# City of Palm Springs

# Office of Sustainability "Your Sustainable City"

# 2011-12 Progress Report on Sustainability



Prepared by Michele Mician, Manager, Office of Sustainability

\*Presented at Regular meeting of City of Palm Springs City Council June 6, 2012

TEM NO. <u>58</u>



### Office of Sustainability "Your Sustainable City" Program

### 2011-12 Progress Report on Sustainability

### **Contents**

Executive Summary	3
Energy and Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update	4
Projects implemented by	
Sustainability Commission and	
Green Team	5 - 15
References	15
Appendix	
Mayor's Healthy Planet Healthy Y	ou Race
and Wellness Festival Race Map	18
Acknowledgements	20



#### **Executive Summary**

Sustainability is one of the City of Palm Springs' top priorities. Since the City Council adopted the Palm Springs Path to a Sustainable Community in 2008 many goals have been met and overall greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced. In addition, due to the expansion of the programs offered through the Office of Sustainability reduction of waste, water use and energy use throughout City operations and the community are evident.

The sustainability progress report provides an indication of the evolution of the Your Sustainable City program and a summary of the goals achieved that are part of the City of Palm Springs sustainability plan. The City of Palm Springs Your Sustainable City program has grown and continues to add new programming and undertake more initiatives every year. The Office of Sustainability continues to support and provide educational offerings to the community on a monthly basis. Among these activities are local food production events, citrus collection, Arbor Day in the schools programs, Earth Day events, community clean-up days and free electronic waste and shredding events. In addition new programs include free sharps and medical waste disposal, a lawn buy back program, appliance rebates, Earth Matters Film Series in partnership with the Cultural Center and bike safety education programs. These activities are supported through the work of the Palm Springs City Council, Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Commission, City Green Team and Mayor's Leadership Council. Each of them serve as powerful stakeholders that are vital in implementing change needed for the City of Palm Springs to become a zero waste community and to reduce overall resource consumption.

Some of the more recent management and operational goals achieved through the Your Sustainable City program include receiving an award through the California Center for Sustainable Energy for Community Leadership, an expanded household hazardous waste program, award of a grant for six new electric vehicle charging stations, and completion of a new 32 bed community garden. Lastly, one of the most significant additions to the programming through the Office of Sustainability has been to educate the public about the connection between human health and the environment through health and wellness programs such as the new Mayor's Healthy planet Healthy You Race and Wellness Festival.

The efforts of the Mayor and Council, City Manager, Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Commission, the City Green Team and the Leadership Council have made the 2011-12 operating year filled with great success. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the projects summarized in this report. Special thanks to Office of Sustainability support staff Jennifer Henning, Special Projects and Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator.

Didul Wil

Michele Mician, M.S. City of Palm Springs, Sustainability Manager

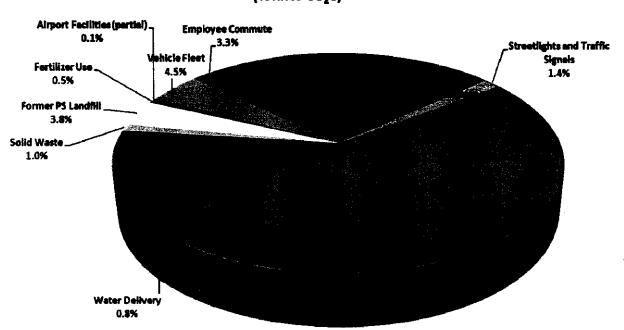


From Left:
Councilwoman Ginny
Foat, 2011 Green
Citizen Award Winner
Donna Chaban,
Councilman Rick
Hutcheson,
Sustainability Manager
Michele Mician, Mayor
Pro Tem Lee Weigel
and Mayor Steve
Pougnet

#### Energy and Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update

In the last several years cities across the Coachella Valley have followed the leading example of the City of Palm Springs and begun to compose greenhouse gas emissions inventories and commence climate action planning. Our desert cities experience unique changes due to climate change including increased temperatures, decreased air quality, species loss or change in habitat and increased wind events. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in vehicle miles traveled, energy use and production of goods and services all serve to mitigate these negative impacts. By creating programs and completing projects that help residents and City operations play a role in these reductions the City of Palm Springs is taking measurable action. The City has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the residential and government sectors and is actively taking a role by tracking progress by conducting regular greenhouse gas emissions inventories.

