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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE # 7.2

GOAL # 7: ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Protect and sustain our natural environment and address future energy needs

INITIATIVE 7.2: REVIEW THE STATUS OF COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ORDINANCES

Fiscal Year 2010 Quarterly Updates:

4th Quarter Report (July 1, 2010 – September 30, 2010)

For the final quarter of the year haulers reported 2,236 tons of commercial recycling collected. The total for all four quarters was 6,594 tons, which is just below our target of 6,616 tons. During this quarter 70 commercial recycling audits were performed. Solid Waste staff will be taking some recommendations for establishing penalties or surcharges for noncompliance with commercial recycling ordinances to the Public works Committee on November 8, 2010. The City and County Solid Waste staffs are working together to find ways to achieve the new 75% recycling goal by 2020.

3rd Quarter Report (Planned for CCOM 11/4/2010 Consent Agenda)

For the third quarter, haulers reported 1,754 tons of commercial recycling collected; of which 543 tons was commercial yard waste, and 1,211 tons was paper, cardboard, and commingled plastic, glass and metal. The Solid Waste staff needs to meet again to finalize a list of recommendations regarding improving commercial recycling ordinances and penalties. Alachua County and Emerald Waste Services appear to be close to an agreement that will allow EWS to continue to mine their commercial waste for recoverable materials at their own transfer station as long as EWS agrees to dispose of that waste at New River Landfill so the County is not penalized for a loss of tonnage.

2nd Quarter Report (Received by CCOM on 6/3/2010 Consent Agenda)

During the second quarter, commercial recycling tonnages increased to 1483 tons, with 211 commercial recycling audits performed. In January staff expanded their research into what other communities around the country are doing to promote commercial recycling since it has been difficult to find communities that are achieving significantly better results in the areas of Multi-Family housing and Construction & Demolition recycling. At about the same time FDEP published their recommendations for how the state should work toward a 75% waste diversion goal.

Also during the second quarter, Emerald Waste Services opened their own transfer station to receive commercial waste loads for the dual purpose of recovering recyclables that would otherwise be buried in the landfill, and to lower disposal costs by sending the waste to a landfill in Georgia for about \$20/ton less than the tipping fee currently being paid at Alachua County's Transfer Station. This action has severely impacted the economic viability of the County Transfer Station, and has opened up discussions between the County, City, New River Landfill and the haulers as to what path our management of solid waste and recyclables might have to take in the near future. A number of options are being looked into; some of which may significantly improve opportunities to capture more commercial recycling.

Note: A correction has been made to the first quarter recycling tonnages. An error was made in compiling the tonnages, and the correct figure should have been 1136 tons instead of 904. The corrected figure is still below our target for that quarter, however.

1st Quarter Report (Received by CCOM on 3/18/2010 Consent Agenda)

The number of commercial recycling audits performed during the first quarter totaled 379, which is higher than average; but commercial recycling tonnages have fallen off sharply, presumably due to the lagging business economy. Commercial recycling totals for the first quarter fell to 904 tons, making it very unlikely that the 2010 target of 6,616 tons will be reached. Staff is investigating the possible causes for this decrease.

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Fiscal Year 2009 Quarterly Updates:

4th Quarter (Received by CCOM on 1/7/2010 Consent Agenda)

During the fourth quarter, both the City and County Solid Waste management staffs were involved with successfully negotiating the new residential solid waste collection contract. This effort includes language that should allow the City and County to address any issues that might be generated by the upcoming State requirements to meet a 75% recycling effort by 2020. The County's revision to its franchising contracts will not go before its Commission until January 2010, thereby pushing back the City's schedule as well.

3rd Quarter (Received by CCOM on 8/20/2009 Consent Agenda)

During the third quarter, the Solid Waste Division coordinated with the County on its revision to its franchising commercial contracts. After adoption by the County Commission, the City will look to mirror those contracts so that the City and County ordinances and contracts will be in consort.

2nd Quarter (Received by CCOM on 5/21/2009 Consent Agenda)

During the second quarter, the Solid waste Division Inspectors continued educating business owners on the aspects and expectations of the commercial recycling requirements. Also, the Solid Waste Division, after review of other communities' ordinances, suggested that the City should establish a system of fines using a multi-tiered basis that would tie the amount of the fine to the square footage of the business. A first time offense might result in a fine of \$100, \$250 or \$500 depending on how large the business is. The Solid Waste Division recommended that there also be a sliding scale so that repeat offenses result in higher fines.

Staff also asked that consideration be given to the following proposals:

- The ordinance should require haulers to provide whatever level of recycling is required whether the business wants the service or not.
- The hauler should be required to provide whatever level of recycling is needed at no additional charge.
- The entity taking responsibility for providing garbage service should also be responsible for providing the necessary recycling service. (This would address situations where the landlord of a small strip of businesses provides one or two garbage dumpsters, but does not provide recycling service. The current City ordinance does not require the landlord to do so; it requires the business generating the trash and recycling to do so.)
- Applications for an Occupational License should require the business to complete a form describing their anticipated waste stream and recycling stream. A copy of that form should be sent to the Solid Waste Division to trigger an inspection, and no permit should be issued until the Solid Waste Division signs off on the garbage and recycling arrangements.

These and other ordinance changes may be forthcoming as more of the expectations of the State's 2020 initiative to reduce solid waste are made known.

1st Quarter Report (Received by CCOM on 2/5/2009 Consent Agenda)

During the 1st quarter, the Solid Waste Division Inspectors have been meeting with the businesses and explaining recycling requirements. This will continue through this fiscal year given the number of businesses versus the number of inspectors.

The Solid Waste Division Manager and Public Works Assistant Director attended a meeting on the State of Florida's intended initiative to increase, by 2020, the amount of recycling to 70% of the total waste stream. This initiative could impact the definition of the waste stream and the way that the waste stream is measured and reported.