



## City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

**To:** Sustainability Commission

**From:** Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability

**Re:** January Updates to the Sustainability Commission

**Meeting Date:** 20 February 2024

The Office of Sustainability would like to provide this update on activities since the last Commission meeting to help speed discussion at the in-person meeting. The following items can be discussed in more depth at the meeting, if desired by the Commission.

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Next Council meeting topics: None scheduled
- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
  - SSCOWR: Thursday, March 7
  - Climate Action/Transportation: Wednesday, March 13
  - Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Water: TBD
- Next Farmers' Market table: Saturday, March 9
- ONE-PS Picnic: March 23
- Next shredding and e-waste event: April 20
- Opportunities for Commissioner involvement:
  - We will discuss the ONE-PS Picnic in today's meeting
  - Juliet's survey on energy efficiency is open for contributions!
    - English - <https://arcg.is/1849bv0>
    - Spanish - <https://arcg.is/1ymynb0>

### Commission Administrative Matters

- The Water subcommittee is working on scheduling their first meeting.
- Commissioners have all been assigned **email addresses**. If you are still not able to log in, try going to office.com, using your email address (should be [FirstName.LastName-ABM@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:FirstName.LastName-ABM@palmspringsca.gov)) and use the password PSComm23!
- If you are still having trouble with the email address, please email [ithelp@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:ithelp@palmspringsca.gov) and let them know that you are a Sustainability Commission member.
- You may have seen an email from a service called Proofpoint in that email. This is the City's new spam filtering service. Follow the instructions in the Proofpoint email to check

your “quarantine.” We’ve noticed that we’re getting some overzealous spam filtering at first, so it’s a good idea to keep an eye on it.

## **Updates on Ongoing Work**

### **Water**

We are working with DWA to understand the implications of AB1572, a law passed last year that bans watering non-functional turf with potable water in commercial, public, industrial, and HOA settings (non-HOA residential currently exempted, but not clear to me if >4 unit multi-family qualifies as “commercial” under this rule yet). The timelines associated with the legislation are as follows:

- Properties owned by local governments, local or regional public agencies, and public water systems (except those located in a disadvantaged community) - January 1, 2027
- All other institutional properties and all commercial and industrial properties – January 1, 2028
- All common areas of properties of homeowners’ associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities – January 1, 2029
- All properties owned by local governments, local public entities, and public water systems in a disadvantaged community – January 1, 2031, or the date upon which a state funding source is made available to fund conversion of nonfunctional turf on these properties to climate-appropriate landscapes

A few things to note:

- It currently appears as though individual property owners impacted by this legislation will be responsible for reporting on compliance to the state and for making determinations within state guidelines of what is functional vs. Non-functional turf
- Potable water is not prohibited from use to water trees and other perennial non-turf plantings
- Recycled water may be used to water non-functional turf per this legislation

### **Turf Conversion**

The public turf conversion match has been approximately 47% committed. The team is also currently developing and advising turf removal projects at San Rafael in the Sunrise Norte assessment district (funded by Measure J) and at City Hall.

The City Council has requested a report on turf conversion options at City Hall that conform with the original landscape plan (which, incidentally, was much more of a desert landscape than what exists today) which our team and Planning will compile over the coming weeks and will also share with the Commission. Planning is taking the lead on the development of this document.

Planning, DWA, and our team are working closely together to present some educational materials to project applicants because we're seeing some confusion about the City's requirements, especially for large projects. While DWA doesn't place many requirements on projects to receive the turf rebate, City rules place some parameters on what larger projects can contain. Projects above 2500 square feet are required to comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, and many HOA projects have approved landscape plans that must be appropriately altered and updated. This bulletin contains some guidance on effective projects: [638348673474130000 \(palmspringsca.gov\)](https://www.palmspringsca.gov)

Many project owners aren't aware that they need City approval for landscape alterations when they pursue the DWA rebate. This mismatch and confusion can slow down projects or result in costly redesigns. DWA, Planning, and Sustainability will work together to deliver presentations to ONE-PS and to area landscape architects and landscapers to encourage them to proactively incorporate the City's guidelines and rules.

### **Waste**

We recently provided a written report on SB1383 compliance to the City Council. We will share this report with SSCOWR at their next meeting.

Since PSDS's quarterly bills were issued at the first of the year, we've received 12 inquiries for our low-income discount program.

We worked with PSDS and Code Compliance to map out the compliance process for SB1383, since fines and enforcement are beginning this year. PSDS will be performing inspections and data collection and recommending properties to Code Compliance who will then issue fines.

### **Foodware**

Thanks to those who have been making official reports to Code Compliance of styrofoam in the wild! We have not yet made any educational visits this month but will be visiting toward the end of the month. We are seeing an increase in the number of reports which I interpret as an increase in the number of reporters, not necessarily in the number of violations.