Figure 1 2010 Palm Springs Municipal Emissions by Sector (Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)



Above: Figure 1: The Green for Life Program, administered by CVAG, has provided for funding to complete a the most recent greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2010. The pie graph above reflects the City's municipal emissions by sector. (provided by EcoMotion for CVAG Green for Life program)

Right: A visual presentation of a ton of carbon dioxide emissions equivalents is used at a Your Sustainable City film and bike education event in May 2012. These events continue as part of the efforts to educate citizens about the Non Motorized Transportation Plan.

(Photo courtesy of Jordan Garbayo, Ecomotion)



The City continues to actively participate in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) 'Cities for Climate Protection' Campaign (CCP), as well as the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, American Bicycle League, Institute for local Government's Beacon Award Program, local and National Electric Automobile Association, Clean Cities Campaign and the Desert Cities Energy Partnership.



By participating in the Desert Cities Energy Partnership program through CVAG the City of Palm Springs has been able to take advantage of the benefits of the Green for Life Program. The program has made funding available for the City to be provided with an updated greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2010, access to interns, increased educational materials and assistance in creating an Energy and Climate Action Plan.

# 2010 Palm Springs Community Emissions by Sector (Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)

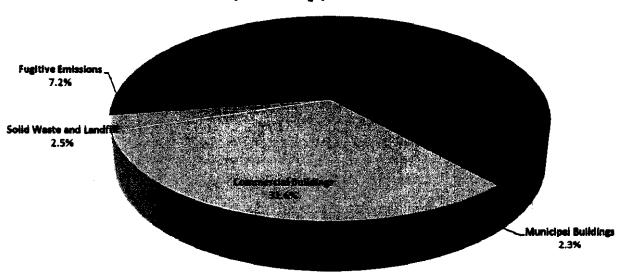


Figure 2: Community greenhouse gas emissions by sector. The Green for Life Program, administered by CVAG, has provided for funding to complete a the most recent greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2010. The (provided by EcoMotion for CVAG Green for Life program)

#### Inventory of Projects Implemented

The main goal of the Office of Sustainability is to create, manage and implement projects and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are typically achieved by eliminating emissions in each of the sectors as indicated in Figures 1 and 2. These sectors include emissions produced in community and Cityl operations and activities in areas such as water, waste, transportation, energy, and production of goods and services. The City's Office of Sustainability modeled the organization of program and project focus areas on this premise. The Office of Sustainability facilitates regular meetings of the Sustainability Commission, Mayor's Leadership Council and Green Team to implement new projects and policies to work in these areas and to help meet the City's overall sustainability goals.

The Sustainability Commission meets at least once a month and serves not only in an advisory role to City Council on programs and policy, but also as ambassadors for the Your Sustainable City program. The Green Team consists of staff subcommittees which focus on

major sustainability initiatives derived from the Palm Springs Path to a Sustainable Community. The Green Team meets four to six times a year to incorporate sustainable practices into the overall operations of the City of Palm Springs. The Mayor's Leadership Council meets quarterly and focuses on special events such as the Annual Summit and the new Mayor's Healthy Planet Healthy You Race and Wellness Festival.

The Sustainability Commission Green Team, Mayor's Leadership Council subcommittees collaborate with local experts, not-for-profits, such as Coachella Valley Community Trails Alliance and Certified Farmer's Market, and other support agencies. The Sustainability Commission contributes significantly to additional outreach programs such as the Annual Sustainability Summit, Bike to Work Week, bike helmet and safety light giveaway program and Electric and Alternative fuel vehicle education. The following pages review and summarize the work in each focus area as accomplished by the Office of Sustainability stakeholders.

