

SC 1-15-2026

Item No.2
Feasibility and
Logistics of
Event or Panel

Presentations

Sustainability Commission

January 15, 2026



Feasibility and general logistics of a
sustainability commission-run
event or panel about reducing
consumption



Commission Powers and Functions (2.94.08)

3. Advise the City Council how to strategically accelerate Cupertino's progress towards sustainability and recommend priorities to promote continued regional leadership in sustainability.
4. Illustrative examples include creation of infrastructure for low-emissions vehicles, installation of renewable energy or energy efficiency technologies, drafting of water conservation or waste reduction policies, delivery of habitat restoration and conservation programs, design and roll-out of pollution prevention campaigns, etc.
6. Accept public input on the subject areas noted above and advise the City Council on ways to drive community awareness, behavior change, education, and participation in City programs modeled upon the field's best practices.
8. Pursue any other activity or scope that may be deemed appropriate and necessary by the City Council.

Other Commission Project Examples

Teen Commission — Mental Health Awareness Bobateeno

Mayor-led event – Based on success, it was added to base budget to host annually

TICC — Cyber Security Awareness Event

Council-directed – CWP 2024. Occurred in October 2025. Commissioners' roles were to recruit businesses to table and sponsor the event.

CAP 2.0 Engagement Actions

Waste 2.4: Outreach Campaign

“Conduct targeted, multi-lingual, culturally appropriate, and geographically diverse waste prevention educational and technical assistance campaigns based on outcomes of WCS.”

Waste 2.5: Waste Warriors – Need approval

“Create a training/education program that is free and accessible to all residents and employees to learn about waste prevention and diversion strategies and effects of overconsumption.”

Waste 2.10: Fix-it Clinic/Repair Café – Need approval

“Partner with local organizations, schools, and libraries to establish pop-up repair café for commonly broken and easily repaired items.”

Next Steps

Discuss your proposals and feasibility

- Option 1 (awareness and feedback campaign) – Motion to form a subcommittee to work with staff and create content.
- Option 2 (event)- Draft a written proposal to City Council to consider. Formally approve/recommend the proposal at the next commission meeting. If directed, form a commission subcommittee to meet regularly with staff to execute.
- Option 3 (not feasible) – Revisit coordinating an event at a later date.

SC 1-15-2026

Item No.3
Recycling
Comparison

Presentations

Comparing Cupertino and Other Jurisdictions Recycling



Background: Material Collection and Disposal

For Removal and Management of Garbage & Recyclables, Cupertino has **two agreements**:

- A franchise agreement with Recology to **collect** all the streams of materials (garbage, recyclables, organics) as well as construction & demolition (C&D) debris.
- An agreement with Republic Services to **dispose** of garbage and to process and dispose of C&D debris.

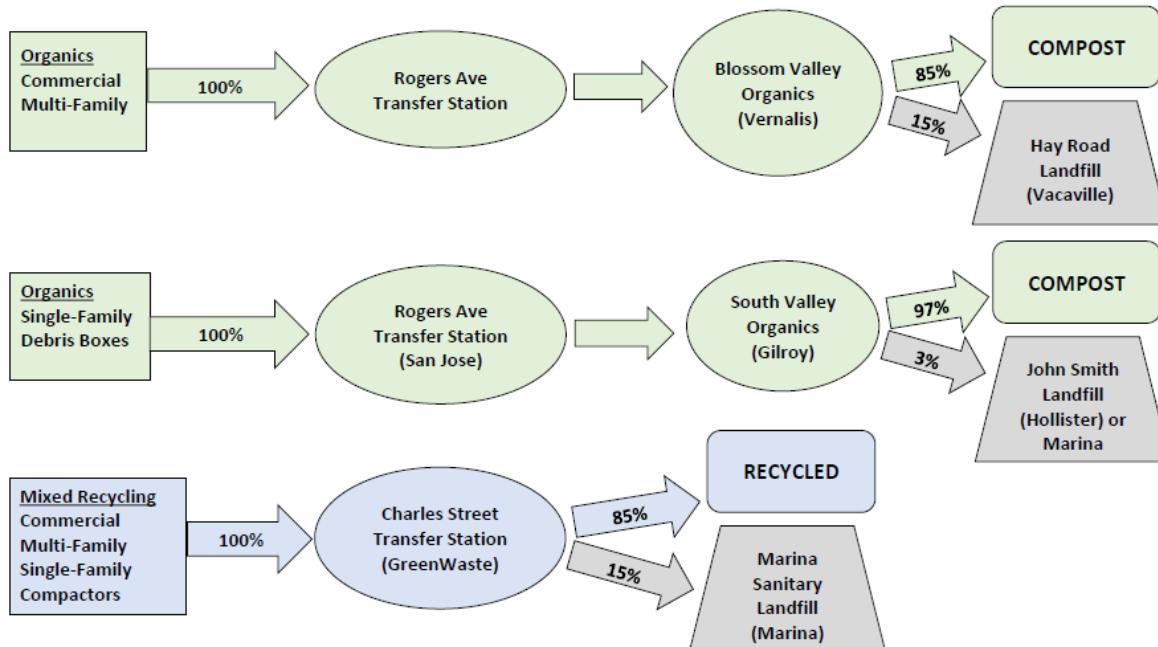
Background: Recology handles the blue & green cart materials

The agreement with Recology includes collection and processing of the recyclables and organics:

- After collection, through sub-agreements arranged by Recology:
 - Material in green carts/bins is taken to be processed into compost at two industrial facilities, owned by Recology
 - Material in blue carts/bins is taken to be processed for sale on the recyclables market at GreenWaste in San Jose

What happens to materials in the green and blue carts/bins?

