



# City of Palm Springs

## Office of Sustainability

3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, California 92262  
Tel: (760) 323-8214 • Fax: (760) 322-8360 • Web: [www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

July 2021

Dear Palm Springs Resident:

We are privileged to live in a place of incredible beauty. Despite global environmental challenges, for the time being, we have relatively clean air, clean and accessible water, a livable climate, and lots of opportunities to connect directly with nature. Our situation, however, is fragile. Our climate is changing in visible and invisible ways. Many of our native plant and animal species are disappearing. We had a 20% decline in mammals in the past 10 years. Plastics are infecting our land and choking our nearby oceans and waterways.

With these challenges comes the opportunity for each of us to rise to the occasion. We are asking everyone in the City of Palm Springs to own your environment. There are lots of big problems facing the planet, but if we each own our part of the solution, we can make a difference locally and globally.

There are many things you can do that could take little effort. Pick up trash you see on the street. Drive a little less and walk and bike a little more. Go meatless at least one day per week. Turn off the television and your devices one night per week. Say “no thank you” to straws. You have the power to do so much.

This newsletter provides you with some important information about sustainability programs in our City that may be helpful for new and long-time residents alike. Enjoy the newsletter and visit us often at [www.YourSustainableCity.com](http://www.YourSustainableCity.com)!  
– Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability

#### **Power in Palm Springs**

Desert Community Energy (DCE) is the new not-for-profit electricity provider which launched in Palm Springs in April 2020. DCE is a Community Choice Energy program (also known as, "Community Choice Aggregation") that allow communities to source their own electricity, putting an end the monopolies held by traditional Investor Owned Utilities. DCE offers Palm Springs customers the choice to buy cleaner electricity at competitive rates and reduce greenhouse gases through development of a robust renewable energy infrastructure.

Palm Springs was able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions – the emissions that contribute to climate change – by about 21% in 2020 largely as a result of residents and businesses that stuck with the 100% carbon free program that has been provided through DCE. In 2020, Palm Springs moved from buying power through Southern California Edison (SCE) to buying power through DCE to provide residents with cost-competitive, clean-power options. While the City chose to set the 100% carbon free option as its default, residents can opt down to the lower cost, less-clean Desert Saver program, or remain with SCE. While SCE still bills customers, DCE customers will see separate charges for SCE’s power delivery and DCE’s power purchases. These fees were combined when SCE was the power provider and power purchaser. If you have questions about your bill, please contact SCE or DCE at (855) 357-9240.

#### **Leaf Blower Ordinance Reminder**

Palm Springs established ordinance 1932 which prohibits the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers beginning January 1, 2019. If you see them being used, call the code enforcement hotline at (760) 778-8434 or, better yet, fill out a report on the [www.MyPalmSpringsApp](http://www.MyPalmSpringsApp). You can do your part by helping your gardener and allowing them to charge their batteries while on site. The ordinance applies to all residents (including Homeowners Associations) and businesses



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located in or doing business in Palm Springs. Additionally, the ordinance prohibits blowing of leaves and debris into the street or onto adjacent properties.

### Recycling

The City of Palm Springs is constantly working with Palm Springs Disposal Services to improve the way we manage materials to reach our goal of diverting over 90% of waste materials from landfills. Our waste diversion efforts reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and reduce our nation's need to extract raw materials.

- Buy Better! Buy and use REUSABLE products. Buy RECYCLED products. Buy RECYCLABLE products.
- Recycle Right! Keep it Loose Palm Springs! Don't put plastic bags in the recycling bin. If you use a plastic bag liner in your kitchen recycling, do not include it in your curbside recycling cart. Consider rinsing and reusing it. Plastic bags are not allowed in your curbside recycling cart.
- Place clean aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and paper into the Blue Recycling containers.
- Wipe out your containers before placing in the recycling bin. Remove caps, corks, and lids. Remove labels when you can.
- Cardboard must be clean and dry with all loose tape removed. Greasy pizza boxes and wax covered cardboard are not recyclable and must be placed in the trash cart.