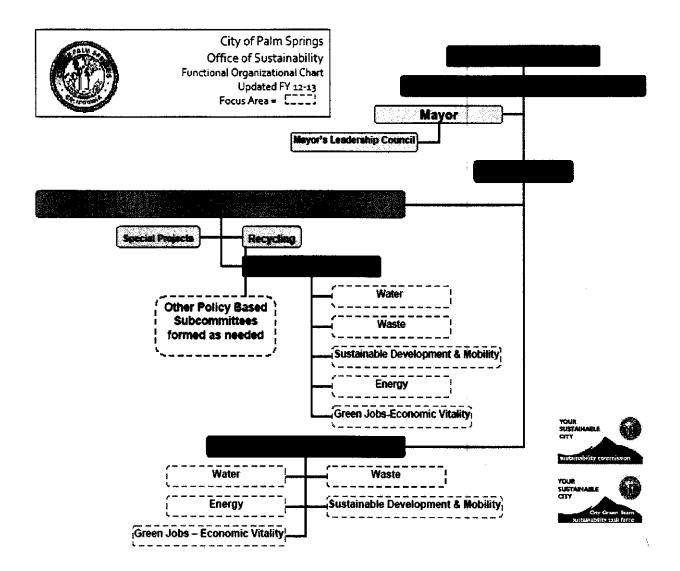


Figure 3: This organizational chart indicates the five focus areas in which key programs and projects are developed throughout the year. New programs may develop in each area based on community need, direction from City Council and input from the Sustainability Commission, Green Team and Mayor's Leadership Council.

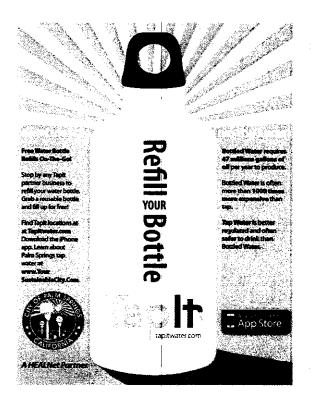
#### **Water Conservation**

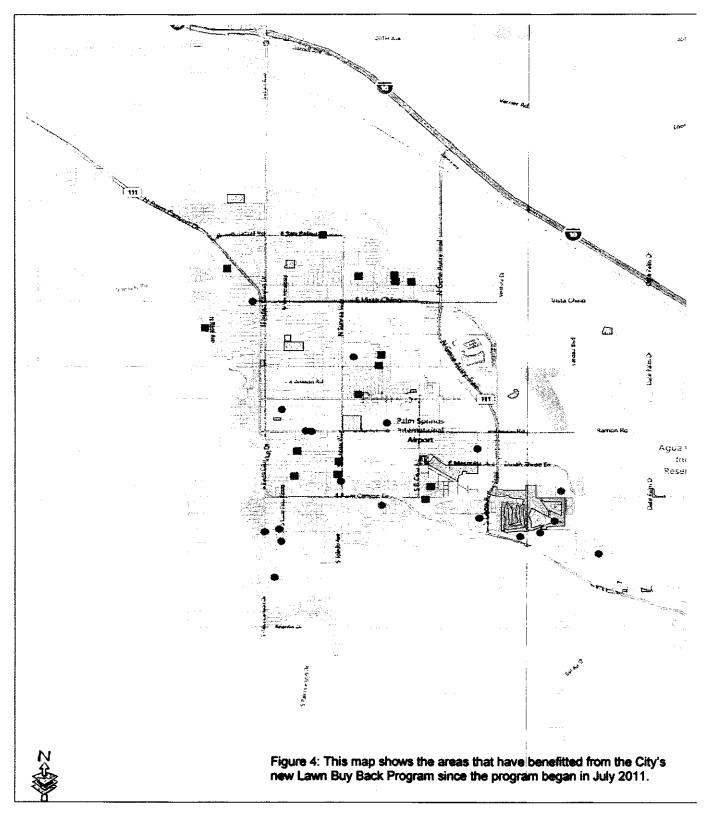
During FY 2011-12 the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Commission initiated a Lawn Buy Back Program as well as a new Tap It! Program to increase city-wide water conservation. These programs were created to educate the public on water conservation issues and to provide resources to help residents and businesses to save water and money. Programs implemented include desert landscape rebate programs, a tap water consumption promotion program, increased low flow toilet rebates and education and collaboration with outside organizations. The Lawn Buy Back Program proved very successful with applications from over 30 single family residents and 28 homeowner's associations.

