

## RECYCLING WORK GROUP – SV ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES

Tuesday February 6, 2024 3:00 pm Sierra Vista Library Conference Room

Attendance: ES Commissioners: Joelle Buffa, Steve Spearman, Bruno Talerico  
ESC members of the public: Bob and Betty Poynter, LeAnn McConnell

Define goal of this working group: Expand and Promote Opportunities for Recycling in Sierra Vista.  
“RECYCLE, REDUCE, REUSE”. (3 R’s)

Goal for this meeting: Identify concrete actions or steps that the working group will take to further recycling (or 3 R’s) in Sierra Vista.

Ideas for projects and actions to further the 3 R’s (brainstorming session):

1. Research ways to recycle electronic devices at Best Buy; “reduce” by turning in old medications to CVS; access the City’s website on what, where, and how to recycle.
2. List ways to reuse in Sierra Vista.
3. Update/expand Sierra Vista’s website list of what and where to recycle.
4. Understand the process for updating the City’s website with new ideas and information.
5. Conduct a public survey to determine level of support for recycling.
6. Survey the extent of interest and support of SV residents in recycling and how much it is done.
7. Work with teachers to assess & increase knowledge-level of school children in SV too. For example, what they do to recycle at home? Do they know what a landfill is and what happens within a landfill?
8. Better understand how kids and younger people access information in order to better reach them with recycling messaging and increase knowledge and support for recycling.
9. What are the City’s plans or goals for future recycling?
10. Find out how City offices and departments manage recyclables? What are they doing to set an example for reduce/reuse/recycle?
11. Determine barriers to recycling.

Short history of SV residential recycling and what other communities are doing – handout. It is striking to note that in 2012 when SV started curbside recycle pick-up they served 11,000 residents. After March, 2020, when the drop-off center closed and a private recycling company took over, paying residents have dropped to 629 households.

Observation: In the timeframe that City leadership and household participation in Sierra Vista’s recycling has declined, leadership and resident participation in other communities in the area has continued and evolved.

Bob and Betty Poynter gave a video presentation based on their research into Bisbee’s recycling program, and presented an idea for a drop-off center at Veteran’s Memorial Park. They have identified a possible space for it. It would need a “baler” to compress recyclables for delivery to Tucson. It would be a covered area, have solar panels for lighting, and an educational story wall to explain the benefits of recycling for a circular economy.

Follow-up comments of video presentation:

Who would run the baler? (Projected cost of baler: \$200,000.)

Have volunteers or paid employee to help recyclers.

Is the Bisbee drop-off model scalable to a Sierra Vista-sized community?

Is there a planned city use for the park corner off MLK street?

How to gain support for City backing of the project?

Grant money – where would funding to build, operate, and maintain the facility come from?

Are there other models? Can we integrate with Bisbee's model?

How to convince Sierra Vista residents to participate in a recycling drop-off center?

If we had a "hub and spoke" system similar to Bisbee's could we reinstate curbside service?

Explore what other similarly-sized communities are doing for recycling.

Is there a model for a 501(c)3 company to take on operating a recycling station?

#### Possible Action Items (3 R's)

- List of ways to re-use in Sierra Vista.
- Update and expand the Sierra Vista City website list.
- How to get the work group ideas and information into the City website
- Do a public survey of knowledge level with school kids in Sierra Vista that support recycling.
- What are the City's plans or goals for the future?
- Do a marketing study to determine the willingness of residents to participate in recycling.
- What is Ft. Huachuca's trash-recycling service? Do they have an incentive program?
- Survey HOA neighborhoods – gauge their interest level in recycling programs.
- Buy a mailing list from the County?

#### Assignments:

Bruno – Find out what City departments are doing to recycle and reuse.

Joelle – Make a presentation at Feb ESC meeting on work group progress.

Betty (w/help from Joelle) - Start contacting businesses listed on SV's "Where to Recycle" webpage as first step in updating and expanding it.

All - Develop questions for the City Council on how to gauge community interest in recycling programs. For example, will they use drop-off centers? Recycle glass? How far are people willing to drive? (Send questions to Joelle.)

Meeting adjourned 6 pm.