



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
 www.palmspringsca.gov www.yoursustainablecity.com

April 10, 2024 City Hall, 3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way and Via Teleconference 5:00 pm
Development Services Conference Room

AGENDA

To view/listen/participate in the meeting live, please contact Christian Wheeler at christian.wheeler@palmspringsca.gov or the following telephone number (760-323-8236) to register for the Zoom meeting. There will be an email with Zoom credentials sent after registration is complete to access the meeting and offer public comment.

Any person who wishes to provide public testimony for an item on the agenda is requested to file a speaker card before the Public Testimony portion of the meeting. You may submit your public comment to the Subcommittee electronically. Material may be emailed to christian.wheeler@palmspringsca.gov. Transmittal prior to the start of the meeting will help ensure that your correspondence is fully considered. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Subcommittee and retained for the official record.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Roy Clark, Chair	Kathy Cohn
Erik Graham	Bernard Rottner
Prema Walker	

Staff representatives: Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director of Sustainability; Christian Wheeler, Sustainability Specialist; Office of Sustainability

City of Palm Springs Vision Statement: Palm Springs aspires to be a unique world-class desert community, where residents and visitors enjoy our high quality of life and a relaxing experience. We desire to balance our cultural and historical resources with responsible, sustainable economic growth and enhance our natural desert beauty. We are committed to providing responsive, friendly, and efficient customer service in an environment that fosters unity among all our citizens.

Please **MUTE OR TURN OFF** all audible electronic devices for the duration of this meeting. Thank you!

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS: This time is for members of the public to address the Subcommittee on agenda items and items of general interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee values your comments but it cannot take action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each speaker.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

(5 min)

Chair Clark

STAFF REPORT (5 min)
Sustainability Specialist Wheeler

PRESENTATION (30 min)
Zoning Code Update – (Code Studio)

A. OLD BUSINESS (15 min)
1. March 13 meeting report (Chair Clark)
2. Wood-burning fires (Chair Clark, Commissioner Walker)

B. NEW BUSINESS (20 min)
1. CV Link Access (Chair Clark)

C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND MAY AGENDA ITEMS (5 min)

D. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action will adjourn to the next meeting on May 8, 2024, at 5:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with the meeting is the Office of Sustainability, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Agenda and staff reports are available on the City's website www.palmspringsca.gov. If you would like additional information on any item appearing on this agenda, please contact the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8248.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING: I, Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability of the City of Palm Springs, California, certify this Agenda was posted at or before 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 4, 2024 as required by established policies and procedures.



Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability



City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

To: Sustainability Commission Subcommittee on Climate Action

From: Christian Wheeler, Specialist, Office of Sustainability

Re: April Updates to the Sustainability Commission Subcommittee on Climate Action

Meeting Date: 10 April 2024

The Office of Sustainability would like to provide this update on activities since the last Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
 - Climate Action/Transportation: Wednesday, May 8
- Opportunities for Commissioner involvement:
 - Juliet's survey on energy efficiency is still open for contributions!
 - English - <https://arcg.is/1849bv0>
 - Spanish - <https://arcg.is/1ymynb0>
 - Stay tuned for further Earth Day planning!
 - Looking ahead: [CCEC Conference](#) on June 25-26

Commission Administrative Matters

- If you are still having trouble with the email address, please email 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

Airport

The Airport will be returning to the City Council to discuss relocating the Signature terminal to the east side of the airport and some other changes to the runways, also

referred to as the “airside,” and the Consolidated Rental Car Facility, or CONRAC. This will be presented to the City Council on April 11. On April 26, the team will hold a second Community Open House.

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
- Village Green/Belardo stations: both functioning
- Convention Center stations: 2 functioning, 2 not functioning.

Replacement cables and units are expected this month!

EVGo is also upgrading their equipment at the Palm Springs Visitors Center this month, which will bring another fast charger back into service here in the city.