#### 2011-12 Water Conservation Project Highlights

Water Conservation Progress Highlights	
Project:	Date of Completion:
Lawn Buy Back Program initiated with over 60 total applicants serviced.  Over \$100,000 in rebate funds provided to the community and over 135,000 square feet in turf replaced with desert friendly landscape.	Completed April 2012
Over 200 low flow dual flush toilets have been provided to residents. 100 more toilets have been provided at no cost and installed for low income residents thanks to a partnership with the Community Development Department.	
New Tap It! Program was initiated and 300 reusable metal water bottles were distributed at sustainability events, including the Mayor's Healthy planet Healthy You Race, to discourage single use plastic water bottle consumption.	On going Program
Collaboration with Cahuilla Elementary School to host Arbor Day events. More than 500 saplings were given to children this March. The program also provided for an olive tree that was planted in the school garden.	

- Created the new Tap It! Program: In partnership with the Healthy Eating and Active Living Network.
  The Tap It! program assists residents to transition from single use to reusable water bottles as well as to partner with local businesses and organizations to provide free tap water. The City's Convention Center became the first Tap It! location this year. For the 2012-13 fiscal year the Office of Sustainability hopes to add a dozen businesses to the Tap It! Partnership program.
- Promote water awareness month at the library and at community events: An annual program provided through the work of the Sustainability Commission and Office of Sustainability.
- Provided low flow toilet rebates: Offered through a partnership with Veolia in the amount of \$100 to residents who installed low flow models and replaced inefficient toilets.
- Low Income Water Conservation Program: A
  partnership was formed with the Economic
  Development Department to create a program to
  fund, purchase and install low flow toilet to low
  income residents.





Produced by the City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability. This map is for informational purposes only and may not be to scale. Exact locations of lawn buy back program applicants should be verified with the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8214.





#### Lawn Buy Back Program Examples of Successful Projects

BEFORE AFTER

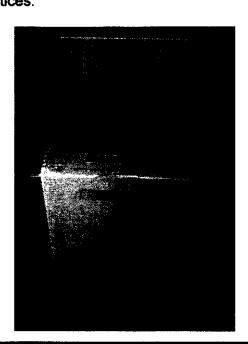


#### **Recycling and Waste Reduction**

The City has partnered with local community groups to host monthly clean up events. The Tahquitz Creek Yacht Club and Palm Springs Rotary participated in the Great American Clean Up in May. The Office of Sustainability provides vests, pickers and bio-degradable trash bags to support the efforts of the clean up events.

The City also hosts three Electronic waste and Shredding events during the year and one tire and waste oil recycling event. One goal for the Office of Sustainability was to develop a free 24 hour electronic waste drop off site that is open to the public. This site has been established and provides an on-going service as well as an additional a source of revenue for the City.

The City has also increased household hazardous waste services. This includes providing free and easy access to pharmaceutical and sharps disposal. Pre paid SHARPS containers are available at City Hall and may be mailed in. Pharmaceutical waste can be dropped off in a container at City Hall or pre-paid envelopes are also provided for the convenience of residents. This leads to less contamination of soil and drinking water and safer disposal practices.





Composting programs exist at the Convention Center, several hotels and schools. The City's new community garden also boasts a new composting area.	Ongoing
The City's new animal shelter has implemented a recycling program as well as pharmaceutical waste recovery this year.	Completed January 2012
The City's single plastic bag use reduction program Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) has provided for nearly 500 reusable bags to citizens, These bags are made of recycled material and are offered at no cost at sustainability events.	Ongoing
The City collected 90,000 pounds in citrus in 2011 and 27,900 in 2012. Both years the City of Palm Springs recovered more citrus than any other city in the Coachella Valley. The gleaning program is becoming more aggressive and now includes olive recovery and volunteer recruitment to assist those in need. Diversion from landfill contributes to zero waste goal. The Olive gleaning program includes educational classes three times a year and hopes to culminate in an annual community olive pressing.	Ongoing



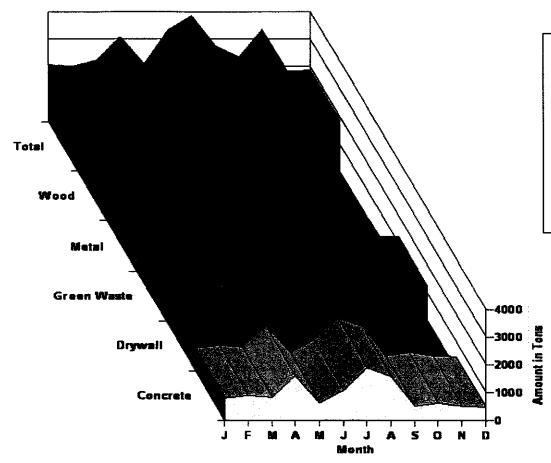
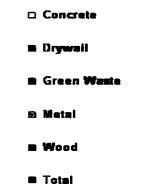
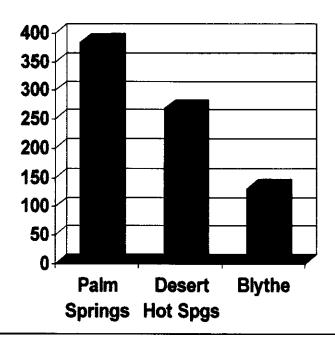