Material disposition agreements maintained by Recology per the Franchise Agreement



How many different ways are there?

- Sort materials into **3 streams**
 - Yard waste and food scraps together
 - Garbage and food scraps together
 - NO post-collection sorting of garbage
 - YES post-collection sorting of garbage
- Sort materials into **4 streams**
 - YES post-collection sorting of garbage
- Sort materials into **5 streams**
 - YES post-collection sorting of garbage
 - NO post-collection sorting of garbage

Sorting into three streams

Organics, mixed recyclables, garbage

- Yard waste and food scraps together
 - NO post-collection sorting of garbage
 - **Cupertino now**
 - YES post-collection sorting of garbage
 - **Cupertino future (SMaRT)**
 - **Palo Alto (GreenWaste MRF)**
 - **San Jose residential (GreenWaste MRF)**
- Garbage and food scraps together
 - YES post-collection sorting of garbage
 - **Santa Clara (GreenWaste MRF)**



Sorting into four streams

Organics, paper, containers, garbage

- YES post-collection sorting of garbage
 - **Mountain View (SMaRT)**



Sort materials into five streams

Yard waste, paper, containers, landfill, food scraps

- YES post-collection sorting of garbage
 - **Sunnyvale (SMaRT)**
- NO post-collection sorting of garbage
 - **Milpitas**



Notable recycling differences:

Palo Alto – accepts e-waste in the blue cart, accepts bio-plastics in the green cart, aseptic cartons are landfill



Mountain View – accepts textiles bagged at curb, aseptics are recyclable, no bio-plastics in compost

Sunnyvale – no clamshells or hinged containers, no black plastic, no hot or cold cups, no film plastic, no hard plastic toys/buckets

Garbage (and recycling) processing facilities:

GreenWaste MRF in San Jose:
Processes materials via sorting



**Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and
Transfer Station (SMaRT Station®):**
Processes materials via sorting



**Recycling only processing
facility:**

California Waste Solutions San Jose
Processes materials via sorting

Newby Island Resource Recovery Park
Processes materials via sorting

Wet/Dry processing facility:

GreenWaste Zero Waste Energy Development (Z-WED) Facility:

Processes commercial organic waste from San Jose (wet/dry sorting) and food/yard waste from Palo Alto via anaerobic digestion



How do rates compare?

| 2025 Single-Family Residence Garbage Rates (monthly cost) | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| City | 20 or 24-gallon cart | 32 or 35-gallon cart |
| Milpitas | \$34.07 | \$40.08 |
| Cupertino | \$43.48 | \$46.33 |
| Sunnyvale | \$41.98 | \$48.39 |
| Mountain View | \$37.55 | \$50.05 |
| Palo Alto | \$27.81 | \$50.07 |
| Campbell | \$42.55 | \$52.68 |
| Santa Clara | \$45.66 | \$53.68 |
| Los Altos | \$49.89 | \$53.74 |
| San Jose | N/A | \$54.51 |
| Los Gatos | \$45.94 | \$57.22 |

Orange = garbage is
processed

How do rates compare?

| 2025 Single-Family Residence Garbage Rates | |
|--|----------------------|
| Estimated Rate Impact of Processing Garbage Compared to Other Cities | |
| City | 32 or 35-gallon cart |
| Cupertino now | \$44.30 |
| Cupertino with new landfill agreement | \$44.36 |
| Milpitas | \$45.43 |
| Sunnyvale | \$46.43 |
| Mountain View | \$46.55 |
| Palo Alto | \$50.07 |
| Campbell | \$50.21 |
| Cupertino with garbage processing (20 yr Partner) | \$50.36 |
| Cupertino with garbage processing (20 yr Merchant) | \$50.61 |
| Los Altos | \$51.25 |
| Santa Clara | \$51.51 |
| Los Gatos | \$53.22 |
| San Jose | \$53.45 |
| Saratoga | \$55.81 |
| AVERAGE | \$49.54 |

Questions and Discussion

- Ideas about messaging and outreach?
 - We already have:
 - cupertino.gov/waste
 - MANY sub-pages
 - recology.com/recology-south-bay/cupertino/what-bin/
 - Empty, scraped out, dry
 - Acceptable items depend on which facility is processing (and marketing recyclables)