



## Meeting Report: Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action

<b>PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE:</b> 21 May 2024	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Roy Clark, Chair
<b>SUBCOMMITTEE NAME:</b> Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action	<b>DATE SUBMITTED:</b> 13 May 2024
<b>SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b> Roy Clark, Kathy Cohn, Erik Graham, Bernard Rottner, Prema Walker	<b>NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:</b> 12 June 2024
<b>SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE:</b> 8 May 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: SunLine Transit Agency – Paul Mattern, Chief Planning Officer, with comments from Mona Babauta, CEO and General Manager

- SunLine has a zero-emission fleet: 26 fuel cell buses and 4 battery electric buses; their hydrogen generation station will be completed in June 2024; it will have public stations available for fueling personal and business vehicles.
- SunLine is working with the COD Palm Springs campus, possible change to alignment of some routes.
- SunRide is a micro transit shared ride service; the Palm Springs zone was launched in January 2023; shared rides augment the fixed routes, helping riders get to bus stops.
- All SunLine buses are equipped with racks to hold up to three bicycles.
- SunLine will have connections from routes 2 and 4 to the Ramon to Vista Chino CV Link segment.
- SunLine will perform a Comprehensive Operations Analysis during the next year to understand where people live, special needs, demographics, and public engagement; a COA was performed in 2019, just before the pandemic; the COA will help understand where bus stops should be placed (optimal distance between stops) and to improve SunLine’s image.
- City permits are needed for placing bus stops on streets; SunLine provides and maintains bus stop furniture; shade is important.
- SunLine is working with regional planners to support the rail station in Palm Springs
- Developing a “sense of place” is important; residents should know what the bus routes are, where the bus stops are, and where they can go on a bus or a micro transit vehicle.

Priority for presentations/discussions at future meetings

- Director McCloy and Sustainability Specialist Christian Wheeler: Providing air quality information.
- Director McCloy and Sustainability Specialist Christian Wheeler: Potential community change grants under the Inflation Reduction Act; input from the community and workshops
- Intern Juliet Shane Agtang: Update on building energy programs and survey; June.
- Sustainability Specialist Christian Wheeler and Engineering: bicycle routes

## Air Quality

- Chair Clark and Commissioner Rottner contacted Daniel DeSelms, Palm Springs Emergency Manager; he clarified South Coast Air Quality Management District's wood burning regulations and that there are exemptions in parts of the Coachella Valley and the high desert.
- The SCAQMD has an app which provides real-time Palm Springs air quality information.
- Residents should be educated about what information is in air quality apps.
- The Subcommittee recommended that two things be considered: (1) Linking and displaying SCAQMD air quality information to the Palm Springs Engage website; and (2) Pushing out alert information on bad air quality days. The Subcommittee requested that Director McCloy and Sustainability Specialist Christian Wheeler provide information about implementation at the June Subcommittee meeting

## 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, including LEED.  
Training to do energy audits, such as interface with the College of the Desert  
Sustainability education program  
Vehicle maintenance program with the College of the Desert

New as of May 8:

Commissioner Walker requested that the Office Sustainability look into potential community change grants under the Inflation Reduction Act

<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:          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</p>
<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>