Transportation

Christian is 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 as well as to reduce lanes.

Christian is working on to revamp and expand the bike pump stations around the city as well as adding and distributing more bike racks. He is also working on applying for a Bicycle Friendly Community evaluation via the League of American Bicyclists for the City.

The team has also brainstormed some ideas / campaigns related to biking & walking for Earth Day / week.

Urban Environment

Christian has submitted the proposals for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants focused on urban heat and shade adaptation to encourage more active transportation.

Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Juliet continues to focus on the energy efficiency survey and has been taking on leadership roles in her fellowship program focusing on volunteer engagement. She has also advised Palm Springs residents on rebates available for future projects and is preparing updates to our website on incentives and support programs.

She has also been working to develop an induction stove cooking demo that we will discuss at this meeting!

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Accounting

The utility data acquisition process to obtain data for our 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory has been finished and data has been acquired from SoCalGas, Southern California Edison, and Desert Community Energy. The team is waiting for the contracting with PlaceWorks to be completed.

Fleet Electrification and City Emissions Reductions

We are working with Public Works and our City departments to implement a fleet electrification strategy and a roadmap for building energy efficiency programs, hitting our Key Goal of convening our interagency working group on electrification strategy. We made great progress this month in identifying our top challenges and opportunities, and we look forward to presenting a broader plan in the next six weeks. We are also working on a grant submission to the California Energy Commission for supplemental funding.

Air Quality

No significant updates this month.

Team Updates

We hit another Key Goal this month – Our new Program Coordinator, Benito Villo, started on April 1st. We look forward to introducing them at our April meetings.

Our team has joined the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition, a network of cities focused on impacting energy and sustainability regulations in California. We're just getting up to speed, but we look forward to sharing more information and opportunities for engagement from this Coalition with the Commission.

Events and Public Engagement

We will discuss Earth Day a bit during this meeting. We are trying to make the most of the rest of the high season here in Palm Springs! Our new Program Coordinator will be helping with events and outreach, so you will see more content coming through in this section.

Our team participated in the Parks Department's internal and public sessions for their Master Planning process. We hope some Commissioners were also able to attend! The Library will be running a number of sessions for their renovation and Sustainability will be advising that process.

Key Goals for Next Month

We're hoping to continue on the following:

- Mapping key building data to understand target neighborhoods for efficiency programs
- Fixing at least 50% of our out-of-service EV charging equipment by the end of Q1 (we might still make this!!)
- Apply for grant opportunities for Climate Adaptation Planning and EV charging
- Prepare campaign and program for Earth Day
- Finalize contract for GHG analysis

- Prepare and submit comment to Conservation regulations
- Finalize assistance program for Cannabis Growers



Meeting Report: Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 16 April 2024	SUBMITTED BY: Roy Clark, Chair
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action	DATE SUBMITTED: 4 April 2024
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Roy Clark, Kathy Cohn, Erik Graham, Bernard Rottner, Prema Walker	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING: 10 April 2024
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024	

Subcommittee Goal: Develop and implement policies and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Palm Springs by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030. (Reference: Palm Springs Climate Action Roadmap, dated 28 October 2021)

Summary of meeting

Presentation: CV Link, current development plan/progress and operational plan (Erica Felci – CVAG)

- The history of the CV Link and the sources of grants and other funding were presented
- Specifically in Palm Springs: The segment on the levee adjacent to Escena and the segment from Gene Autry to Demuth Park have been completed; the Mesquite segment will be completed in summer 2024; the Palm Springs North segment will be completed by the end of 2024; and one remaining segment (Tahquitz Creek to downtown) will be completed in early 2025.
- Currently there aren't many planned access points to the CV Link from places in Palm Springs. Access points aren't included in the cost of the CV Link. This provides an opportunity/challenge for the Commission to work with residents, Engineering, Planning, and other commissions to identify and plan access points.