Figure 5



Left: Figure 5 is a graph showing the results of the City 's increased educational outreach regarding construction and demolition waste. This includes providing information on line and at the building counter to inform contractors and residents about the opportunities available to recycle construction waste.





The City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability now offers FREE assistance in safely disposing of SHARPS and Pharmaceutical Waste

Pick up a Pre-Paid Mailing Envelope for Medicines other than Controlled Substances at the front desk of City Hall at

3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way or to pick up a FREE Pre-Paid SHARPS Container call 760-323-8214

ALSO 24 HOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE DROP OFF At the Palm Springs City Maintenance Yard 425 N. Civic Dr.

760-323-8214



Left: Figure 6 shows the results of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments sponsored Tire recycling event. The City of Palm Springs collected the most tires in one event.

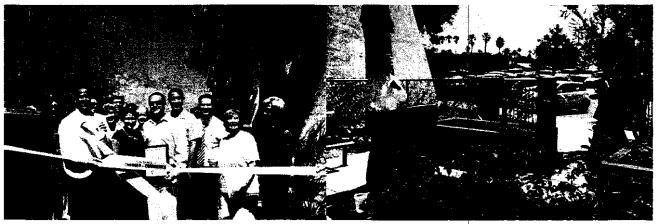
Above: The Office of Sustainability has expanded sharps and pharmaceutical waste collection programs to include pre-paid envelopes and drop off locations.

#### **Urban Sustainability and Mobility**

Urban Sustainability and Transportation improvements continue to be an area of opportunity for the City of Palm Springs. From the implementation of the newly adopted Non Motorized Transportation Plan to creation of a new community garden the positive changes continue. The City's new 32 plot Demuth Park Community Garden opened in May 2012 after an initial groundbreaking in April 2011. The funds were provided through a combination of sustainability funds and an endowment from Veolia water.

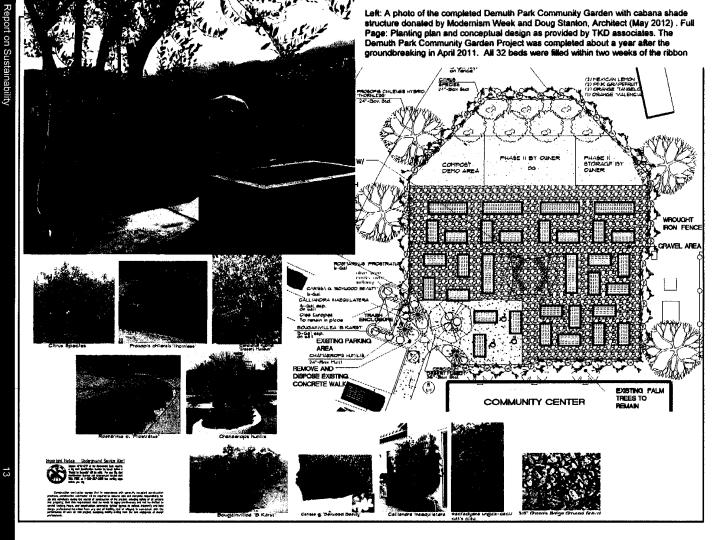
The City was one of the first to initiate an amendment to the City's General Plan to incorporate the Coachella Valley Association of Government's approved Non-motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP). Since this adoption the City has applied for several grants in hopes improving bike paths and increasing walk ability throughout the City. In addition, a new Non-Motorized Community Connectivity Roundtable was created and held a first meeting during May 2012 Bike Month at the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership board room. Guest lecturer, Dan Austin led the discussion on the need for an increase in non motorized community, urban bike-ability and overall how biking and walking elevate the vibrancy of a community. Attendees strategized and discussed solutions for making Palm Springs a more biking and waking friendly city. The result was an improved bike map and a commitment to meeting quarterly to collaborate on bike infrastructure improvements.

