

TO : SUNOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
FROM: JIM O'LAUGHLIN
SUBJECT: REPORT ON GREEN WASTE SURVEY

Following is the report of the results of the Green Waste Survey that we have been working on at your request . I think you will find it very interesting an useful when dealing with the issue of Green Waste in the Sunol area. It is important to keep in mind that this is not intended to give solutions or specifics that should be done. It is intended to provide input from the Community regarding current practices and future options to deal with Green Waste in an efficient and environmentally sound way. I think it will open up the discussion of a lot of options that will have to be investigated and discussed before any decisions are made.

THE SURVEY

The survey came out of an on line discussion that involved those at the end of 79 email addresses. Three drafts were circulated for input and modification. The attempt was to keep it short and easy to complete. This has some limitations but I think resulted in a higher rate of return. I am sure we could improve it if we revised it again. We also wanted to complete the process in a timely manner and not drag it out. A big thanks to Tona for facilitating the printing of the Survey and related materials.

THE LIST OF RESIDENTS

This was a major logistical problem that wasted large amounts of time. The requested voter registration list was not provided and the list by property owner was of limited use and very inaccurate. There are 22 surveys for addresses that are not on the list. There were addresses for Palomares and Pleasanton that are of no use. Many names were on the list without any address. It just caused a lot of extra work to provide lists of addresses for the people doing the work. I could have bought the list we needed from the County for \$195 and I think I would have come out ahead. I don't understand why we cannot get a list the County has when we are doing this for the County. This needs to be addressed for future efforts to communicate with the Community.

TARGET HOMES FOR SURVEY

The homes targeted for the survey did not include those on Little Valley (no addresses), Calaveras, and other scattered homed in the hills. Access and available people to survey these areas were limitations.

THE VOLUNTEERS TO COLLECT THE SURVEY

After the survey was developed, the list of people involved were asked if they wanted to help circulate the survey. There was a fantastic response of a total of 29 volunteers. Some obviously more than others, but every survey counted and added up. Suggested guidelines were provided for the distribution process and the task was clear. Each individual had to deal with their assigned contacts or anyone else that they could get. This is a frustrating process due to the difficulty of finding people home, or even getting through the locked gates to their houses. They stayed at it and ended up with 225 surveys representing 70.31% of the targeted homes. In some cases a survey represents two or three homes because the person talked to takes care of a property with more than one home. We counted only one survey for these situations.

One of the most significant results is not in the data, but in the process. There are few people in the Community who have not heard about the topic, even if it was just glancing at the materials and discarding them. There has been a lot of discussion as a result of the survey distribution and a lot of neighbors talking to each other. Much of this discussion was not about the survey, but good for all involved. Some people got to meet people they did not know, or had not seen in a long time. All good for our Community. These positive things are not in the data.

TABULATING THE RESULTS

The results were added up and are included in this report. These are the responses provided. There were items that were not responded to for whatever reasons the individuals had. Comments are included in a random order and names are not identified.

INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

The data does not give specific answers to Green Waste questions. They do raise a lot of questions and the data should be used in any planning effort to come up with a plan for our Community. The size of the response adds a lot of credibility to the data. Each individual will have to look at it from their own frame of reference, and therefore there will be a lot of different interpretations, which is good.

Following are some of my questions and observations to get the discussion started. The Advisory Council will need to decide the next step.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

- The number of responses was very encouraging and indicates a real interest.
- There a lot of very different approaches to dealing with Green Waste.
- Different frequency of gathering shows different needs for disposal.
- I didn't know there were 41 lawns in Sunol.
- Leaves is the most common item collected. There are many local uses and they are easy to compost, so should we develop local solutions?
- There are 85 homes composting. This is the most used method of disposal. Can this be expanded in a variety of ways?
- 24 homes use their garbage for disposal. What are the alternatives that could be provided?
- Is a goat cooperative an answer for some? Or you own individual herd? We have some already.
- 5 people admit to dumping in the creek. How can we provide alternatives so this doesn't happen?
- Currently there is not a lot of cooperative effort among neighbors. How can we support this kind of activity?
- Only 60 feel a need for weekly pickup. How can we meet this need? Same for monthly.
- There is strong support for Alameda County to establish a contract with a garbage provider that includes some kind if Green Waste service.
- Most people do not want to pay more for Green Waste pickup.
- There is strong interest in keeping Green Waste in the Community.
- There is a large number of people (not %) interested in learning about composting and local composting sites. Can we facilitate this?
- 105(53.51%) would volunteer to cooperate in chipping activities. Can we provide for such opportunities?

---95 people would use firewood if it was cut to size and available. Can we develop a program to provide for this?

---58 houses would like a fire inspection. Can we facilitate this?

So you can start your analysis and the discussion that will hopefully lead to a plan of action.

All the people who contributed to this effort deserve a big thank you. I think we are much better off having gone through this process. Now is the time to talk and act.

