



Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S-CAP)

WASTE Work Group Meeting #1 Notes

City Hall - Room 122

September 7, 2021

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Topic: Introduce the S-CAP purpose and process, the expectations of the work group meetings, and the current context of the Focus Topic.

Facilitator: Aaron Filipski

Computer Notes: Shana Bishop

Number of Participants: 5 (Justine Bennett, Jeff Bird, Frank Komola, Janet Nedbal, Jessica Valovick)

SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Welcome/overview, introductions of work group members
- Review of the sustainability and climate action plan (S-CAP) purpose and process, review of the deliverables/expectations of the work group meetings
- Brainstorm exercises
 - What are participants' highest priority related to Waste?
 - What is Royal Oak doing well?
 - What is Royal Oak not doing well?
- Review draft vision and objectives
- Next Steps

DETAILED NOTES

Review of the sustainability and climate action plan (S-CAP) purpose and process

- City commission goals
 - Operate the City of Royal Oak in a sustainable way supporting the community, economy, and environment
 - Achieve a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 (from 2018 levels) and achieve net zero GHG by 2050
- 2018 GHG Inventory Results: Entire Community
 - commercial electricity contributes about 25%
 - residential electricity and gas contribute about 33%
- The City's GHG emissions only contributes 1.4%
- How do we involve the community to make actionable items?



- To reach the goals laid out by the City Commission each work group will provide feedback throughout the process of developing the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.
- The draft plan will be presented to the City Council in January 2022

Review of deliverables/expectations of the work group meetings

- Work Group Expectations
 - Suggest revisions to vision/objectives
 - Brainstorm and prioritize actions and targets
 - Evaluate actions for suitability
 - Recommend objectives, targets, and actions for plan
 - Act as ambassadors for plan
- Meeting Timelines:
 - Meeting 1: Review draft and vision objectives
 - Meeting 2: review data, draft targets, and actions to reduce waste
 - Meeting 3: confirm targets, metrics, and actions
 - Meeting 4: Finalize recommendations
 - January 2022: Revised S-CAP presented to City Council
- When a vote is needed, only Royal Oak residents, property owners, or business owners may vote

Brainstorming Exercise

- **Participants' top priority or concern about Waste:**
 - Public education on Waste Reduction
 - Providing residents with information on alternative locations for recycling products.
 - Education about the ability to recycle types of plastics based on their number
 - Increasing public knowledge on the measures the city has taken towards waste reduction
 - If a company goes to the city asking for help in becoming green, what kind of resources are they given?
 - Improve commercial recycling practices
 - Assess mandates to make businesses more responsible for recycling end of life products.
 - Force vendors that supply a product to take their waste back. Like Milk crates.
 - Reducing Food Waste
 - Expanding services & knowledge for food waste collection
 - What is currently being done with food waste from school cafeterias?
 - Sustainable redevelopment



- Diverting reusable household items and building materials from landfills by teaching & creating a process for developers to donate to organizations like Habitat for Humanity Restore
- Instead of demolishing houses promote working with what is already there

- **What is Royal Oak doing well?**
 - Promoting recycling efforts by providing residents with 65-gallon recycling carts
 - Recycling Events
 - Refuse collection & transportation through SOCRRA
 - SOCRRA recycling program
 - Providing reusable straws as gifts at events
 - Green team provided reusable cups for commission meetings

- **What is Royal Oak not doing well?**
 - Library and other facilities overuse of printing
 - Education
 - The city should be publishing past efforts about recycling. Are we getting better or worse?
 - How much garbage is produced by Royal Oak in comparison to its neighbors? Could we turn our waste reduction campaign into a competition?
 - “Happy Sheet” method. You need to make the numbers relatable. If you track how much has been recycled and then show how many “trees” were saved as a result, then it is easier to understand.
 - Royal Oak should release a brochure explaining what can be recycled and what cannot
 - It is important for the city government to lead by example. They could be doing more.

- **Parking Lot for Ideas**
 - Composting program for residents & businesses
 - New requirements for developers of existing homes. No tear downs unless unsafe
 - “What is” Recyclable flyers
 - Create community awareness by providing recycling numbers and what it saved
 - Recycling Racoons EGLE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvgzB7FTjRg>

Draft Vision and Objectives

- **Vision Statement**
 - It is very difficult to get to net zero. You might not be sending waste to the landfill but then you are probably burning it.