### **Batteries**

We have collected batteries from City Hall, Demuth Park, the Fire Station, the Library, and the Farmers' Market this month. We are seeing an uptick in collection volumes.

### **Airport**

The City Council recommended [Alternative 1A: "Pier Expansion"](#) as the Terminal Concept for Palm Springs International Airport.

The Airport is now looking at alternatives for runways and other areas where aircraft move. We submitted comments recommending accommodating as much solar

generation as possible, providing space and charging infrastructure for airport ground service equipment, and minimizing distances needed to travel by fossil fueled equipment. Relocating Signature's terminal to accommodate the new rental car facility remains a major open discussion topic. Some commissioners have also requested that the airside design accommodate a pad/takeoff area for EVTOLs (basically electric taxis that take off vertically).

## **EV Charging Stations**

Current status of the stations is as follows:

- Museum Station: 5 of 6 Level 2 (medium speed) chargers functioning, all 4 DCFC (fast chargers) partially functioning due to broken charger clips. Roughly 25% of sessions on the DCFC fail
- City Hall Station: Both DCFC fully functioning; 1 of 2 L2 functioning

We did not hit our goal of returning 50% of the Out of Service stations to service this month, but we did return a fast charger to full service and should have replacement cables and units in March.

New L2 chargers at the Convention Center and the parking lot behind the Village Green (downtown) have been commissioned and are increasing in usage as residents and visitors get used to the new hardware. We will be adjusting the parking time limits to better reflect charging behavior at the new sites.

## **Transportation**

Christian reviewed the Transportation Survey Data with the Sustainability Subcommittee on Climate Action based on the 223 responses received from the Transportation Survey. Any commissioner who would like to see the presented data can reach out to Christian.

Christian is working on a plan to revamp and expand the bike repair pumps around the city. He is also working on applying for a Bicycle Friendly Community evaluation via the League of American Bicyclists for the City.

Christian will also be supporting Engineering's work on road reconfiguration projects to add cycling infrastructure to South Palm Canyon and to Racquet Club between Vista Chino and Palm Canyon.

## **Urban Environment**

Outreach continues for the development of the Tree Ordinances and achieving the TreeCity designation. Internal outreach has been very promising and productive. Christian is currently finishing drafting the ordinances for review.

Christian has submitted the proposals for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants focused on urban heat and shade adaptation to encourage more active transportation. He is now working on an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Transportation grant focused on reducing GHG emissions via multimodal transportation around affordable housing developments.

## **Community Garden**

There is now only one plot remaining in the garden! Christian will plan a meet & greet / potluck with the Community Garden members in the Spring.

## **Buildings and Energy Efficiency**

Juliet has been collating a variety of data sets that describe existing conditions of Palm Springs buildings and embarking on a community outreach and engagement strategy for building retrofit programs. She has analyzed data from TECH California, a heat pump accelerator program, to get ranges of costs for retrofits here in Palm Springs.

Juliet is also finalizing analysis for our possible cannabis and renewable energy reach codes to help us understand cost implications and greenhouse gas reduction opportunities.

## **Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Accounting**

Christian is working through the utility data acquisition process to obtain data for our 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Data has been acquired from SoCalGas, Southern California Edison, and Desert Community Energy. The team will complete contracting with PlaceWorks this month.

## **Fleet Electrification and City Emissions Reductions**

We are working with Public Works and our City departments to implement a fleet electrification strategy. We are also going to work with the I-REN team to audit our City facilities. We face a few combined problems – many of our buildings have old and failing systems, they have no additional electrical capacity, and we need to charge many more vehicles. Engineering recently acquired an electric Mustang, and IT should also be rolling one of those vehicles out soon. We are working with the teams to implement charging schedules, install new infrastructure, and make an electrification strategic plan.

## **Air Quality**

We submitted our annual report for how funds from motor vehicle registration fees that are diverted to us from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) were used. A significant portion of our roughly \$53,000 received this year went to CVAG to operate the street sweeper focused on particulate matter, and we used the rest to fund our City employee rideshare reimbursement program. This program funds up to \$2 per day for employees who use clean transportation methods to commute to work.

## **Key Goals for Next Month**

We're hoping to continue on the following:

- Finalize draft of tree ordinance
- Mapping key building data to understand target neighborhoods for efficiency programs
- Community outreach and project strategy for City turf conversion projects
- Fixing at least 50% of our out-of-service EV charging equipment by the end of Q1

- Eliminating 25% of the styrofoam used at VillageFest per month starting in Q1
- Signing up 15 more people per month for the low-income discount program for waste services
- Convening interagency group on electrification strategy
- Apply for grant opportunities for sustainable transportation planning and EV charging
- Make an offer to a Program Coordinator candidate
- Prepare campaign and program for Earth Day
- Finalize contract for GHG analysis