In October 2011 the City supported the creation of a new Electric Automobile Association of Palm Springs. A new electric vehicle charging station has replaced an old paddle style version at the Palm Springs International Airport. An all electric Nissan Leaf has been added to the City's fleet and is utilized as a pool vehicle. The Office of Sustainability has begun to facilitate a new Rideshare program in partnership with Riverside County. Grant funds have been secured to add even more charging stations by the end of 2012 within the City. Future goals include adding bike lanes, bike racks and increasing electric vehicle infrastructure city-wide.

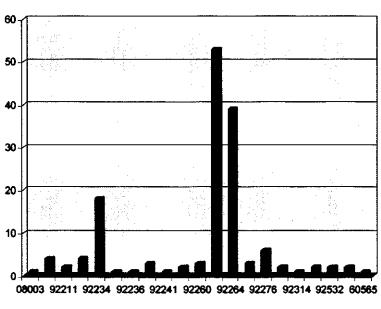


Elected officials, school children, neighborhood residents and future gardeners attended the ribbon cutting celebration for the City's new Demuth Park Community Garden on May 16, 2012.

Urban Sustainability and Mobility Progress	
Project:	Date of Completion
Sustainability Commission has budgeted \$10,000 toward bike path creation and improvement and took action to propose an amendment to the general plan to incorporate the CVAG adopted Non-motorized Transportation Plan.	October 2011, Ongoing
The City partnered with Clean Cities Coachella Valley to organize an alternative fuel education day, Odyssey Day, and provided free workshops to the public.	October 2011 and October 2012
The Sustainability Commission partnered with a local bicycle shop to offer free helmets, bike lights and tune ups to City residents during Bike Month held at the Camelot theater.	Completed May 2012
The City received a 38,000 grant from Air Quality Management District to purchase electric vehicle charging stations.	August 2010, to be completed August 2011



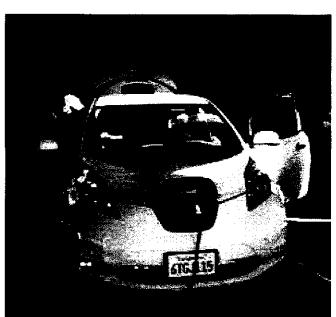
#### 2011-12 Bike Outreach by Zip Code





#### ■ Number of Residents

From left clockwise: A graph depicting helmet and bike light giveaway outreach during Bike Month in May. Children learn bicycle safety from the City of Palm Springs Police Officers at the Bike Rodeo held at the Camelot Theater. The Sustainability Commission partnered with the Parks and Recreation Commission and Police Department to put on this fun kid focused safety event. Ecomotion attended several bike month events to help attendees realize the connection between vehicle emissions and their ability to make a significant reduction by biking instead of driving. This collaborative effort resulted in hundred of surveys being collected and a greater positive impact on the community.





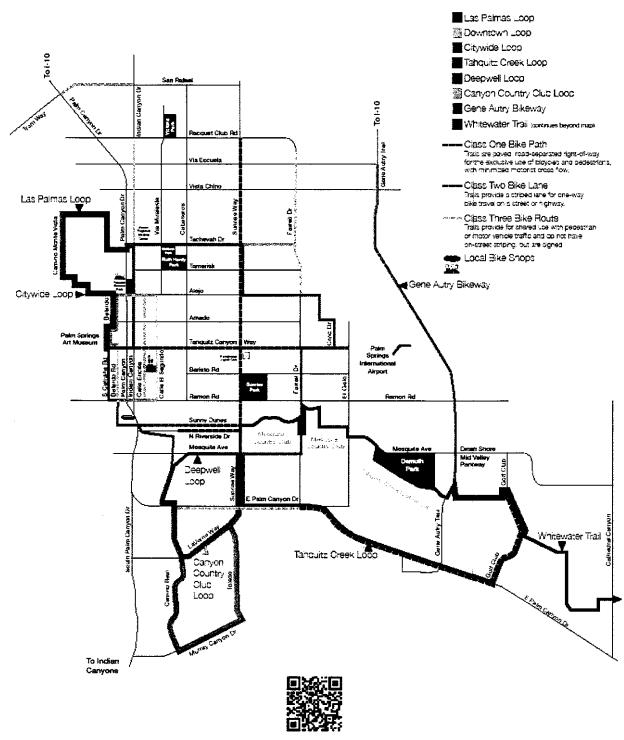
Left: Using Sustainability funds, COLMAC grant funds, and City fleet funds the City's Office of Sustainability and Fleet Operations have added an ALL ELECTRIC Nissan LEAF to the City's fleet.

