



City of Palm Springs Development Services Department Office of Sustainability

TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Patrick Tallarico, Manager

SUBJECT: Potential New Residential Rebate Program

MEETING DATE: December 21, 2021

During the discussion of the Climate Action Roadmap at the City Council meeting on November 18th, the City Council identified rebates or incentive programs for businesses and residents as an important way to help people reduce their energy use. Council also highlighted weatherization as another important program to promote. I mentioned that the City may also want to consider providing rebates for water use reduction as well.

Attached is a draft staff report that would be submitted to Council for a new residential rebate program. The City would like the Commission's input on the following program features:

- 1) **The scope of the projects to be reimbursed.** Please identify any types of projects that you feel should or should not be covered.
- 2) **The rebate amount.** The staff report identifies \$500. This amount would not be subject to taxes. If this amount is combined with the \$100 residential home energy assessment rebate, residents would still be under the taxable limit.
- 3) Whether the rebates should be **combined with any other rebates** (e.g., the DWA turf conversion, washing machine, and sprinkler head rebates).

Staff will incorporate the Commission's feedback and provide the staff report to the Council in January.



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: TBD CONSENT CALENDAR

SUBJECT: DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO TRANSFER \$50,000 FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY FUND TO ESTABLISH A RESIDENTIAL ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM

FROM: Justin Clifton, City Manager

BY: Department of Development Services, Office of Sustainability

SUMMARY:

The City receives funding through the Waste Hauling Franchise Agreement with Palm Springs Disposal Services to oversee and implement recycling and sustainability programs. At the Council meeting on November 18, 2021, City Council encouraged City Staff to establish a residential rebate program to assist residents in implementing energy and water efficiency projects. The Office of Sustainability is requesting approval from Council to allocate funding from the Sustainability Fund for programs for the current fiscal year that were not included in the original budget request.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a transfer of \$50,000 from the Sustainability Fund for a residential rebate program to promote energy and water efficiency practices.

BACKGROUND:

The Sustainability Fund is funded by revenues generated by fees associated with waste and recycling services through the Franchise Agreement with Palm Springs Disposal Services. These funds cover labor expenses for the Office of Sustainability and program implementation expenses. At the November 18, 2021, Council meeting, the Council encouraged City Staff to establish a residential rebate program similar to the City's existing Sustainability Scholarships for Businesses. The residential rebate program will can be used by residents to fund energy and water efficiency upgrades for their homes.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Last Fiscal Year, the City established a new Sustainability Scholarship program for local businesses. This program provided rebates of up to \$750 for businesses that implemented sustainability practices to reduce waste and reduce use of energy and natural resources. This program is ongoing.

City Staff is proposing to establish a similar program for residents to promote energy and water efficiency measures. The new Residential Rebate Program would make up to half of their purchase up to a maximum of \$500 available to each resident for the following types of resource saving activities:

- Weatherizing or adding insulation to their homes
- Replacing windows and doors for more energy efficient models
- Installing Energy Star-rated appliances
- Turf conversion in addition to DWA’s turf buyback program
- Water efficient sprinkler systems and leak detection systems
- Conversion from older higher voltage landscape lighting to LED/low voltage landscape lighting
- Installing WaterSense fixtures

Funds could be used for purchases made any time within the last fiscal year – starting July 1, 2021. Funds will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and residents must demonstrate that they are installing items that are making improvements. For example, going from one Energy Star Appliance to another may not result in any overall energy savings and would not be approved.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The total amount of the funds being requested is \$50,000, which are available in the current fund balance of \$XXXXX.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Section 15061 (b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines exempts activities that are covered under the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential to cause significant effects on the environment. Although we expect that actions taken as a result of these activities will have positive environmental impacts, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

REVIEWED BY:

Department Director:	Patrick Tallarico
City Manager:	Justin Clifton

ATTACHMENTS:

None.