



City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

To: Sustainability Commission

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

Re: June Updates to the Sustainability Commission

Meeting Date: 18 June 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:
 - Summer TBD: expanding foodware ordinance to include styrofoam coolers; update on foodware ordinance compliance
 - TBD: Tree ordinance
- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
 - SSCOWR: Thursday, June 27 – combined June/July meeting
 - Climate Action: reconvening in September
- Sustainability Events
 - Next Farmers' Market table: July 13
 - Next shredding and e-waste event: October, date TBA
- Upcoming events
 - Induction cooking demos: TBD summer, likely date July 12
 - [CCEC Conference](#): June 25-26
 - Meetup hosted by the PS Sustainability team: June 24, 6pm at Las Palmas Brewing (alcoholic and non-alcoholic options available)
 - Summer Reading events: Home energy efficiency with David Freedman (DCE) and Dana MacAllister (City of PS Building Official) on July 3, Bird migration and bird-friendly buildings feat. Commissioner Frick on July 17

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.
- New Commissioner Erin Boyd will be joining us for the July meeting following her appointment by the City Council!

Updates on Ongoing Work

Water

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.

We are currently working with the DWA team to finalize an MOU for funds transfer for this and any future relevant programs. The DWA team may also be making a change to their rebate amount at some point soon.

Waste

LP and Liz Hernandez (PSDS) are working together to close out the annual delinquent waste billing process. We are also finalizing organics capacity reporting that is due to the County on July 1, preparing our grant-funded edible food recovery project, and beginning the annual reporting process for waste which is due on August 1.

Foodware

(no change from last month) 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 are observing our annual summer slow-down in battery collection as residents leave town for the summer and/or use fewer battery-dependent items.

Airport

The Airport recently held their second public 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 Village Green/Belardo stations: both functioning
- Convention Center stations: 2 functioning, 2 not functioning.

We will be making a big change to the Art Museum chargers. We are replacing 2 of the CCS plugs with the new NACS plugs. Teslas are compatible with this, and automakers who are adopting the NACS standard are making adapters available for their owners. The connectors are also more efficient and have fewer moving parts (hence, less breaking). We anticipate a bit of growing pains but rolling them out in the summer should be better than rolling them out during our busier seasons.

Transportation

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 is also 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. Community Engagement will begin in Fall 2024.

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. Another review will be conducted after the final draft from the City's attorneys is received.

The team has been brainstorming ideas and outreach for the EPA's Community Change grant alongside other City departments as well.

Community Garden

Christian led a tour of the Community Garden for the Desert Highland Community Action Group.

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 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 completed 100 surveys! Preliminary data was presented to the Climate Action Subcommittee.

LP presented on the Palm Springs reach codes approach to the first I-REN virtual forum on May 22. Several cities have reached out who are interested in working together.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Accounting

No significant updates.

Air Quality

The team and Climate Action Subcommittee brainstormed ideas on how to get the word out to the public on particularly hazardous air days. We encourage our residents to be mindful of the heat and wildfire smoke.

Team Updates

We are focusing on hiring for at least one specialist this month. It's also the end of the fiscal year which is keeping LP very busy!

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
- Review next draft of the Tree Ordinance
- Finalize assistance program for Cannabis Growers
- Finalize fine program and workflow for waste enforcement
- Plan for update of Climate Action Plan