Right: The Office of Sustainability has begun to implement an employee vehicle miles traveled reduction program. This includes creation and support of a new employee rideshare and carpool incentive program.



Palm Spri

## CITY OF PALM SPRINGS



yoursustainablecity.com

Above: The Sustainability Commission made creating a new user friendly Bike Map a priority. With the collaboration of the Parks and recreation Commission, community members, and staff the bike map was completed and ready for Bike Month 2012. (Map provided thanks to David Dixon design)

#### **Energy Conservation**

Several new energy conservation programs were established in the 2011-12 fiscal year. The energy efficient gas appliance rebate matching program provided up to \$60.00 per household for qualifying energy efficient gas appliance purchases. This program matches an existing rebate provided by the Southern California gas company. Another new program that was introduced in 2011 is the Comprehensive Mobile Home energy efficiency retrofit program. This program is a result of a partnership between the City, Synergy Corporation and Southern California Gas/Sempra Utilities. This program reached nearly 300 citizens and provided free services for 145 mobile home owners. The project resulted in a carbon dioxide equivalent reduction in emissions of 91,176 pounds. The table below reflects the total outreach and results of the program for 2011.

2011 SCE-SCG Comprehensive Mobile Home Program Key Metrics

Service Account City	Contacts	Serviced	Capture Rate	Flyers	Mailers	kWh Saved	kW Saved	Therma Saved	Carbon Reduction lbs.
Palm Springs	290	145	50.00%	136		174000	72.5	0	91176

A new energy efficiency incentive program for hot water heaters has also been added to the energy conservation programs and serviced the first applicant in March 2012. This is a partnership with the Community and Economic Development program whose staff works to administer the program. The program serves low income residents and will continue into 2013.

The City is an active participant in the Desert Cities Energy Partnership and has earned the Silver Level in the program. The City has reduced energy use in municipal buildings by almost 10% and nearly 9% in the community sector since entering the partnership in 2008.

Performance Contracting with Chevron (ESCO agreement) for energy project savings has been supported by the Sustainability Commission through funding of third party review of the contract n the amount of \$51,000. Sustainability Commission is expected to play a significant role in monitoring of the success and outcomes of the project and will report to Council.	Third Party Review Phase 1 completed May 2012. Ongoing
Office of Sustainability provides educational opportunities for constituents to learn about "Saving a Ton" and personal greenhouse gas mitigations.	Ongoing
Completed the City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory for both City operations and Community use for 2010 through the Green for Life Program. The next step will be to develop an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) by October 2012.	Completed. Next step ECAP October 2012.
The Office of Sustainability provided several educational tours of City facilities and co generation plant to students and interns for the Green for Life Program.	Ongoing
The Office of Sustainability installed over 200 motion sensor activated power strips that save almost \$40 per year per install. For an install of 200 devices bout 22.8 metric tons of Co2e are saved annually.	Completed December 2011

#### **Green Economy**

Sustainability staff facilitates quarterly Mayor's Leadership Council meetings to support organizations that are early adopters of sustainability measures. The Mayor's Leadership Council played a significant role for Earth Day 2012 in supporting the Mayor's Healthy Planet Healthy You Race and Wellness Festival. The event attracted visitors from all over Southern California. The event raised more than \$100,000 to fight childhood obesity and resulted in the creation of a new program funded by the monies raised form the Mayor's Race, the Desert Healthcare Foundation, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

The Green Business Partnership program encourages businesses to incorporate green procurement, use of compostable products, water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, waste oil pick-up for restaurants and energy management. A new on line certification program has been secured and will be unveiled in October 2012.

The Sustainability Commission actively seeks opportunities to stimulate the creation of a green

economy in the City of Palm Springs. During the 2011-12 year the Sustainability Commission has supported community efforts including the Certified Farmer's Market and the Camelot Theater through sponsorships and programs. The new Earth Matters film festival provided for eight free film showings for the public to enjoy while attracting visitors to the farmer's market and theater all year. In the coming year the festival is will expand to provided more free film showings in conjunction with events and a speaker series.