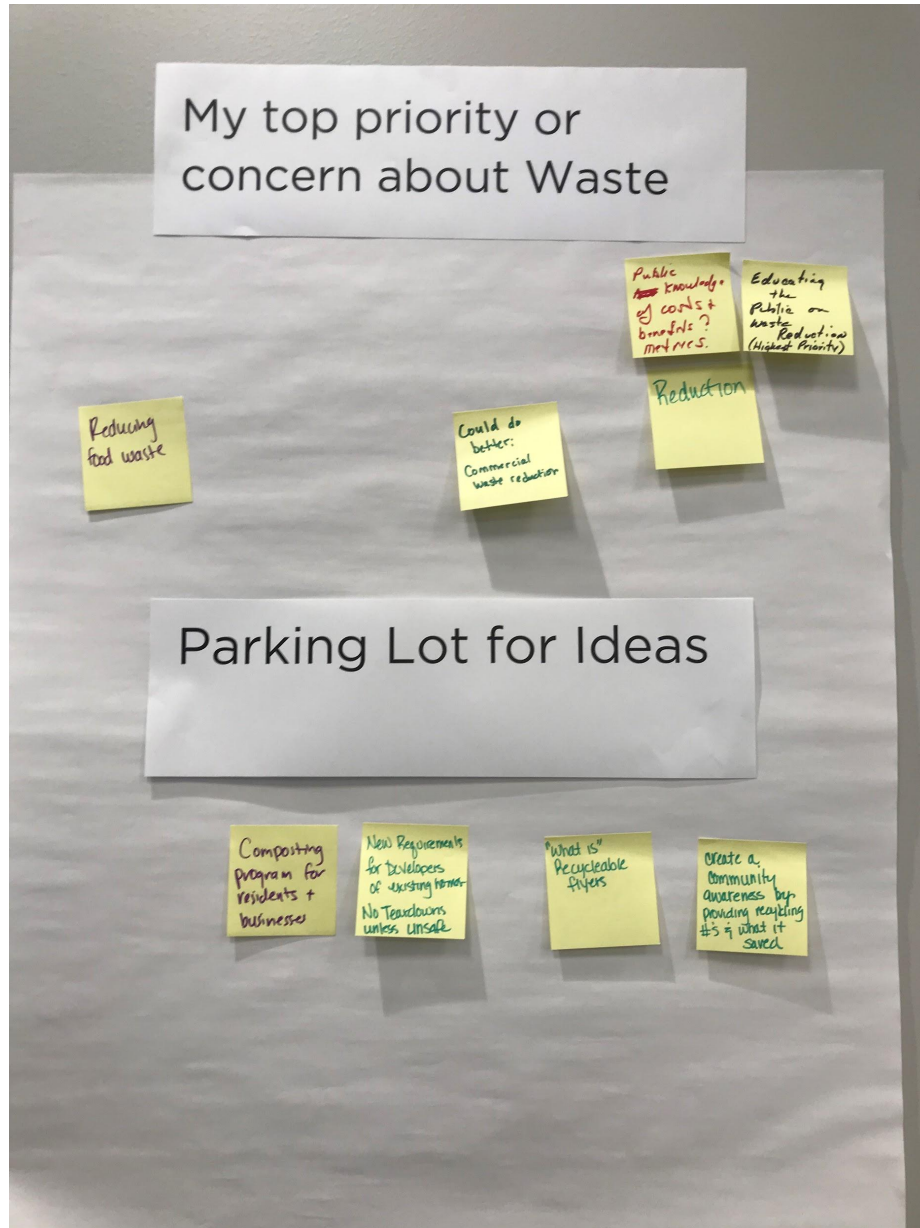
- o With the way this is phrased it does not limit the amount going to the landfill. It just says if you recycle in greater quantities then it is fine.
 - It lets us off the hook way to easy
- o Net Zero is a step too far
- o It is extremely expensive to get to zero waste. It is not sustainable financially.
- **Objectives**
 - o Delete objective number 8 “Instead of viewing used materials as garbage in need of disposal, materials are recognized as valuable resources. A pile of 'trash' represents community and economic opportunity including jobs and new products from raw materials”
 - o Consolidate objectives 6 & 7. Combining food waste and composting.
- **Who else should be at the table?**
 - o Invite members from the chamber of commerce
 - o CFO of Beaumont
 - o Head of apartment complexes and Schools
 - o Henry Ford is opening a new clinic

NEXT STEPS

- Identify date, time, and format for Meeting 2
 - o **Tuesday, September 14, from 5:30PM - 7:30PM at City Hall (203 S. Troy), Conference Room 122**
- Visit [The Agenda Center](#) to view meeting agendas and minutes
- Keep an eye out for a follow-up email which will include an attachment of the meeting notes, a link to the notes uploaded to the website, and the agenda for Meeting 2
- Feel free to conduct your own background research on what other cities are doing related to waste reduction and bring your thoughts to the next meeting
- Questions? Please email julieb@romi.gov.