On Behalf of All the Workers,

Jim

SUNOL GREEN WASTE NEED ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER, 2014

GENERAL INFORMATION

TARGET HOMES FOR SURVEY	320	100%		
TOTAL NUMBER OF SURVEYS COLLECTED	225	70.31%		
NUMBER OF HOMES NOT RETURNING SURVEYS	95	29.69%		
VACANT HOMES	5			
INDIVIDUALS DECLINING THE SURVEY	4			
NUMBER OF SURVEYS BY AREA			RETURNED	NOT RETURNED
----EAST/SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 84 (Andrade,Sheradon,Mission)	13	16.11%	23	63.89%
----BOND/MAIN/RAILROAD	18	90.00%	2	10%
----FOOTHILL EAST OF BOND	30	85.71%	5	14.29%
----FOOTHILL WEST OF BOND	30	88.24%	4	11.76%
----KILKARE(ABOVE KWA SIGN)	64	57.66%	47	42.34%
----KILKARE(BELOW KWA SIGN)	70	83.33%	14	16.67%
	225	70.31%	95	29.69%

DATA COLLECTED ON GREEN WASTE SURVEY

SIZE OF PROPERTIES

ONE HALF ACRES OR LESS	77
1/2 TO THREE ACRES	66
3 TO 5 ACRES	27
5 TO 15 ACRES	18
OVER 15 ACRES	7

YOUR GREEN WASTE

How much green waste do you generate?

LITTLE	47
MODERATE	85
LARGE AMOUNT	31

How often ?

WEEKLY	68
MONTHLY	56
SEASONAL	77

SPECIAL PROJECTS	34
What kind ?	
LAWN CLIPPINGS	41
LEAVES	151
GRASS AND WEEDS	104
GARDEN TRIMMINGS	93
SMALL PRUNING	139
TREE LIMBS	114
How do you dispose of your Green Waste ?	
RECYCLE ON SITE	59
TAKE TO TRANSFER STATION	43
COMPOST	85
OTHER	12
IN GARBAGE	24
PILE ON SITE	4
DUMPSTER	2
GOATS	2
CHIPPING	1
FIREPLACE	2
DISPOSE AT WORK	1
DUMP IN CREEK	5
KWA CHIPPING	1
GARDENER	1

YES / NO RESPONSES TO

QUESTIONS

The following numbers represent the responses for each item on the 225 surveys gathered. No item had a 100% response. This can be interpreted in different ways. Undecided, not sure, didn't understand, or didn't care about the item, could all be reasons for no response.

DO YOU WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS ON THINGS LIKE CHIPPING ?

YES __42__ NO __149__ YES __21.99%__ NO __78.01%__

DO YOU HAVE PLEASANTON GARBAGE SERVICE ?

YES __164__ NO __54__ YES __75.23%__ NO __24.77%__

DO YOU NEED WEEKLY GREEN WASTE PICK UP ?

YES __60__ NO __139__ YES __30.15%__ NO __69.85%__

WOULD A YEARLY OR SEASONAL PICK UP IN YOUR AREA BE A GOOD IDEA ?

YES __169__ NO __29__ YES __85.35%__ NO __14.65%__

SHOULD ALAMEDA COUNTY ESTABLISH A CONTRACT FOR GARBAGE SERVICE THAT INCLUDES GREEN WASTE PICK UP OF SOME KIND ?

YES __140__ NO __45__ YES __75.68%__ NO __24.32%__

WOULD YOU PAY FOR GREEN WASTE PICK UP ?

YES __79__ NO __118__ YES __40.10%__ NO __59.90%__

SHOULD OUR GOAL BE TO RECYCLE ALL OF OUR GREEN WASTE AND KEEP IT IN OUR COMMUNITY TO USE IN VARIOUS WAYS ?

YES __149__ NO __44__ YES __77.20%__ NO __22.80%__

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT COMPOSTING FOR YOUR HOME SITE?

YES__88__ NO__72__ YES__55.00%__ NO__45.00%__

WOULD YOU JOIN WITH OTHERS TO HAVE A LOCAL COMPOSTING SITE THAT YOU CAN USE ?

YES__112__ NO__86__ YES__56.57%__ NO__43.43%__

WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP CHIP YOUR TRIMMINGS WITH OTHERS?

YES__105__ NO__91__ YES__53.51%__ NO__46.43%__

WOULD YOU USE FIREWOOD,CUT TO SIZE, IF IT WAS AVAILABLE FROM TREE CUTTING?

YES__95__ NO__114__ YES__45.45%__ NO__54.55%__

OTHERS THAT YOU WOULD SUGGEST?

YES__10__ NO__49__ YES__16.95%__ NO__85.05%

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOUR HOUSE IS SAFE FROM VEGETATION FIRES?

YES__153__ NO__49__ YES__75.74%__ NO__24.26%__

DO YOU HAVE TALL GRASS OR WEEDS WITHIN 30 FEET OF YOUR HOUSE ?

YES__34__ NO__165__ YES__17.09%__ NO__82.91%__

DO YOU NEED TREE CUTTING AND CLEARING OF VEGETATION TO MAKE YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE ?

YES__62__ NO__141__ YES__30.54%__ NO__69.46%__

HAVE YOU HAD A FIRE INSPECTION THIS YEAR BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ?

