

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
WORKSHOP MEETING

Held on Thursday, the 10th day of April 2025, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Public Works Department located at 1050 Malabar Road, SW, Palm Bay, Florida. The minutes are not a verbatim transcript, but a summary of the discussions and actions taken at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Rebecca Ziegler at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRPERSON:	Logan Luse	Present
VICE CHAIRPERSON:	Rebecca Ziegler	Present
MEMBER:	Jane Higgins	Present
MEMBER:	Susan B. Connolly	Present
MEMBER:	Jessica Lovell	Present
MEMBER:	Vacant	
MEMBER:	Vacant	

CITY STAFF:

Nadeca McLaughlin-Gonzalez, Assistant Public Works Director; Derek Bunt, NPDES Stormwater Outreach Coordinator; Jesinie Fieffe, Administrative Assistant; Jose Sanabria, Operations Division Manager; Dennis Bunt, Public Works Customer Service Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sustainability Action Plan Review – Waste Management

Ms. Ziegler introduced the new initiative to review the Sustainability Action Plan, specifically focusing on the Waste Management section. Ms. Higgins highlighted the Satellite Beach Waste Management section as a valuable reference. Ms. Lovell suggested discussing goals first, followed by an examination of the structure and local and community objectives. Ms. Connolly and Ms. Ziegler agreed to remove local and community objectives to ensure consistency across sections.

Ms. Lovell and Ms. Connolly engaged in a discussion about the wording of Goal One, which emphasized increasing the use of reusable, compostable, and electronic resources. Ms. Higgins proposed focusing on source reduction and the establishment of specific numerical goals, but the Board decided to retain the original wording. The Board debated whether to use the term "decrease" or "reduce" and ultimately decided to keep "decrease" for consistency. Ms. Connolly suggested rephrasing the goal to state that the aim was to increase the use of resources to decrease waste. The Board concurred.

The Board then addressed specific objectives under Goal One, such as eliminating single-use plastics and transitioning to compostable materials. Ms. Higgins and Ms. Lovell raised concerns regarding the achievability of objectives, such as "eliminate." In response, Ms. Ziegler recommended using "transition" instead of "eliminate" to make the goals more attainable. The Board concurred to maintain the current objectives but agreed to rephrase them for clarity and measurability.

Next, the Board reviewed Goal Two, which focused on increasing recycling rates among the city government, residents, and businesses. Ms. Connolly proposed the creation of city composting programs for residential use and the establishment of designated recycling areas. Ms. Higgins and Ms. Lovell emphasized the importance of community awareness and the need for educational materials regarding recycling. Mr. Dennis Bunt shared information about current city efforts in recycling education and contamination measurement. The Board acknowledged the necessity of educational programs to improve compliance and reduce contamination in recycling efforts. Mr. Bunt also mentioned the challenges associated with measuring contamination and stressed the ongoing need for education. Ms. Higgins suggested exploring new recycling methods and placing a particular focus on hard-to-recycle items. The Board agreed to promote educational programs and support the city's existing recycling initiatives.

Lastly, the Board discussed the potential for collaborating with local organizations to aid in the reduction of single-use plastics. Ms. Lovell proposed investigating opportunities to expand recycling stations specifically for hard-to-recycle items. Ms. Connolly emphasized

the importance of leveraging existing community resources for effective recycling. The Board unanimously agreed to explore partnership opportunities and expand recycling stations for hard-to-recycle materials.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Upcoming Meetings/Events of Interest (INFORMATIONAL).

The group discussed the agenda for the upcoming meeting, including a presentation on Biochar. Ms. Connolly suggested that the focus be on the Sustainability Action Plan and recommended avoiding scheduling too many additional meetings. Mr. Dennis Bunt emphasized the importance of managing meeting minutes and the workload on the staff. The board agreed to revisit the agenda and check the availability of the meeting room for the next session. Ms. Connolly stressed the necessity of creating an implementation chart to track progress and ensure the completion of the Sustainability Action Plan. Ms. Lovell recommended using an Excel document to monitor changes and updates to the plan. The board agreed to review the next chapter of the plan and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Ms. Higgins mentioned the need to present to the Brevard County commissioners about Low-Impact Development and informed the group about upcoming meetings with relevant stakeholders. Mr. Luse provided updates on future events and public meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Logan Luse, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jesinie Fieffe, Recorder