GROUP PARTICIPATION: Responses to 'My top priority or concern for Waste' and 'Parking Lot for Ideas'

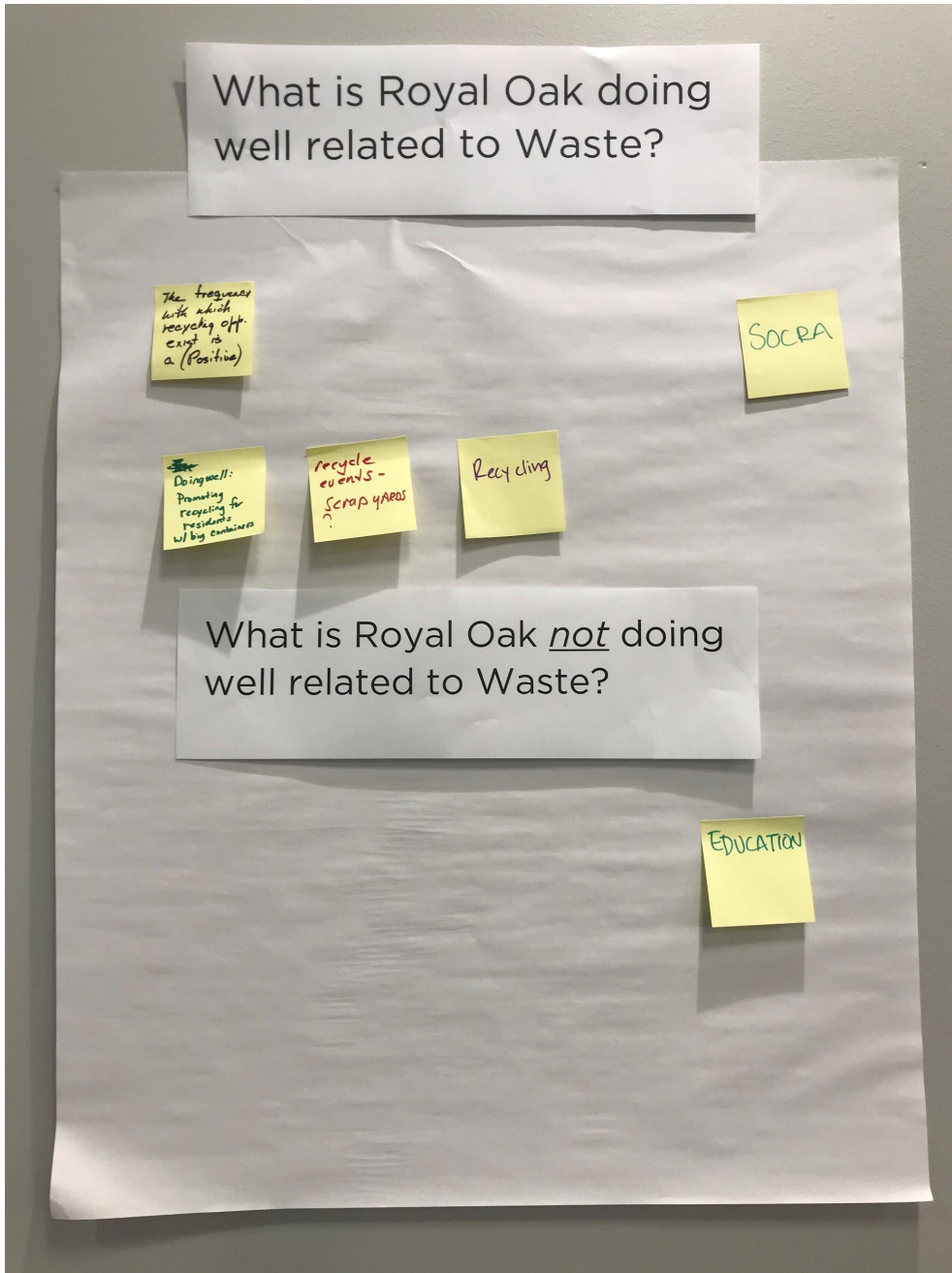


(Top priority or concern) From top left: Public knowledge of pros and cons and benefits? Metrics; Educating the public on waste reduction; Reducing food waste; Commercial waste reduction; Reduction

(Parking Lot for Ideas) From the left: Composting program for residents and businesses; New requirements for developers of existing homes, no teardowns unless unsafe; "What is" recyclable flyers; Create a community awareness by providing recycling # and what it saved



GROUP PARTICIPATION: Responses to 'What is Royal Oak doing well related to Waste?' and 'What is Royal Oak not doing well related to Waste?'



(Doing well) From top left: The frequency with which recycling opportunities exist is a positive; SOCRA; Promoting recycling for residents w/ big containers; Recycle events, scrap yards?; Recycling

(Not doing well): Education