



City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

To: Sustainability Commission

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

Re: May Updates to the Sustainability Commission

Meeting Date: 21 May 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:
 - May 23: public hearing for delinquent waste disposal charges
 - Summer TBD: expanding foodware ordinance to include styrofoam coolers; update on foodware ordinance compliance
 - TBD: Tree ordinance
- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
 - SSCOWR: Thursday, June 6 (proposed rescheduling for staff availability)
 - Climate Action: Wednesday, June 12
 - **Commissioners and Council Dinner at the Convention Center: Monday, June 17**
- Earth Week Events
 - Next Farmers' Market table: TBD – the market is transitioning to summer schedule
 - Next shredding and e-waste event: October, date TBA
- Upcoming events
 - Induction cooking demos: TBD
 - [CCEC Conference](#): June 25-26
- Opportunities for Commissioner involvement:
 - Juliet's survey on energy efficiency is open for contributions!
 - English - <https://arcg.is/1849bv0>
 - Spanish - <https://arcg.is/1ymynb0>

Commission Administrative Matters

- The City Council has requested proposals from staff to extend codes of conduct to commissioners. We will keep the Commissioners posted once we have some more information on any proposals, but please feel free to let us know if you have any questions.
- 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

Christian and Clark Elliot from DWA completed a site walk with Public Works at Sunrise Park to identify opportunities to reduce future water waste. This park is also in design for a significant infrastructure change, since it will be switching over to recycled water for irrigation.

There have been no major changes to state water regulations; however, our teams are working with DWA to make sure we have robust data in place to support projected reductions and future plans.

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. We anticipate that a memo on a possible City Hall turf conversion could go to the Council this summer.

Waste

We hosted the return of shredding and e-waste collection on April 20 alongside bulky item drop off. Big kudos to Ben, who took the lead on this event in only his third week of work, Juliet, the PSDS team of Liz et al, and commissioners Barrett, Graham, and Alexander. Over 500 people came by to shred in just over 3 hours!

We also hosted a pre-shredding drop off option in the front of City Hall with continuously monitored bins. Several commissioners got to see our smiling faces that week! We had a slow start but ended up filling more than 15 bins for shredding and anticipate offering this service in the future.

We will return to the Council on May 23 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. We have approximately the same number of delinquent accounts this year as last year – just shy of 800 – and have been working over the past month to help many account owners clear up confusion and pay outstanding bills.

PSDS has received their electric trash truck for their summer pilot!

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.

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 once they finalize their business license.

We would like to publicly thank Liz Hernandez for helping us process the hundreds of pounds of batteries that had been hanging out in our team's office. Kudos, Liz!

Airport

The City Council has recommended the Airport's master plan undergo further study before final approval.

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 continue to receive a lot of complaints about the Electrify America chargers at the Bank of America. While we don't manage these chargers, they're extremely popular, especially because many vehicle manufacturers provide free Electrify America charging for new customers. We will be reaching out to EA to encourage them to site more chargers here in Palm Springs. They've partnered with Wal-Mart in many jurisdictions (including Indio) but to our knowledge do not currently have plans for chargers at the Palm Springs Wal-Mart.

Transportation

We hosted our first “Stroll, Spin and Win for Earth!” Event on April 28. We had over 20 residents and visitors participate in our event, which we think is a great success for a first round! We are already planning for our next round due to the really positive comments we received from participants.

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.

We supported local cycling advocates in hosting the Ride of Silence observance on May 15. This event featured a number of Valley elected officials and was followed by a 5 mile silent memorial ride for cyclists killed over the past year.

Finally, we supported an application for a planning grant under the federal Safe Streets for All program in collaboration with Engineering to update and combine our pedestrian master plan, traffic calming manual, and bike planning process to create one guide for safe, accessible, and sustainable street improvements.

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 led a study session for the Planning Commission on the ordinance during Earth Week. Commissioner feedback focused on outreach and education and ensuring the City is set up for successful implementation of the ordinance.

Christian is working on a grant application to CalFire for community gardens and tree planting in collaboration with stakeholders in the Desert Highland/JOJ area.

Community Garden

The Parks & Rec Department created a demo pollinator garden as part of an Earth Week event (April 27th). The community garden is now full!

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. Juliet worked with Public Works and the I-REN team this month to complete site visits for energy audits of all five of our fire stations!

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.

We are at 87 surveys! 13 more to 100!

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.

Air Quality

No significant updates this month.

Team Updates

We are thrilled to have Ben as part of our team and have already executed a number of events under his leadership. Please also check us out across all social media platforms and enjoy our new content, and be ready to spin our new spinning wheel when you find us at events.

LP attended the Green Cities California conference in mid-May in San Diego. The network brings together 25 of California's leading climate cities and the conference focused on understanding best practices for implementing climate action in local governments. We have a notebook full of ideas and a new network of city collaborators to build on! LP will be attending some events at the Solid Waste Association of North America's western regional symposium during the week of the commission meeting. Luckily, that one is here in Palm Springs.

Key Goals for Next Month

We're hoping to continue on the following:

- Preparing recommendations for future energy efficiency programming from Juliet's first year of fellowship research
- Community outreach and project strategy for City turf conversion projects
- Identifying opportunities to install small-scale EV charging for fleet
- Eliminating 25% of the styrofoam used at VillageFest per month starting in Q3 (update) (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 City Council
- Finalize assistance program for Cannabis Growers
- Finalize fine program and workflow for waste enforcement
- Plan for update of Climate Action Plan