



City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission

April 2024

Upcoming Agenda Items and Guest Presentations - Scheduled

Commission

April

- Window bird strike prevention (Commissioner Frick)
- Education and compliance re: gas-powered leaf blower ban

May

- Inland Regional Energy Network guest presentation (ahead of CCEC Conference)

SSCOWR

May

- Ned Barker presentation on green restaurants

Climate Action

May

- Possible presentation from Sunline

Upcoming Agenda Items and Guest Presentations - Unscheduled

Commission

- Solar on/in City buildings; Director McCloy's report
- Shade structures and trees; collaboration with Parks and Recreation Office/Commission
- Cannabis/large building ordinance update (staff request)
- Air quality
- Digital media/education
- Dark Sky ordinance
- Smoking ordinance
- Ban on use of glue traps and rodenticides—Prescott Reserve request
- Dog/waste pickup stations

SSCOWR

- Waste enforcement
- Reuse programs

Climate Action

- Air quality
- Airport expansion
- Parks Master Plan
- Update on buildings programs (CivicSpark Fellow Agtang)
- Sustainable transportation planning and EV charging (Sustainability Specialist Wheeler)

Additional suggested agenda items from Feb 20 Commission meeting

- Collaboration with other cities on sustainability; form committee (Commissioner Walker)
- Increased effort with respect to community gardens (Vice Chair Barrett)
- Trash container labeling (Commissioner Cohn)
- Shade structures and trees; work with Parks and Recreation Office/Commission (Commissioner Dirdah)
- Getting away from natural gas; education of companies doing work (+ CivicSpark Fellow Agtang's work) (Commissioner Rottner) → Climate action subcommittee



City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

To: Sustainability Commission

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

Re: April Updates to the Sustainability Commission

Meeting Date: 16 April 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:
 - April 11: proclamation for Earth Day and Arbor Day
 - Summer TBD: expanding foodware ordinance to include styrofoam coolers; update on foodware ordinance compliance
 - May 23 (tentative): public hearing for delinquent waste disposal charges
 - TBD: Tree ordinance (Study session with Planning Commission – early April)
- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
 - SSCOWR: Thursday, May 2
 - Climate Action: Wednesday, May 8
- Earth Week Events
 - Next Farmers' Market table: April 20 – we will also have representatives from the City's arborist firm (West Coast Arborists) attend with us
 - Next shredding and e-waste event: April 20
 - Pre-shredding event: April 15-18 in the City Hall Lobby
 - Bike and Walk Scavenger Hunt (Stroll, Spin, & Win for Earth): April 27
- Upcoming events in May and June
 - Ride of Silence: May 15 (Wednesday)
 - Induction cooking demos: TBD
 - [CCEC Conference](#): June 25-26
- 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>

- Volunteer for the Bike and Walk Scavenger Hunt on April 27 (to be discussed today)

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

Water

We will receive an update from Clark Elliot, Conservation Manager at DWA, and Paul Ortega from DWA's Board at this week's meeting to discuss the most recent language for the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulation and other relevant state regulations.

Turf Conversion

The public turf conversion match has been approximately 55% committed, meaning that about half of the \$1 million allocation has been committed so far. This is pretty close to on schedule, since the City is now on a two-year budget cycle. 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.

Waste

We will host our latest Shredding, E-Waste, and Bulky Item Drop-off Event at City Hall on April 20. Benito Villa is the staff lead for the event, and PSDS will be leading the event for the first time. We are offering a pre-shredding event for the first time which will allow residents to drop off shredding into locking bins for shredding during the week, which we're hoping will help reduce some lines and demand on April 20.

We will return to the Council in late May for our annual public hearing on delinquent waste bills. The team is engaged in removing liens from properties as requested by escrow and title companies once outstanding bills are paid.

Foodware

We are in the process of commissioning a follow-up study with the team from ReCREATE Waste Collaborative to understand how businesses are faring under the foodware ordinance. While discussing with City colleagues, it was determined that it's better to

bring the update to the foodware ordinance to the Council after the study is completed so any additional recommendations for improving the ordinance can be captured.

We will discuss recommendations and learnings from the ONE-PS Picnic at this week's meeting.

Batteries

We have finally reached an agreement with a battery recycling provider to process our batteries! We should be able to receive boxes to ship out our backlog in the coming weeks.

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 June 4, 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, 2 of 4 DCFC fully functioning (new clips!), 1 of 4 DCFC mostly functioning, 1 of 4 DCFC functioning with CHAdeMO only
- City Hall Station: Both DCFC fully functioning; both L2 functioning (new station module!)
- Village Green/Belardo stations: both functioning
- Convention Center stations: 2 functioning, 2 not functioning.

We got three stations back fully online this month, reaching a Key Goal!

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

Benito and Christian are working to plan "stroll and spin" event for earth / bike month. More details coming soon!

Christian is working on a plan to revamp and expand the bike repair pumps around the city, as well as expanding the bike rack infrastructure 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. The draft of the Tree Ordinance has been sent out for the City's legal team to review. We hit our Key Goal this month of finalizing a draft of the Tree Ordinance for internal and legal review!

Christian is drafting an outline for a forestry grant that could fund a department "Community Tree Grant" for supporting neighborhood tree plantings and community gardens.

Community Garden

The parks & rec department will be using the last remaining plot in the community garden for a demo pollinator garden as part of an earth week event (April 27th).

Buildings and Energy Efficiency, Fleet Electrification, and City Emissions Reductions

Juliet's work is expanding to include advising and support for City energy efficiency programs. We are working with Public Works to develop an action plan for improving energy efficiency across our building portfolio, looking from things as simple as lighting to as complex as energy generation. We're working on energy saving strategies particularly to help create capacity for more EV chargers for our rapidly electrifying fleet.

We also continue our work on home energy efficiency reach codes and requirements for large buildings to use carbon-free electricity. We anticipate bringing updates to the Commission this summer.

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.

Air Quality

No significant updates this month.

Team Updates

We welcomed Benito Villa as our Senior Program Coordinator on April 1! Benito joins us from LA County's Parks and Recreation and has already brought amazing ideas and execution to our team. Please welcome Benito this week!

Events and Public Engagement

Please see the top section this month.

Key Goals for Next Month

We're hoping to continue on the following:

- 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 (we might still make this!!)
- Eliminating 25% of the styrofoam used at VillageFest per month starting in Q1 (see discussion in Waste section) and prepare 6-month action plan for foodware
- Signing up 15 more people per month for the low-income discount program for waste services
- Finalize contract for GHG analysis
- Prepare Foodware Ordinance expansion for City Council
- Bring Tree Ordinance to Planning Commission
- Finalize assistance program for Cannabis Growers
- Finalize fine program and workflow for waste enforcement
- Execute Earth Day events and programming