.
- Packaging Bill: There was a question asked if there was a Bill that passed about packaged items. Rev. Gouldlock had not heard of one.
- Dining Hall: There was a question asked about having a composting area in the Dining Hall. Burrtec does not recommend a composting area on campus. To properly compost, you have to turn the material over and what happens is it cooks from the inside out. It has to reach a certain temperature to break down the material. If it is not done properly, the material will not break down and it may get hot enough to cause a combustion and then you have a fire. It would be better to have an area designated for the collection of food waste and then have someone pick it up and take it to a composting facility. We will need to meet with Maintenance & Operations and Burrtec.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room, Cravens Student Services Center