**Electronic waste** such as computers, laptops, small appliances, and other things with a cord can be dropped off at Palm Springs Disposal Services. The drop-off bin is located behind their offices at the corner of Williams Street and Mesquite and are available during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

**Bottle and Can redemption** is available at Ponce Recycling Center (619-587-9876) behind Ralph's at Smoketree near the intersection of Sunrise Way and East Palm Canyon is a new recycling center that will pay you for your CRV bottles and cans and other recyclable materials. It is open Mon-Sat 9-5.

For **large cardboard** or if your recycling bins are full, please bring cardboard to Palm Springs Disposal Services at the corner of Mesquite and Williams Street during regular business hours.

**Sharps and Used Medications** can be dropped off at the Reception Desk at Palm Springs City Hall, 3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way and Fire Station #2, 300 El Cielo Road. The City of Palm Springs offers free sharps containers for residents to use when storing needles and other items. They can be picked up at the reception desk at City Hall.

### Periodic Shredding and E-waste collection events

The Office of Sustainability hosts three shredding and e-waste recycling events annually. Join us for the next event scheduled for Saturday, October 16th between 8 AM and 12 PM at **City Hall**. Paper to be shredded is limited to three 9x13x17 boxes – the size of a case of paper from an office supply store. Electronic waste includes common things such as computers, monitors, TVs, phones, fax machines, and small appliances. Please do not bring any household hazardous waste materials such as batteries, tires, air conditioning units that may have refrigerants, and equipment that may have oil and gas.

### Water Conservation

The City of Palm Springs and Desert Water Agency (DWA) urge residents to be water conscious year round. Some ways in which you can contribute is to check your sprinklers and irrigations systems regularly. DWA recommends that customers water in the morning or evening to avoid water loss to evaporation. The following activities are restricted;

- Watering so much that it runs onto the sidewalk, driveway or other non-landscape areas.
- Washing of hard surfaced exteriors, such as driveways, parking lots, walkways and other hardscapes, shall be prohibited unless for public health or safety. Pressure washers, recycled water, water broom and water from a bucket are permitted.
- Watering during and 48 hours after rain (click here to learn more about Smart Irrigation Controllers)



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- Running water to wash vehicles. The use of buckets and stop nozzles on hoses, for rinsing only, shall be permitted.

Desert Water Agency has a variety of incentives to help assist with costs of removing turf, installing smart controllers and replacing nozzles. Check them out at DWA's Incentives web site at <https://programs.dwa.org/>. They also have additional tips for saving water outdoors.

### HHW Facility

The County of Riverside operates a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHW) at 1100 Vella Road, behind the Palm Springs Animal Shelter. The facility accepts household hazardous waste from residents on Saturdays only, summer hours (June – September) 7:00 am to noon and regular hours (October - May) 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. It is closed on holiday weekends. For inquiries, please contact Riverside County at [www.rcwaste.org](http://www.rcwaste.org) or call (800) 304-2226.

### Battery Recycling Program

The City of Palm Springs has developed a household battery recycling program so that residents and visitors can take their used batteries and electronics to convenient locations throughout the city so that they can be recycled. Dropoff locations include:

Palm Springs Public Library, 300 S. Sunrise Way	Palm Springs Animal Shelter, 4575 E. Mesquite Road
Palm Springs Fire Station #2, 300 N. El Cielo	Demuth Community Center, 3601 E. Mesquite Ave
Palm Springs City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way	James O. Jessie Desert Unity Center, 480 Tramview Rd
Palm Springs Parks and Recreation, 401 S. Pavilion Way	

### NEW STUFF

#### New Food Ware Ordinance

Effective January 1, 2022, the Palm Springs City council passed a Food Ware Ordinance which promotes reusable food ware and reduces single-use plastic waste. Important things to know include the following:

- The ordinance applies to restaurants, bars, and other places that serve prepared food/beverages.
- The ordinance has a broad prohibition on polystyrene foam and rigid forms of food ware that will affect retailers as well as food vendors.
- The ordinance phases in compostable, fiber-based food ware and accessories. In 2023, all disposable food service ware and accessories will need to be fiber-based compostable and larger food ware items such as bowls, cups, and containers will need to be Certified compostable.
- The requirement for food vendors to charge a fee for disposable cups/containers and that they provide an incentive for customers that bring reusables HAS BEEN REMOVED.
- The list below summarizes the key components and timing.

