

**MINUTES OF THE  
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

**Members Present**

Crystal Black  
Brenton Boyce  
Kay Brandon, Chair  
Tony Davies, Vice Chair  
Bob Davis  
Mary Louise Smith  
Nelson Stover  
Godfrey Uzochukwu

**Members Absent**

**Staff Present**

Kimberly Sowell  
Chris Marriott  
Richard Lovett

The Solid Waste Management Commission met virtually on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Council liaisons Marikay Abuzuaiter and Goldie Wells were in attendance.

Kay Brandon extended her thanks to Tony Davies for chairing the July meeting. She also thanked Nancy Lindemeyer and Chris Marriott for providing assistance to the Commission during the virtual meetings.

**Approval of minutes of July 27, 2021 meeting**

The July minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Old Business**

**a. Staff Updates: Recycle Rodeo & Air Curtain Burner**

Chris Marriott introduced Rich Lovett, Manager of Environmental and Technical Support, to provide an update on the Recycle Rodeo held September 18 on Horse Pen Creek Road. The public response was overwhelming with 532 cars. More than 2½ tons of shredding, 10+ tons of electronics, 8½ tons of household hazardous waste, and 324 cubic feet of foam were brought to the event.

In response to multiple questions about holding recycling events more frequently, Rich stated that staff is working on scheduling events at least every 6 months throughout the city, and asked for location suggestions.

Rich then explained a new technology that Field Operations is considering in order to help the city reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals. The Air Curtain Burner is designed as a pollution control device that can replace open burning of vegetative material. It operates by creating a curtain of air across the top of a chamber that traps smoke and sparks beneath it, so the air and particulate pollution are trapped in the chamber. The end result is called Biochar, a carbon negative soil amendment. Daily landfill operations could convert 70 tons of vegetative material into 5 tons of Biochar. This means that about 1,425 tons of carbon dioxide could be sequestered annually.

Commission members provided feedback on the idea and wanted more information about its impact on the surrounding White Street community, cost and next steps. Staff will forward Rich Lovett's contact information, the PowerPoint and links about the Air Curtain Burner to members, who will revisit the idea at their November meeting.

Chris Marriott gave an update on the results from the recent Recycling Audit. The overall contamination rate for Greensboro has risen to 29%. Some route levels even exceeded a 60% contamination rate. In developing a response to ensure our contamination rates improve, staff has created 7 goals:

1. Reduce plastic bags
2. Educate drivers and staff
3. Educate all city employees
4. Target communications in neighborhoods with high contamination rates
5. Focus on adults versus kids
6. Educate recycling ambassadors in neighborhoods.
7. Simplify message

### **Comments from Commissioners, Staff, Council Representatives**

Griffin Hatchell has begun work as the new Solid Waste Collection Manager. He has 12+ years of experience in the industry.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled Commission meeting is Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 3 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Brandon, Chair