Priority for presentation at April meeting

- Sunline routes/expansion (SunLine General Manager)
- Deferred to May, June, or July

Priorities for near-term activities

- Subcommittee members reviewed (1) Appendix A of the Vulnerability Assessment, (2) the 2013 Climate Action Plan, and (3) the 2016 Sustainability Plan, and discussed activities that could be completed in the near term. The activities were captured on the white board in the conference room and are documented at the end of this report.
- The discussion was deferred from February to March.
- Shade trees and structures are a priority. Commission members have participated in Parks Master Plan workshops. The workshops provide opportunities for input on Sustainability issues.
- Commissioner Walker suggested that the College of the Desert add a motor vehicle maintenance program. Commissioner Walker will provide more information,

Wood-burning fires

- Reference: Report from February 14 subcommittee meeting
- Commissioner Walker presented a document on understanding the impacts of wood-burning fires. It included air quality concerns, fire hazards, advantages of having a ban on wood-burning fires, and examples of cities that have banned wood-burning fires. Typical city regulations ban wood-burning fires on days when high pollution levels are forecast.
- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) website provides information about air quality. Websites AirNow and PurpleAir also provide information.

- The SCAQMD has regulations governing wood-burning fires west of the mountains and the Coachella Valley, but not in the Coachella Valley. There was discussion about how to take this issue forward, specifically how to incorporate the Coachella Valley into the SCAQMD rules. Commissioners Clark and Walker will do some research.
- There was also discussion about making air quality information more available to residents.

Recommendations/Requests to Subcommittee

Continue to prioritize presentations to the subcommittee on organizations and on-going activities, internal and external to the City

- CV Link: Current development plan/progress and operational plan (CVAG)
- Airport expansion (Ref: Jan 25 City Council Meeting) (Airport General Manager)
- Convention Center
- Bicycle routes (Sustainability Specialist Wheeler and Engineering)
- City fleet electrification (Director McCloy)
- SunLine routes/expansion (SunLine General Manager)
- Sustainable transportation planning and EV charging
- Update on buildings programs (CivicSpark Fellow Agtang)
- Parks Master Plan

New, as of March 13:

- Energy-efficient construction, include LEED
- Training to do energy audits, such as interface with the College of the Desert
- Sustainability education program

<u>Request To Commission</u>	Read this report and tell Subcommittee what you would like discussed in more detail in Commission meeting
<u>Request To Office of Sustainability</u>	<p>Expand outreach and education to City Council, City staff, and other commissions; meeting notices and written messaging; integrate sustainability with other organizations</p> <p>Support new activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform GHG inventory, 2020 update and new 2022 (PlaceWorks) Identify the number of houses in the City with solar panels Identify the number of electric vehicles registered in the City by recent year Survey how EV drivers in the City charge their vehicles Investigate EV rideshare programs to serve disadvantaged areas and Navigation Center
<u>Potential Fiscal Impact/Request</u>	<p>Unknown</p> <p>Could be a lot of money required in the long term to implement strategic activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>

Priorities for Near-Term Activities (notes from 10 January meeting)

- Lead by example section of City Council priorities 2022
 - Senior staff person in each department or interns to provide feedback
- Cool roofs
 - Rebates, assistance
- Shade trees and structures
- Vehicle/car maintenance
- Bus route maximization
 - Collaboration with SunLine
- Water conservation and efficiency
 - Section could be a basis for a new subcommittee
- Workforce expansion and training
 - Connection + data
- Handbooks and checklists for residents, businesses, City departments, etc.
- Vulnerability Assessment categories
 - Air quality
 - Extreme heat
 - Warm nights → LIHEAP connection (?)

Prioritization Framework

1. What is activity already?
2. Where are resources already available?
3. Narrow in or cluster to a smaller list?
4. Low-hanging fruit + easy-medium-hard ranking to show tangible progress
5. Identify ways to empower others to “do”
6. Use what we have—can programs be expanded or pivoted?

Evaluation of Priorities

