

**AZRC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 16, 2008**  
**Hudson Baylor offices**

**Attending:** Matt Snyder, US Airways  
Les Miller, City of Avondale  
Janet Stewart, City of Avondale  
Earl Knudsen, Westech  
Denette Dunn, Hudson Baylor  
Harry Coder, Premier Document Shredding  
Gina D'Abella, Environmental Concerns Organization  
Julie Stanton, SitePlus  
Terry Gellenbeck, City of Phoenix (joined at end of meeting)

Denette opened meeting stating the group's goal: to development an agenda for legislative change.

Denette started with naming two issues:

1) Not enough recycling available to all metro residents (e.g., AJ, Sun City)

2) Phoenix is not allowed to do commercial recycling

- A long conversation ensued about the issue of commercial recycling and the legislation that doesn't allow it, when a city grows to 60,000 people or more.
- Janet mentioned that they couldn't do it themselves without losing money, and they now have 5 commercial haulers, although they can and do multi-family.
- Gina mentioned the fact that older developments aren't set up for recycling logistically, but that we can impact new developments where they can plan ahead.
- Denette agreed, citing ASU as a case in point of wanting it and not having planned for it. Additionally, getting people to use the containers properly is a big challenge and Denette mentioned ways in which they are making it easier at multi-family complexes (e.g., open lids).
- The question evolved to whether Phoenix discourages it by choice or whether they're forced to by regulations.
- Janet offered a solution done in Avondale, which is to put the containers in public facilities where people can access them, e.g. libraries and fire stations.
- Gina said Tempe does that too.
- Denette summarized this issue by saying that more education was needed to show that a higher diversion rate could mean less cost for your municipal waste bill.
- Janet suggested limiting our initial effort to ensure success. And then suggested starting the efforts with venues/events and requiring them to recycle in order to get a permit. Everyone liked that idea a lot.
- Les added that perhaps these events could have videos running of MRF operations so that people understand how labor intensive it is and the damage caused by plastic bags in the recycled waste stream. Also about how Avondale has used stickers to point out bad practices but also smiley face stickers for good practices.
- Gina suggested as an agenda issue advocating for a plastic bag ban law.
- Discussion ensued about the problems with that, and Denette suggested charging for them instead of outright banning them.
- For these issues and perhaps others, we discussed developing a survey that could involve the metro area and even beyond throughout the State of Arizona.
- There is a listserv through the City Clerks that could be used to get the survey to every municipality.
- Gina brought up another agenda issue of requiring waste haulers to provide some sort of recycling component to their services, which would help get recycling to the outlying areas.
- The issue of the Recycling Variance came up, which is the biggest challenge in outlying areas. State Code requires trash pickup twice a week, and you need the Variance in order to have a recycling pickup replace one of the trash pickups. It's a State Code, but enforced by the County.
- Extensive discussion ensued about the Recycling Variance and whether inspections occur more or less if an area has the Variance in place. Janet said that Avondale gets inspected regularly. Gina said they inspect those that have the Variance, not the ones that don't, which is reverse of how it should be.
- Agreement that it should be easier to get the Variance.
- Summarizing our thoughts and ideas for goals up to this point:
- Plastic Bag Ban or Restriction (Gina to research further)
- Recycling Variance Code Revision (Terry and Gina research)

2a) per Terry at end of meeting, develop Recycling Variance Template that could be used by any/all outlying areas

- Revision to coding system to accommodate for biodegradable corn-based products (Denette research)
- License venues/events to require recycling (Earl and Janet research)

Future Meetings Plan: Once a month, Wednesday's seemed good, mid-morning, say 10 am, to last one hour.

So proposed next meeting: November 12th, 10am, Hudson Baylor University Facility

**Submitted by Denette Dunn, Board Member and Legislative Liaison for the Arizona Recycling Coalition**