#### Effective Date: January 1, 2022

- Prepared Food Vendors may not provide any items containing rigid or foam polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) products. No person or retailer may sell products containing Polystyrene.
- Non-reusable straws and stirrers cannot be made of plastic – regular plastic or “compostable” plastic - and are available only on customer request or on affirmative response to a vendor inquiry.
- Single-use plastic bags cannot be used for take-out or take-home orders.
- For on-site dining, reusable Food Service Ware Items must be used, which include: plates, glassware, cups, trays, baskets, and cutlery.
- For on-site dining, condiments must be provided in reusable containers, bulk dispensers or non-plastic packaging for food and beverage consumption.
- Approved non-reusable Food Service Ware Accessory items for on-site dining include:



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- paper or foil wraps, sleeves and bags, paper napkins and paper tray liners.
- The following Food Service Ware Accessory items for takeout can only be provided upon customer request or an affirmative response to a vendor’s inquiry: utensils, straws, stirrers, napkins, etc.
- Prepared Food Vendors should allow for the use of customer supplied Reusable Food Service Ware consistent with the California Food Retail Code, unless the item provided appears to be soiled or inappropriate in size.

*Effective Date: January 1, 2023*

- Non-reusable Food Service Ware must be made of Fiber-based Compostable materials certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute which include: plates, bowls, cups, clamshells, boxes, deli containers and other containers used for the sale and/or distribution of prepared food.

### New EV Charging Infrastructure

The City of Palm Springs currently has 34 electric vehicle charging stations and EVgo high-speed charging station located at the Visitors Center, 2901 N Palm Canyon Drive. The City is in the process of installing additional fee based charging stations which should be completed by Fall 2021. For a complete list of electric vehicle charging stations, visit the City’s website at <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/services/sustainability-and-recycling/electric-vehicles-and-charging> or use one of these apps: [www.plugshare.com](http://www.plugshare.com) and [www.carstations.com](http://www.carstations.com)

### Curbside Organics Management

SB 1383 requires every California jurisdiction to extend a mandatory organic waste recycling program to every residential customer. A third cart, a “green” bin will be distributed to residential customers to recycle green waste and kitchen scraps as part of your basic service starting in mid-late 2022. Green waste makes up about 33% of the trash that goes into Coachella Valley landfills. By recycling your green waste, you can dramatically reduce this burden on our landfills.

### Sprinkler Check Week is Every Week in Palm Springs

The City of Palm Springs and Desert Water Agency urge all residents, HOAs, and Businesses to work with their gardeners and landscapers to check your sprinklers and irrigation systems throughout the year. Use the following as you check your sprinkler system.

Check for Problems	Make Adjustments	Repair or Replace
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Water on sidewalks, driveways, patios and other hard surfaces</li> <li>✓ Channels in your yard from excess water flow</li> <li>✓ Moss on soil</li> <li>✓ Low flow in some sprinkler heads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Angle nozzles away from hard surfaces</li> <li>✓ Modify flow and duration to avoid over watering</li> <li>✓ Cap off unused sprinkler heads or lines</li> <li>✓ Run sprinklers when it’s cooler, and minimize watering in the heat of the day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Repair broken or cracked lines</li> <li>✓ Clean out minerals from sprinkler heads to improve flow</li> <li>✓ Replace older spray heads with new, efficient heads</li> <li>✓ Replace spray irrigation with drip irrigation wherever possible</li> <li>✓ Replace turf with drought-tolerant plants to reduce water use</li> </ul>

### In Closing

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter from the Office of Sustainability. You can visit us online at [www.YourSustainableCity.com](http://www.YourSustainableCity.com). You may subscribe and receive email notifications of future Sustainability newsletters, Commission agendas and events by signing up for the City’s e-notification system at <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/government/residents/e-notification>.



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