YES__70__ NO__132__ YES__34.65%__ NO__65.35%__

WOULD YOU LIKE A FIRE INSPECTION ?

YES__58__ NO__134__

YES__30.21%__ NO__69.79%__

COMMENTS

- We should set up a community compost site and program with an ongoing schedule.
- Use Bio Char technology to reduce wood waste to valuable carbon to put in the soil.
- Goats can eat most green waste.
- Organize cooperative chipping events.
- Answers would be different if I owned the property.
- Goats eat it.
- Big speed bumps on Foothill
- Goats
- Keep as it is .Individual responsibility.
- The problem is accumulating dry branches between pick-ups, I do it now but would rather not.
- I don't like to operate the chipper because of vibration and noise and dust.
- Would Jet-Mulch business on Andrade Rd.by Country Drive take our local trimmings and re-purpose as mulch?
- I put all of my green waste into a large pile(currently 10x20x6H) and once or twice a year I rent a chipper(large), tow it on site and shred the pile(one or two days work for two) I spread the clipping around or put on dirt driveway to reduce mud and dust. Leaves go over the side of the hill (nonvisible) Branches, tree trunks etc., get cut up and split for firewood. I supply free firewood to neighbors. As I get older, a green waste pickup service will probably be more valuable to me than it is today.
- Would be interested in talking to neighbors about chipping.
- We feed most green waste to livestock and chickens at our ranch.
- Vermicomposting (worms) is best for kitchen and food waste.
- Christmas tree disposal please.
- Green waste piles not only cause fire danger-but provides habitat for rats and other rodents that can cause disease and unsanitary conditions. Sinbad Creek also becomes a dumping ground for green waste that end up blocking the creek during heavy rain.
- Good job.
- Would it be possible to get green waste pickup occasionally from the road? Some of our neighbors dump green waste into the creek or alongside the road, apparently unaware of the fire hazard potential; and the law against dumping in the creek is

unenforceable. Any ideas on how to educate scofflaws? Many thanks to all who are participating in this project.

-I don't need a green waste pick up. We compost kitchen waste and some green waste (leaves, garden trimmings) but most leaf litter stays where it falls. Large tree work is done professionally and they handle removal. 1-8 inch material is our main interest. It is too large and too slow for consumer grade chippers. We compost it in out-of-the-way piles and let it rot, but I would prefer to have it chipped. A twice a year chipper service would be of most use to us. We can haul material to Kilkare Road. Others might need drop-off points (like the pullouts along Kilkare rd). Chipping should be done by professionals. It is too large a job for a small group of volunteers, and a large number of untrained helpers is dangerous. I would be willing to pay a fee, but it might be difficult to know who to charge since material would accumulate in the week prior to the chipping date.

-Chickens are great for food and a lot of green waste.

-County Roads should keep road edging cleared as many drop cigarettes along road, used to do better needs more efficient crews.

-Find a farmer to take waste.

-We need brush clean up in creek.

-There is a lot of compostable green waste in this area that just goes into the garbage. There should be containers provided.

-The County should provide chipping services (for garden and mulch)for the community.

-Annual dues already paid for chipping.

-Garbage /recycle paid at this address compares with Ples/Livermore/Tracy residents who get 3 bins. Pay for something that I should already be getting.

-I would volunteer to cut and split wood-sell excess to pay for chipper.

-Due to lack of continuous sunlight and drought conditions, not much fuel around home. Lately, have more Broom that will be removed with neighbors help and Diablo Fire Safe grant. I wouldn't mind helping to cut and split wood. We have found a market for split firewood in Fremont.\$200 cord we deliver. \$100 you pick up.

-A large bin for green waste would be good at different locations along Kilkare.

-Currently happy with doing my own work or hiring it done.

-Fire inspection two years ago was very helpful.

-Get goats to eat excess grass and Scotch Broom along roadside.

-Monthly dumpster for green waste only, especially for limbs etc.

-KWA has annual Green Waste pick up.

-We should get a co-op for people to come and get wood. Even people outside Sunol.

-I would like to see a focus on the re-emergent concept of Biochar production from agricultural "waste" products such as pruning and chipping mass from tree work.

Archaeological investigations into ancient farming practices from China,

Mesopotamia, and South America have shown that these cultures actively utilized

charcoal as a soil amendment/enrichment material, and that the charcoal is still enriching these soils today.. The sequestered carbon continues to act in a way that grows stronger healthier plants.

Equally important is that in an era when atmospheric carbon is implicated in global warming, adding carbon to our soils is an extremely efficient local practice with very long term effects.

Local charcoal production is a very easy process, as a look online at 'biochar production' will reveal. It can be a backyard or community scaled process, and can be used for 'carbon credit' generation in the local and state economies. It also reduces 'waste biomass' volumes by a considerable amount.

Fire hazard reduction, permanent improvement of garden soils, reduction of atmospheric carbon - It looks like a win for everyone...

- Do not have time to recycle green waste or help neighbors.
- We have a gardener who removes all green waste.
- No garden in Kilkare
- Interested in some green waste removal.
- Addition of fire info confusing
- Suspicion of Cal Fire or Agency doing this
- You can dump chips in my field.