# RACE AND WELLNESS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 2012 • 8 AM START

#### ALSO IN THE PARK!

MAYOR'S WELLNESS FESTIVAL TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD OBESITY 8 AM to 1 PM

Free Samples, health testing, educational information, fitness classes, and fun for families.

REGISTER ON-LINE AT WWW.ACTIVE.COM or visit WWW.YOURSUSTAINABLECITY.COM



Partnerships with local car dealers to promote electric vehicles sales. This includes promotion of alternative transportation through outreach, expo's and policy adoption.	October 2011
A partnership with the Palm Springs Convention Center to initiate greater opportunity for eco tourism including promotion of the Office of Sustainability events on the Convention and Visitors Bureau website.	Ongoing
Local Earth Matters Film Festival in partnership with the Cultural Center, Camelot Theater and the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission.	Began October 2011. Completed June 2012.

#### **Annual Overview**

Since May 2011 the Sustainability Commission has worked diligently to adopt and implement a City of Palm Springs Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP). In October 2011 the NMTP was adopted by City Council. Subsequently the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Commission embraced a comprehensive outreach and education program focused on biking, hiking and electric vehicles. Since the NMTP was adopted the Sustainability Commission has made implementation of the NMTP a major focus. This includes prioritization of bike lane improvements and addition of bike lanes. The Commission requested that City staff apply for grants as well as allocate dollars from the sustainability fund to implement the NMTP projects.

With the NMTP as the focus the Office of Sustainability, the Sustainability Commission and Leadership Council worked in concert to host a successful Annual Sustainability Summit. The 2011 Summit was held at the Palm Springs Convention Center where more than 300 people attended.

The speaker at the summitwas internationally acclaimed writer, film maker and philanthropist Dan Austin. The presentation on biking and exploring community through alternative transportation means inspired many members of the community to take action. The theme for this years efforts was focused on biking, hiking and electric vehicles. Go to photo yoursustainablecity.com for a downloadable version of the new bike map, survey results and photos taken during the Annual Sustainability Summit.

The Office of Sustainability's goals for the coming year include completing an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP), initiating planning for second community garden including securing funding, design and location, constructing new and improving existing bike lanes, adding electric vehicle charging stations, creating a green business outreach program with web based certification and sustainable packaging incentives.

The City has been recognized as a national leader in sustainability and climate change action. Recently the City was acknowledged as a statewide leader in energy and sustainability and was named the 2011 California Center for Sustainable Energy's Energy All Star in Community Leadership.

The City of Palm Springs is also a member of Local Governments for Sustainability USA or ICLEI. ICLEI calls for completion of Five Milestones for Climate Mitigation to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community. The City is well on the way towards completing all the steps that ICLEI encourages member cities to complete to achieve the highest in international climate preparedness standards. So far the City has conducted an inventory, implemented action plans and programs and is well on the way to creating an Energy and Climate Action Plan that will take the City into the next decade.







#### Our keynote speaker Dan Austin

is a writer, author and filmmaker living in Seattle, Washington. He is the founder of 88 BIKES, a not for profit that aids children and families throughout the world to obtain safe, sustainable and free transportation via bicycle.





Map by Ben Lizardi Going Organic Guide



### City of Palm Springs City Council

Steve Pougnet, Mayor
Ginny Foat, Mayor Pro Tem
Rick Hutcheson, Councilmember
Chris Mills, Councilmember
Paul Lewin, Councilmember

#### **Executive Staff**

David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager James Thompson, City Clerk Douglas C. Holland, City Attorney Thomas Wilson, Assistant City Manager Geoffrey S. Kiehl, City Treasurer

#### **Sustainability Commissioners**

Brett Klein, Chair Kate Castle Paul J. McCreesh

Ranee Schaafsma

Staci Schafer, Vice Chair Michael Harris Terri Mettie

Judge Keith Wisot

#### City of Palm Springs

City Hall, Office of Sustainability 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way Palm Springs, CA 92264 Tel: 760-323-8214

web: www.yoursustainablecity.com

#### **Staff**

Michele Mician, Manager Jennifer Henning, Special Projects Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator