

city of palm springs

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

MAY 2016



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+ *Thank you to the community members who attended the workshops and hearings and gave valuable input that helped to create a visionary Sustainability Plan.*



“This world will not evolve past its current state of crisis by using the same thinking that created the same situation.”

Albert Einstein



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INTRODUCTION

To ensure a sustainable future, the City of Palm Springs must protect the assets that make it a great place to live, work, and recreate. The Sustainability Plan is our roadmap to protect the surrounding natural environment, the people who make the city vibrant, attractive, and active, and our increasingly diverse economy. It contains a set of directions of how we will reach our destination including what path we will take, who will join us, and how long it will take.

Our City faces many future challenges. Even the City's reputation as a world class desert resort and winter playground presents a unique sustainability challenge. Tourism can be responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions, seasonal residents may be more difficult to reach, and those residents may not share the same values as year-round residents. From global climate change to economic transformation, the City has the opportunity to make choices that will positively impact our community, environment, and economy and make us more resilient to future change.

The encouraging news is that the City has already established a strong foundation to promote sustainability and increase community resilience. The 2009 Sustainability Master Plan, 2013 Climate Action Plan, 2013 Energy Action Plan, the 2010 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, and the City's General Plan provide policy guidance and specific implementation activities, many of which have been implemented or are in the process of implementation. Because of this strong framework, the City has already seen reductions in energy use, greenhouse gas emissions,

water use and an increase in the use of our bike lanes and shared lanes. This Sustainability Plan recognizes these efforts, continuing many existing programs, adding new initiatives, and encouraging the City to go further to make the deep and transformative changes necessary to meet its vision for sustainability.

The Sustainability Plan builds upon existing plans, policies, best practices, programs and input and feedback obtained during community outreach efforts including public workshops, briefings, and presentations. It was designed keeping the community in mind. The Sustainability Plan is consistent across chapters, easy to navigate, and provides a simple, straight-forward design to encourage all citizens to reference the document.

Now that the Sustainability Plan is complete, the real work of implementation begins. Over the next months and years, the City will continue to develop new policies and programs, annual work plans, and measure progress towards the key performance measures and objectives outlined in the Sustainability Plan. Each year, the City will publish an annual report and implement refined initiatives based on what we learned during the last year.

Finally, implementation is not the sole responsibility of any one individual, department, agency, Commission, agency, business, or neighborhood. The entire community has a stake in and must be a part of creating a sustainable future. The Sustainability Plan provides a guide for the City to lead the way.



ABOUT THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

The Office of Sustainability was established in August 2009 and has since enhanced the resource conservation services offered by the City to the community and offered an increased opportunity for action by the Sustainability Commission. By providing facilitation and guidance the Office of Sustainability has advanced the City's sustainability goals and resource efficiency needs within City operations.

Sustainability Commission members focus on many areas of sustainability which include; water conservation, energy conservation, urban sustainability and mobility, green economy, and waste. A subcommittee was formed to concentrate efforts in each of these areas by researching best practices, reviewing existing policies utilized in other municipalities and choosing feasible projects to implement.

The update to the Sustainability Master Plan is another step towards ensuring that the Office of Sustainability and the City as a whole continues to provide the award winning programs and projects that have become a trademark of Palm Springs. This includes national recognition for programs such as Lady's Obama's Let's Move Campaign, the Clinton Day of Action, Climate Registry Awards, Beacon Energy Awards and more.

In May 2013 the City's Office of Sustainability applied for a SCAG. In October 2013 the City was made aware that we were chosen as a project eligible for the Green Region initiative through SCAG. On September 12, 2014 SCAG notified the City's Office of Sustainability that we would be awarded a grant and receive funding in the amount of \$85,000 to update the master plan. This included the creation of a companion App called [Walk and Roll Palm Springs](#).

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The City offers a number of community resources in healthcare, food and nutrition, transportation, sports and recreation, targeted services, financial/legal, education, and youth. To receive more information and to see a full list [click here](#).



WHAT DOES THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DO?

The Palm Springs Sustainability Plan is a roadmap for a healthier, more resilient, prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future. The Sustainable Plan charts a course for the next five years and beyond.

the sustainability plan provides:

- 1 **A vision** illustrating where the City hopes to be in the future.
- 2 **Numeric objectives** tied to state, region, and local policy targets where appropriate.
- 3 **Near-term actions** to continue implementation of existing programs and kick-start new ones. Of these near-term actions, the Plan highlights twenty-six key **Next Steps**, building on the 20 first steps identified in the 2009 Sustainability Master Plan.
- 4 **Key Performance measures** track progress within each of the eleven topics areas.
- 5 **Actions that community members can take** to reduce use of energy and water, increase active transportation, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and live a healthier lifestyle.
- 6 **Recent accomplishments** by the City and community.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

The most often quoted definition of sustainability comes from the [1987 United Nations Brundtland Commission](#): "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The Commission noted that sustainability should preserve the environment, strengthen the economy, and increase equity. This framework has become known as the triple-bottom line. The Palm Springs Sustainability Plan incorporates this framework, supporting protection of the natural environment, having steady and increasing levels of economic growth and employment, and encouraging social progress that creates a healthy environment for all.



Palm Springs is economically prosperous, socially just, culturally rich, and environmentally sound.

Palm Springs is a thriving community that emerges as a model of sustainable development that protects sensitive habitat and that promotes wellbeing. The City relies on clean energy, sustainable buildings, and active and healthy transportation. Neighborhoods are complete and well-connected. The City is economically diverse and prosperous with new innovative industries and strong local businesses that provide safe and healthy jobs for all residents. Citizens are engaged and share a vision of a sustainable future.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to identify and implement actions that simultaneously benefit the economy, environment, and quality of life. In order for all actions to be consistent with this vision and its guiding principles it is important to qualify all actions by asking the following:

-
- **Will this action conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?**
 - **Will this action help the City eliminate waste, and reduce or eliminate toxic materials?**
 - **Will this action help the City grow innovation and green businesses and increase green collar jobs?**
 - **Does this action protect, enhance, or restore ecosystems and habitats?**
 - **Does this action help to promote and communicate the idea of sustainability within the community and/or empower residents or businesses to take action?**
 - **How does this action improve health, safety and quality of life for all citizens and / or building community?**
 - **Is there a balance between the cost and benefit of this action?**
 - **How does this action encourage the actor (City, resident, business, etc.) to change long-term behavior?**
 - **Will this action make the City's residents, infrastructure, ecosystems, and/or economy more resilient to climate change?**
-

Palm Springs Sustainability Plan Overview

To ensure a sustainable future, the City of Palm Springs must protect the assets that make it a great place to live, work, and recreate. The Sustainability Plan is our roadmap to protect the surrounding natural environment, the people who make the city vibrant, attractive, and active, and our increasingly diverse economy. This graphic provides an overview of the Sustainability Plan and how each focus area supports a healthier, more sustainable Palm Springs.

Climate Change + Resilience

Palm Springs is resilient and carbon neutral.

Public Health Connection

Climate change presents a significant opportunity and risk to community health. More extreme weather events, worsened air quality, and increased transmission of infectious disease may negatively affect human health, behaviors, and the socio-economic factors that influence health outcomes.

Connection to Other Chapters



Energy Conservation + Renewable Energy

Palm Springs is a high efficiency, renewable energy city.

Public Health Connection

Promoting energy efficient building and facilities and renewable energy will provide many health co-benefits to residents and business owners in Palm Springs. Improving ventilation, sealing drafty leaks, and other residential efficiency upgrades improve indoor air quality by reducing exposure to outdoor allergens and harmful air pollutants.

Connection to Other Chapters



Water Conservation + Efficiency

Palm Springs is a leader in water efficiency and reuse.

Public Health Connection

Maintaining an adequate water supply is a basic necessity for health of individuals and communities. Promoting conservation programs and supporting water infrastructure improvements to expand water reuse and recycling helps insure that tap water remains healthy for human consumption and prevents consumers from having to purchase bottled water.

Connection to Other Chapters



Food + Urban Agriculture

Palm Springs is a healthier, more food-secure community that supports community-based agriculture.

Public Health Connection

Promoting and supporting a local food system that connects producers with consumers can create more equitable healthy food access. Farmers markets, community programs, and support for resident gardening enable this.

Connection to Other Chapters



Sustainable Economy

Palm Springs is a center for clean tech, renewable energy, and innovation.

Public Health Connection

Promoting the growth of green businesses will provide many health co-benefits to business owners and the community in Palm Springs.

Connection to Other Chapters



Livable Communities

Palm Springs is a City of vibrant and livable neighborhoods.

Public Health Connection

The way our neighborhoods, streets, and homes are designed affects whether children can play outside and walk to school, whether families can access basic goods and services, and even whether neighbors can socialize and look out for one another.

Connection to Other Chapters



Community Health + Wellness

Palm Springs citizens and all sectors of our community are engaged in an active, life-long process of becoming aware of and making choices to achieve one's potential and optimal well-being in life.

Public Health Connection

Sustainability and health are closely linked. In fact, many definitions of health refer to sustainability, and many definitions of sustainability also refer to health.

Connection to Other Chapters



Lead by Example

Palm Springs is a model for sustainable practices throughout every department in the City.

Public Health Connection

When professionals with different expertise work together, an integrated approach to healthy outcomes is possible.



Connection to Other Chapters



Active + Sustainable Transportation

Palm Springs is a leader in sustainable transportation.

Public Health Connection

How much we move is directly linked to our health. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 150 minutes of physical activity per week for adults and that children and adolescents should do an hour or more of age-appropriate physical activity per day.

Connection to Other Chapters



Solid Waste + Recycling

Palm Springs is a zero waste community.

Public Health Connection

Reducing the City's overall waste stream can provide many health and equity co-benefits to residents and business owners in Palm Springs. Recycling and composting programs can result in a significant diversion of waste from landfills, which reduces the City's need to expand or create new landfills.

Connection to Other Chapters



Urban Forests

Palm Springs cultivates a flourishing urban forest and desert ecosystem, ensuring habitat protection and access to open space, recreation and natural resources.

Public Health Connection

Urban tree planting and green infrastructure can help restore and protect the natural environment and promote safer and healthier environments. Mature tree canopies can reduce air temperature by five to ten degrees, helping to counteract the urban heat island effect, provide protection during extreme heat events, reduce the production of harmful ground-level ozone, and provide protection from cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation.

Connection to Other Chapters



Sustainability + Health

Creating a healthier, more livable Palm Springs

The City of Palm Springs Sustainability Master Plan supports a healthy Palm Springs by promoting active transportation, eco-friendly infrastructure, urban forestry and agriculture, water conservation, waste reduction, and greenhouse gas reduction.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

On average, transit riders walk **19 minutes a day** to and from their home and final destination.



ECO-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

Green roofs help **reduce energy use**, air pollution, and noise.

GREEN BUILDINGS

Green buildings **improve indoor air quality** by reducing exposure to outdoor allergens and harmful air pollutants.



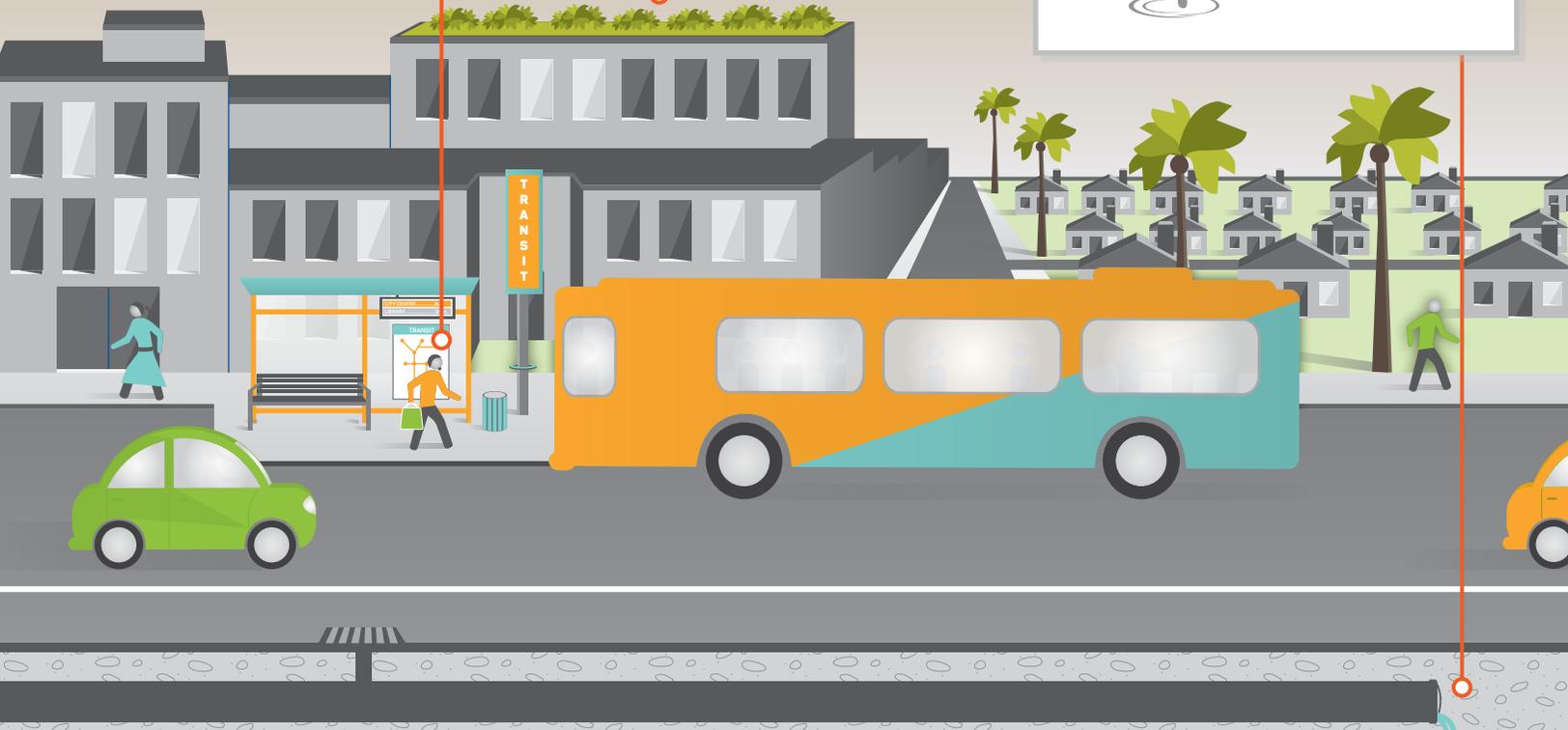
URBAN FORESTRY

Mature tree canopies can reduce air temperature by five to ten degrees. Palm Springs has nearly **14,000 trees**.



WATER USE

Maintaining an adequate water supply is a **basic necessity** of human health.





REDUCING HARMFUL GREENHOUSE GASES

29% of greenhouse gas emissions are transportation related. 57% of those emissions come from private automobiles.

12.7% of adults in Palm Springs are diagnosed with asthma.



SOLID WASTE

Palm Springs has a goal to divert 90.1% of solid waste by 2020.



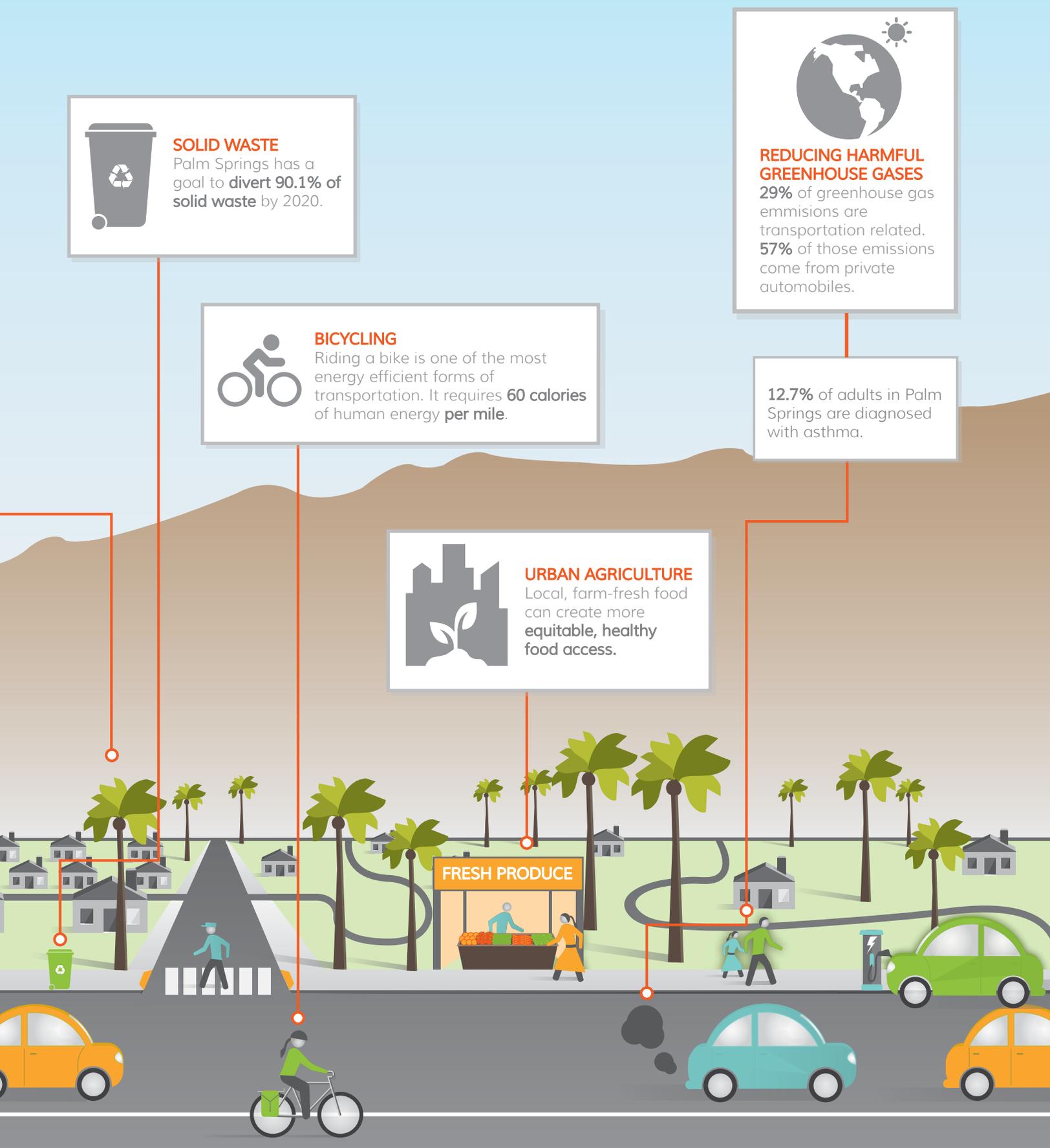
BICYCLING

Riding a bike is one of the most energy efficient forms of transportation. It requires 60 calories of human energy per mile.



URBAN AGRICULTURE

Local, farm-fresh food can create more equitable, healthy food access.



30 NEXT STEPS

- 1 Assess the potential impacts of climate change on people, infrastructure, natural systems, and public spaces in the City. (Climate Change, Action 3.1)
- 2 Work to expand clean technology and renewable energy programs. (Sustainable Economy, Action 1.1)
- 3 Support and promote the start-up businesses through incubators such as the iHUB Innovation Center, providing low-cost materials, technical assistance and opportunities for collaboration. (Sustainable Economy, Action 1.4)
- 4 Partner with community-based organizations to develop a green jobs program that provides job training/apprenticeship and placement focused on at-risk young adult populations. (Sustainable Economy, Action 5.1)
- 5 Challenge each neighborhood organization to host "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" event per year. (Health + Wellness, Action 3.3)
- 6 Develop a toolkit of simple, low-cost solutions that support placemaking. (Livable Neighborhoods, Action 1.1)
- 7 Require new, continuous sidewalks on both sides of the street with new development. (Livable Neighborhoods, Action 2.5)
- 8 Dedicate a portion of the transportation budget to pedestrian and bicycling projects and programs. (Active and Sustainable Transportation, Action 1.1)
- 9 Promote "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" and "Walk and Roll" apps across the City, especially in schools, and create new health and wellness metrics. (Active and Sustainable Transportation, Action 1.13)
- 10 Expand Safe Routes to School program. (Active and Sustainable Transportation, Action 1.6)
- 11 Adopt a policy to transform the municipal fleet conversion to ensure 80 percent of public fleet vehicles run on alternative fuels. (Active and Sustainable Transportation, Action 5.1)
- 12 Plant new climate appropriate trees in the nearly 1,200 vacant sites and beyond. (Urban Forests + Natural Systems, Action 1.2)
- 13 Partner with Board of Realtors to create a policy requiring energy disclosure, audits, and/or upgrades at time of sale for residential and commercial properties. (Energy Conservation + Renewable Energy, Action 1.8)
- 14 Promote solar housing programs and workforce housing. (Energy Conservation + Renewable Energy, Action 4.2)
- 15 Establish energy and water efficiency handbooks for City departments, residential and commercial users with checklists for self-assessment and resource guides (Livable Neighborhoods, Action 3.7)
- 16 Continue to promote rebates for individual residences and HOAs for Lawn Buy Back Program and drought-tolerant landscaping. (Water Conservation + Efficiency, Action 2.3)
- 17 Explore adoption of a local gray water ordinance. (Water Conservation + Efficiency, Action 3.1)
- 18 Expand outreach and technical assistance to Homeowner Associations, multi-family residences, and seasonal residents to increase participation in the residential recycling and composting programs (Solid Waste + Recycling, Action 2.2).
- 19 Expand commercial recycling and composting to all businesses in the City. (Solid Waste + Recycling, Action 2.6)
- 20 Develop and promote food sharing programs. (Solid Waste + Recycling, Action 3.1)
- 21 Encourage workforce housing across the City and advocate for a percentage of new residential construction to accommodate a diverse income group. (Livable Neighborhoods, Action 4.1)
- 22 Incorporate urban agriculture uses into long range planning efforts. (Urban Agriculture, Action 3.1)
- 23 Reconvene an inter-departmental Green Team. (Lead By Example, Action 1.4)
- 24 Form a Green Citizen Academy. (Lead By Example, Action 6.1)
- 25 Maintain a single, City sustainability website. (Lead By Example, Action 6.2)
- 26 Adopt an ordinance to require multi-family recycling. (Solid Waste + Recycling, Action 2.1)
- 27 Adopt a no idling policy for the City fleet by 2018 and extend to commercial vehicles by 2020. (Active and Sustainable Transportation, Action 5.2)
- 28 Adopt an integrated pest management and no pesticide use policy for City-owned and managed properties. (Urban Agriculture, Action 3.4)
- 29 Adopt a Tree Protection Ordinance that address tree replacement and removal. (Urban Agriculture, Action 1.1)
- 30 Adopt product Stewardship Policies to ensure producers of waste create programs to take back their products and their packaging. (Solid Waste + Recycling, Action 1.1)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

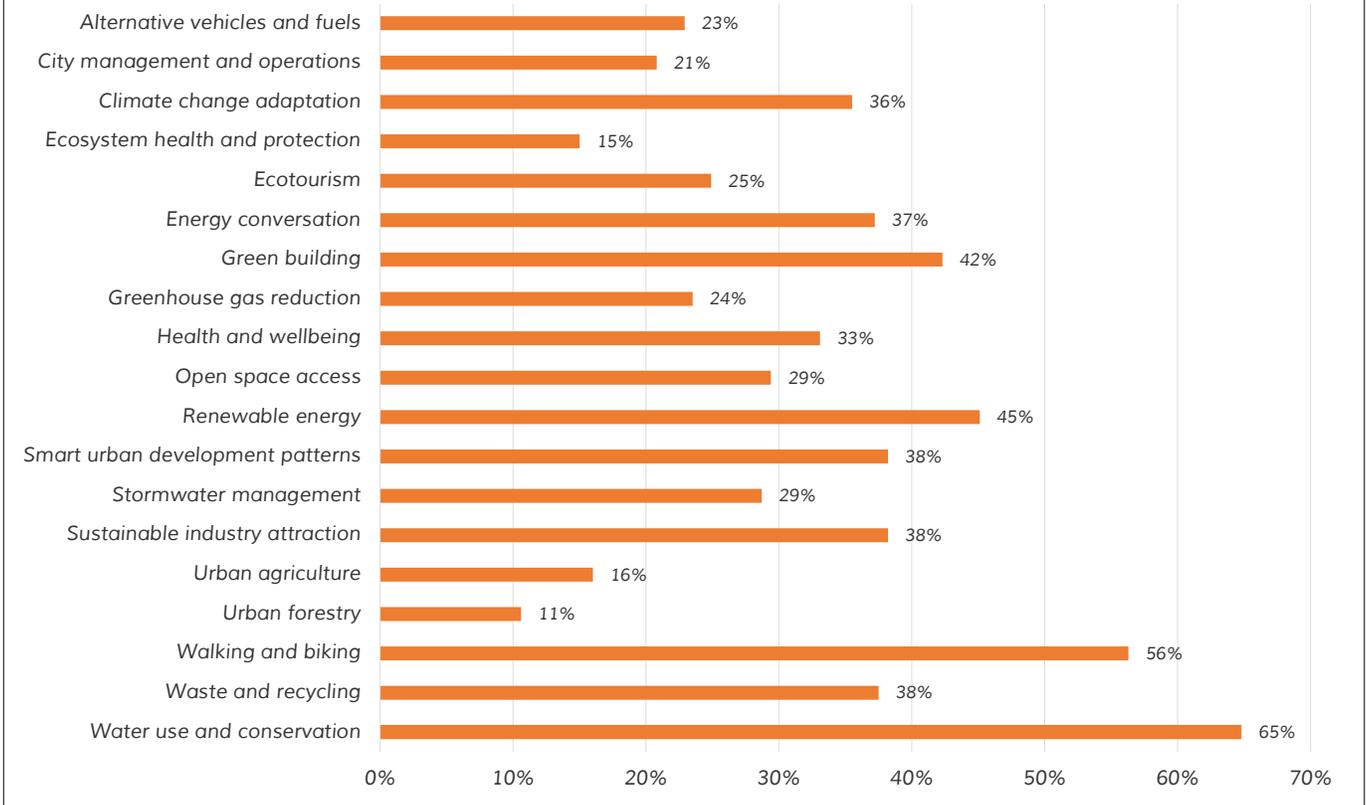
The community's desire to advance sustainability was reinforced through a community engagement process. The Sustainability Plan is a policy document, but it is also a community document, with its main purpose to encourage community members to live more healthy and sustainable lifestyles. The goal of the outreach was to understand what residents felt the City should prioritize in its path towards short- and long-term sustainability.

Between March and May 2015, 299 residents completed a survey to better understand what actions people were already taking to be healthy and sustainable and what topics the City should prioritize in the Sustainability Plan (See following page). Over three-quarters of respondents stated they use reusable shopping bags, use energy efficient lighting and bulbs, and shop locally. Fewer respondents purchase carbon offsets, capture rainwater, compost, and drive alternative fuel vehicles.

Along with the survey, community input was gathered at the Pismo, Squats for Tots, the Major's Race, and a Community Workshop. At these events, community members engaged a series of focused exercises on the Sustainability Plan, identifying their vision for the future, prioritizing next steps, and identifying walking and biking infrastructure. The following images illustrate the visioning exercise completed by event participants.

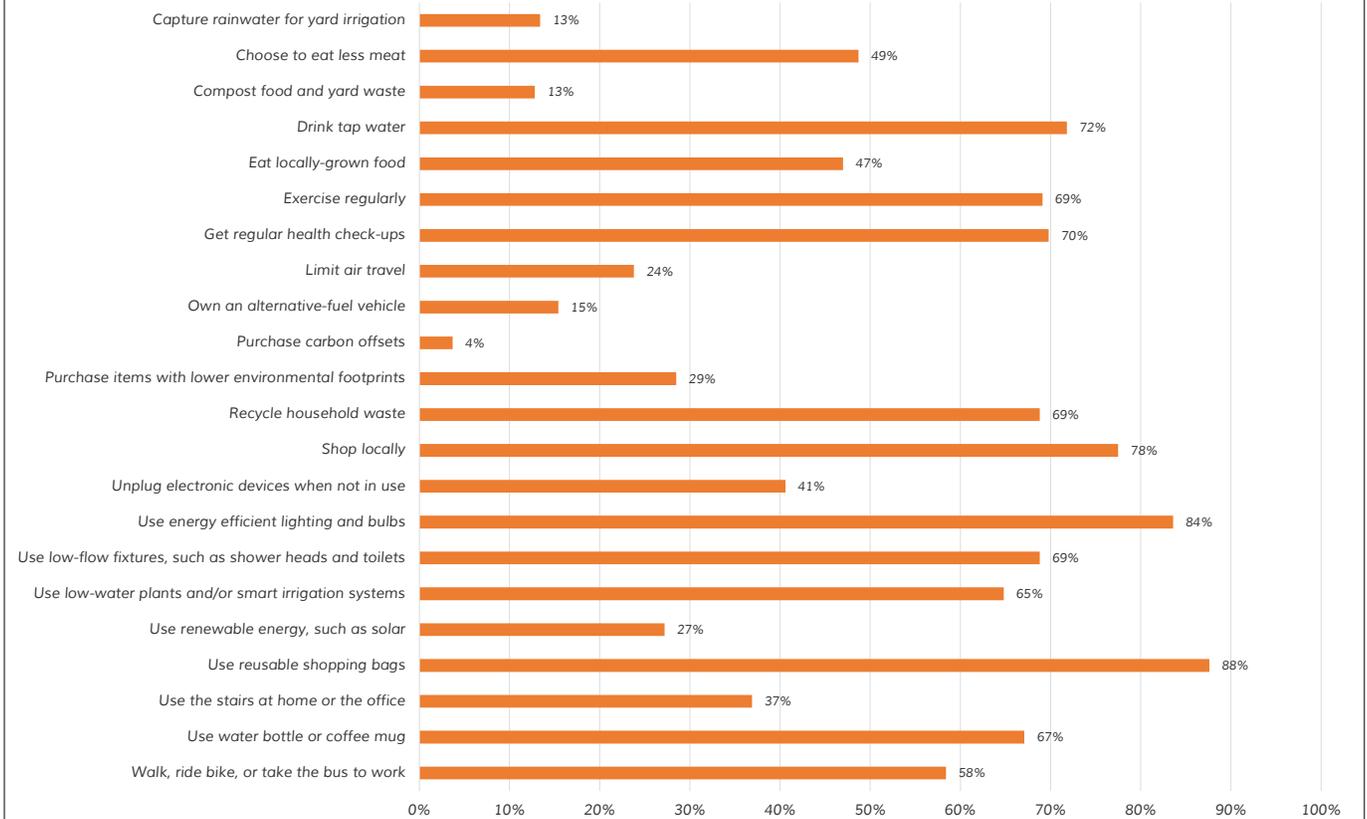


What topics should the City prioritize when updating the Sustainability Plan?



Survey participants recommended that the City prioritize water use and conservation (65% of participants) and active transportation (56% of participants).

What do you do to be Healthy and Sustainable?



EXISTING PLANNING + POLICY FRAMEWORK

Below are brief summaries of existing City plans related to sustainability. In addition to the description explaining its purpose and content, a list of how each plan attempts to address the City's sustainability goals is revealed.

2009 SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

The City of Palm Springs 2009 Sustainability Master Plan identified actions that enhance the economy, ecosystems, and quality of life in the City. This document provided the framework for future operational and policy decisions to incorporate sustainability in every aspect in the City. The plan set realistic goals, objectives, and detailed actions to achieve these goals. Community outreach events and surveys provided insight on the existing plans, priority topics, and ways to enhance and encourage sustainable practices. The 2009 Plan is superseded by this Sustainability Plan.

GENERAL PLAN

The City's [General Plan](#) is a document that sets the vision and guidelines for future development in the community, using the goals, policies, and actions outlined in the plan to make development decisions. The last comprehensive plan update took place in 2007, and includes elements on land use, housing, circulation, recreation, open space, and conservation, safety, air quality, noise, and community design. Each element addresses sustainability by incorporating green practices within each element's goals and policies. Stated in their vision, Palm Springs hopes to embody sustainability by preserving economic viability, community benefits, and environmental stewardship. The goals, policies, and actions outlined in the General Plan are consistent with those outlined in the Sustainability Plan.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

In 2013, the City completed a [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#). The CAP provides a decision-making framework grounded on achieving the largest and most cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The plan includes greenhouse gas inventory results along with policies, programs, and initiatives that can be implemented to meet reduction goals in Palm Springs. The CAP works towards the 2009 Sustainability Master Plan goal of being "carbon neutral" by establishing emission reduction goals (Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, AB 32) and specific actions to achieve those goals. The actions outlined in the CAP are consistent with those outlined in the Sustainability Plan.

ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Also, in 2013, the City completed an [Energy Action Plan \(EAP\)](#). The EAP identifies actions that are essential to meet the City's future energy needs and provides a detailed breakdown of municipal and community energy use currently in the City. It includes energy and cost management goals and outlines appropriate steps to achieve those goals. Finally, the EAP contains explanations on tracking and evaluating the progress of achieving each goal. The EAP provides the City with a roadmap to conserve energy and supports the City's goal for economic viability, community benefits, and environmental stewardship.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The [Non-Motorized Transportation Plan](#) provides a plan for bikeways and trails that was completed in 2010. The Plan recognizes the value of providing opportunities for local residents and visitors to bicycle for work and recreation, as well as to use off-road trails for hiking, equestrians and jogging. Such opportunities help to reduce auto trips, improve the environment, promote healthy lifestyles and create livable communities.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

- [Healthy Planet, Healthy You](#) website
- [Facebook](#) page
- [Twitter](#)
- [Sustainability and Recycling](#) page on the City's website



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Climate Change + Resilience

INTRODUCTION

There is a direct, proven relationship between climate change, sustainable development, and health. A sustainable community acknowledges climate change and aims to reduce its negative impacts. It is also resource efficient, by implementing energy and resource conservation measures, encouraging alternative modes of transit, employing green building standards, and using renewable energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A healthy community pursues greenhouse gas reduction measures that improve health conditions, address health inequalities, and prepare for the potential impacts of climate change.

As shown by the City's Climate Action Plan, Palm Springs is committed to addressing climate change at the local level. Looking forward, the City will continue to take advantage of common-sense approaches as well as cutting-edge policies to reduce energy use and waste, create local jobs, and improve air quality while preserving the local landscape. This commitment is embodied in the City's goal for carbon neutrality and the steps outlined in the Sustainability Plan. By modeling these kinds of positive changes, the City will influence others to make the kinds of changes necessary to reduce greenhouse gases and prepare for the potential impacts of climate change.

9.7

tonnes of GHG emissions per capita in 2010 (State of California: 12 tonnes)
(Source: Climate Action Plan, 2010)

431,594

tonnes CO₂e emissions released communitywide in 2010
(Source: Climate Action Plan, 2010)

250

jobs will be generated from Climate Action Plan Measures
(Source: Climate Action Plan, 2010)

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Emission Reduction Targets

- 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 (U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement)
- Reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020 (State AB 32 Voluntary Target)

What the **General Plan** Says

Recognizes that growth and economic opportunity cannot be conducted at the "expense of environmental protection and enhancement." The General Plan includes goals, policies and actions that establish the City as a leader in energy efficiency and green buildings, reduce dependence on the single passenger vehicles, and better connect the City's neighborhoods with multimodal transportation.

What the **Climate Action Plan** says

Provides a framework for the development and implementation of policies and programs that will reduce the City's emissions and outlines the specific actions necessary for the City to reach greenhouse gas reduction targets.

What the **Energy Action Plan** Says

Identifies actions that are essential to meet the City's future energy needs, while detailing specific actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.



VISION

Palm Springs is resilient and carbon neutral.  



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Adopted the City's Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Inventory in 2013.
2. Adopted California's AB 32-mandated target goal to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
3. Between 2008 and 2010, municipal greenhouse gas emissions fell from 31,227 tonnes CO₂e to 29,232 tonnes CO₂e.

GOAL PROGRESS:  EARLY  MODERATE  ADVANCED  ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Use the [CoolClimate Carbon Calculator](#) to motivate your household to take climate action.
- Start a program in your [office, school, or at home](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Urge policy makers to support national and international efforts to reduce global climate change.

climate change + public health

Climate change presents a significant risk to community health – yet the solutions provide an opportunity for many benefits. More extreme weather events, worsened air quality, and increased transmission of infectious disease will almost certainly negatively affect human health, health behaviors, and the socio-economic factors that influence health outcomes. Some existing health threats may intensify, while new health threats may emerge. The impacts of climate change will not affect everyone equally. The elderly, infants and children, minority communities, and people living in poverty, may be disproportionately impacted by climate change. Fortunately, many of the actions that address climate change also improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable communities.

26%

of the population are age 65 and over
(Source: U.S. Census, 2013)

34%

of children under 18 years of age are in poverty
(Source: U.S. Census, 2013)

20%

of the population have no health insurance coverage
(Source: U.S. Census, 2013)

13%

of adults have been diagnosed with asthma
(Source: California Health Interview Survey 2011-2012)

Health Co-benefits

Climate change will have significant health impacts and it is important that we are prepared to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate. Many climate change efforts will bring multiple health co-benefits to Palm Springs residents. For example, reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing safe and accessible infrastructure for walking and bicycling can increase physical activity, reduce air pollution, and lower collisions. These impacts can reduce chronic disease, lower obesity levels, reduce respiratory diseases, and improve mental health.

Promoting local agriculture and food systems can increase access to healthy, fresh foods and improve nutritional quality, reduce upstream energy use, and increase local social cohesion. Urban greening is another strategy that helps reduce energy use, temperature and urban heat island health effect, air pollution, noise, and enhance safety. Likewise having access to urban green space can improve physical and health.

Climate actions to prepare for and reduce exposure to climate changes can also have positive health benefits. Actions focusing on the most burdened and vulnerable communities can help alleviate existing health and social inequities. Also by strengthening local capacity to respond to natural hazards when they occur, the City can reduce the number and severity of injuries and illnesses when they do happen.

Finally, climate actions can indirectly improve health through economic development and improved quality of life. Actions that reduce residential building energy use can reduce household energy costs while at the same time creating local green jobs with living wages. Better employment and housing can positively affect health and improve opportunities and wellbeing.

WHAT IS climate change?

Although climate change and global warming are often used interchangeably, warmer temperatures are only one component of climate change. Climate is an average of weather over time, and weather includes temperature, rainfall, winds, flooding, heat waves, and other seasonal patterns. A simple way to remember the difference between weather and climate is: weather affects whether you bring an umbrella today, and climate influences whether you own an umbrella.

Climate change describes the long-term shift in global and regional weather patterns. This includes average annual temperatures and the timing and amount of local precipitation and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Climate change may also result in social, economic, and environmental consequences for residents and businesses in Palm Springs, including the following:

Public Health + Equity



- Heat-related illness and death
- Air quality-related respiratory illnesses
- Impacts to vulnerable populations
- Increased emergency responses needs and costs

Water Resources



- Inadequate water supply
- Reduction in hydropower production and higher energy costs
- Worsening water quality
- Localized flooding of roads, homes, and businesses

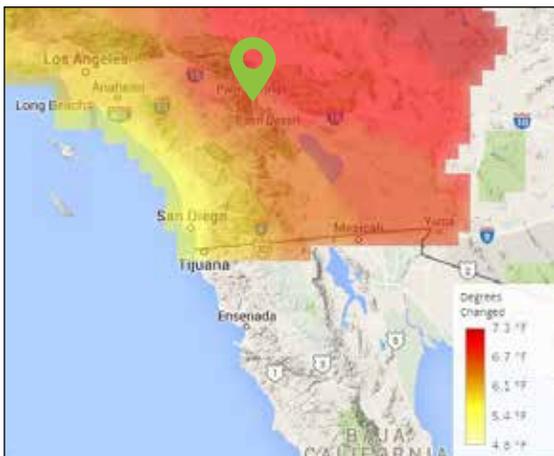
Agriculture + Natural Systems



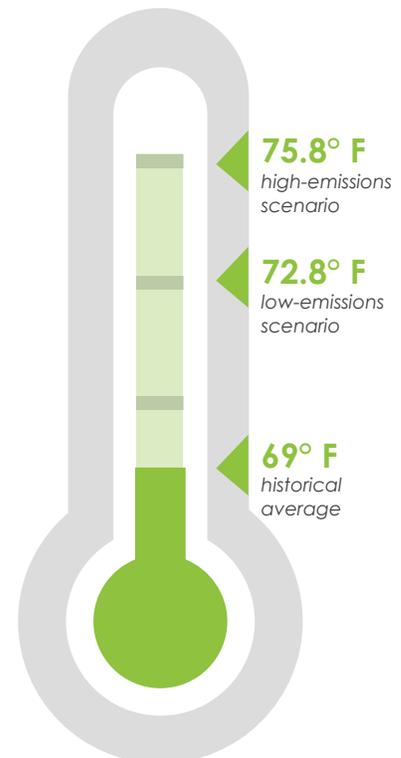
- Changes to the quality and quantity of agricultural production
- Food security for vulnerable populations
- Habitat loss and shifting species range
- Threats to agriculture and natural systems from invasive species, pests, and pathogens

WHAT IS resiliency?

Resilient communities ensure that all residents are prepared and ready to withstand social or environmental challenges. As climate change impacts become more frequent and significant, a greater emphasis will need to be placed on every day quality-of-life improvements, such as local food production, access to safer housing, medical care, quality education, and local jobs. In turn, these improvements will enhance community disaster preparedness and make Palm Springs less susceptible to a changing climate.



Projected difference in temperature between a baseline time period (1961-1990) and an end of century period (2070-2090).

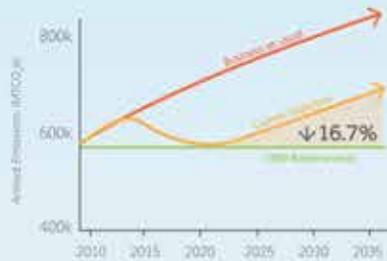


Source: <http://cal-adapt.org/>

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REPORT CARD

The City of Palm Springs is working hard to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the municipal and community level. Popular city-led programs and partnerships provide incentives for residents and businesses to take action. Learn what you can do to reduce harmful GHGs in our community today!

Help us meet our 2035 reduction goal! We need to reduce emissions by 16.7%



MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN PALM SPRINGS

70%
Emissions (Tonnes CO₂e)

20%
Emissions (Tonnes CO₂e)

3.2%

2.5%

Energy

PROBLEM: Electricity and natural gas production are energy intensive top contributors to GHG emissions into our atmosphere.



1 SOLUTION: The City is rapidly increasing its share of renewable energy infrastructure by investing in solar projects.

8 new solar projects



2 SOLUTION: The City and SoCal Gas' rebate programs reimburse the cost of energy-conserving appliances. Conserve energy and water by switching to Energy Star™ appliances.



86 thousand rebates since 2010

Transportation

PROBLEM: Motor vehicle use produces 20% of Palm Springs' annual GHG emissions.



1 SOLUTION: The City is encouraging bicycling for transportation by increasing the bike parking supply at popular destinations.

+100 bike racks



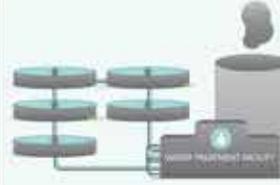
2 SOLUTION: The City is promoting the use of electric vehicles and won a grant to install EV stations throughout the city at no cost to taxpayers.



43 city-owned EV charging stations

Water Treatment

PROBLEM: Wastewater treatment produces nitrous oxide, a GHG that is 300 times stronger than CO₂.



1 SOLUTION: The City's low-flow toilet rebate program gives residents and businesses \$100 toward the purchase and installation of a low-flow toilet.

+77 million gallons saved



2 SOLUTION: The City's lawn buyback program offers a 50% match of up to \$2,500 to property owners that convert to a natural, low-water-use landscape. Since 2010, over 600,000 sq. ft. of lawn have been converted.



+30 million gallons saved

Solid Waste

PROBLEM: Transportation and disposal of solid waste produces GHGs. Landfills also produce CH₄ and N₂O when waste is disposed.



1 SOLUTION: The City has a goal to divert 100% of all waste via recycling and reuse of existing materials.

20 thousand tons of recyclables since 2010



2 SOLUTION: The City hosts 20+ sustainability events per year to help residents "choose to reuse". Single-use plastic bags were banned in 2014.



20 million bags potentially diverted from the waste stream

You can save a

TON

12.2 tons of greenhouse gas emissions are created annually by the average Palm Springs resident. Cutting your emissions will save you money and increase the health of our community.

SIMPLE SAVERS MY SAVINGS

- Install simple water savers (shower heads and toilets) + 180 lbs.
- Unplug energy "vampire" appliances (e.g., printers and clocks) + 600 lbs.
- Switch to sleep computer and turn it off at night + 1,400 lbs.

FREE SAVERS MY SAVINGS

- Wash clothes with cold water + 100 lbs.
- Use "efficiency settings" on all appliances + 770 lbs.
- Air dry clothes + 780 lbs.

BIGGEST SAVERS MY SAVINGS

- Upgrade to new refrigerator + 400 lbs.
- Upgrade A/C and water heater + 1,700 lbs.
- Seal and insulate your home + 3,000 lbs.





1



VISION

Palm Springs is resilient and carbon neutral.



Monitor and report greenhouse gas emissions.

1. Continue to inventory and report greenhouse gas emissions so that reductions can be tracked in a transparent, consistent, and accurate manner.
2. Use an emissions inventory and a monitoring tool to identify and prioritize effective programs, and to modify programs to increase greenhouse gas reduction effectiveness.

Develop strategies to reduce community-wide contributions to GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 by 2050. Achieve carbon neutrality for municipal emissions by 2030.

1. Implement energy, water, transportation, and other actions in the City's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Establish greenhouse gas criteria to evaluate City policies, programs, and development applications.
3. Develop annual department-wide work plans that outline specific greenhouse gas reduction efforts for municipal operations.
4. Convene a working group, and/or collaborate with a regional university, to outline different policies approaches to achieve the deep and transformative actions necessary to achieve carbon neutrality.

5. Participate in a regional carbon offset program, carbon trading, or "cap and trade" system to capture funding for local/regional actions to reduce contributions to GHGs.

Improve community resiliency to the potential impacts of climate change.

1. Assess the potential impacts of climate change on people, infrastructure, natural systems, and public spaces in the City.
2. Partner with State, federal, regional, and county agencies to develop short-term actions that improve community resilience.
3. Prioritize greenhouse gas reduction measures with co-benefits that make the community more resilient to climate change.



Sustainable Economy

INTRODUCTION

A sustainable economy includes businesses that provide products and services that offer alternatives to the carbon-based economy; conserve energy, water, and other natural resources; and reduce pollution and waste. It includes businesses founded on the principles of sustainability, helping to transform processes and products to reduce negative environmental impacts. For Palm Springs, this means focusing on employment in energy generation, water and energy efficiency, while also supporting clean transportation services.

A sustainable economy encompasses jobs that help protect and restore the environment, often through resource conservation and natural area rehabilitation. Similarly, a sustainable economy focuses on human capital, creating jobs that provide sustainable livelihoods by paying a living wage, minimizing exposure to toxics, providing adequate health insurance, and providing opportunities for advancement. Indirect impacts of a sustainable economy promote the health and well-being of residents.

Palm Springs recognizes the importance of a thriving local economy in fostering a vibrant and sustainable community. The City envisions a future where local businesses are resource efficient, provide high-quality green jobs, and furnish locally-sourced goods and services. Furthermore, there are opportunities for partnerships between the City, businesses, schools, and community to increase educational opportunities and job training.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

What the **General Plan** Says

The General Plan includes goals, policies and actions that attract and retain high-quality sustainable commercial, industrial, and office development. Specifically, the City encourages and attracts "green technologies," renewable energy, and related activities as a business development goal.

1

clean tech industry
sector business

5

million annual visitors



VISION

Palm Springs is a center for clean tech, renewable energy,  
and innovation.



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. The Health and Medical Innovation Center opened at the [Palm Springs Accelerator Campus \(iHub\)](#) in 2014.
2. Since 2009, the [Coachella Valley Economic Partnership](#) has had over 5,500 high school students studying in career-themed programs, including renewable energy and health fields, and with matching partners has given out roughly 2,150 scholarships totaling about \$10 million.
3. Launched a [Green Business Program](#) and providing incentives to businesses for greener practices.
4. Adopted a local preference ordinance.
5. Appointed a Leadership Council with 24 members pledging specific sustainability actions.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Shop [local and support local businesses](#).
- Launch a sustainable business focused on energy production, clean technology and green products and services.
- Participate in the City's [Green Business Program](#) and receive a grant for green packaging and food service products.

economic vitality + public health

Promoting the growth of green businesses will provide many health co-benefits to business owners and the general community in Palm Springs. Buildings with high environmental quality can reduce the rate of respiratory disease, allergies, asthma, sick building symptoms, and enhance worker performance. By taking steps to insure compliance with environmental regulations, businesses are protecting the health of their employees.

Supporting workforce development programs for emerging green industries provides greater opportunities for low-income communities and youth. Low-income communities will be hit the hardest financially from the impacts of climate change, and therefore supporting green job creation can help ensure these communities are not left behind in a transition to a cleaner, more sustainable economy. Youth development through training and employment is an important public health investment that also improves the greater community. It is important to address provisions to ensure the health and safety of green economy workers in contract language with partners.



Source: az central




VISION

Palm Springs is a center for clean tech, renewable energy, and innovation.  

Help to create 500 clean tech jobs by 2020.

1. Work to expand existing programs that increase demand for clean technology and renewable energy, e.g. PACE programs. 
2. In conjunction with surrounding municipalities, develop a package of local incentives to make the region more attractive to target industries.
3. Work with education partners to identify and focus resources from the College of the Desert, UC Riverside, CSU San Bernardino, K-12 and others to support sustainable industries cluster and other local businesses.
4. Support and promote the start-up businesses through incubators such as the iHUB Innovation Center, providing low-cost materials, technical assistance and opportunities for collaboration. 

Grow Palm Springs' local economy by retaining and expanding small and locally-owned businesses, increasing exports and decreasing imports.

1. Develop a "Buy Local" campaign.
2. Increase support for small businesses to form, expand and innovate.
3. Promote local purchasing and procurement strategies.

Establish Palm Springs as a premiere ecotourism destination in the U.S. by improving existing industry practices and expanding cultural and nature-based tourism.

1. Increase competitiveness for conventions and conferences by ensuring the Palm Springs Convention Center employs sustainable practices, such as the SMG Green IMPACT project.
2. Support and promote Palm Springs hospitality and service industries to become green through existing utility rebate programs and materials about best practices.
3. Convene existing tourism-based business owners and industry representatives to identify opportunities for expanding nature-based tourism. Research and report on best practices from other regions for consideration and adaptation.
4. Partner with the hospitality industry to provide information to tourists about ecologically-responsible travel to the region, carbon-offset alternatives, and resource conservation strategies for visitors.
5. Work with community-based organization and other partners to develop an ecotourism volunteer program to engage the visitors in habitat rehabilitation.



Encourage sustainable business practices.

1. Encourage the Chamber, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP), and local business groups to incentivize the Green Business Program to expand the number of participants.
2. Continue to provide incentives and technical support to businesses in Palm Springs on sustainable business best practices.
3. Partner with local business organizations to develop a promotional and marketing plan to increase the utilization of sustainable businesses, including incentivizing their employees to make greener choices.
4. Distribute materials on the Green Business Program, utility rebate and incentive programs, and other sustainable business practices with business license and permit information.

Train and grow the City's green workforce.

1. Support local school district and Coachella Valley Economic Partnership efforts to expand career pathway programs including high school career academies built around renewable energy and health care.
2. Partner with community-based organizations to develop a green jobs program that provides job training/ apprenticeship and placement focused on at-risk young adult populations. ✓
3. Establish partnerships with higher education to develop high-skill workers in green job industries.

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Community Health + Wellness

INTRODUCTION

Sustainability and health are closely linked. In fact, many definitions of health refer to sustainability, and many definitions of sustainability also refer to health. Health is influenced by many factors—including genetics, behavior, and our environment. The air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and the physical environments where we live, work, learn, and play all influence our health and wellness. Without a healthy environment, there can be no healthy people.

The City has already showed a commitment to health in several areas. As an example, the City has made strides towards encouraging physical exercise by hosting the annual Mayor's Race, creating a Wellness Park, and incorporating bike paths into city streets. Palm Springs' commitment to renewable energy, green building, sustainable urban development, and climate change are all efforts that reduce airborne pollutants and improve air quality in the area, thereby reducing asthma and other respiratory diseases. Palm Springs is also home to a certified Farmers' Market and a community garden, which provide access to local fresh fruits and vegetables for residents. The City should continue to address health and wellness issues by: encouraging citizens to engage in physical activity; ensuring that all residents have access to the food and water they need to be adequately nourished; supporting efforts to improve air quality and reduce pollution; and providing opportunities for residents to make social connections and bolster their mental health.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

What the **General Plan** Says

The General Plan recognizes and supports a healthier environment in the City. It includes goals, policies, and actions that support an active lifestyle, identifies people or segments of the population more susceptible to health problems associated with pollution emission, and establish the City as a leader in energy-efficiency and green buildings.

What the **Clinton Health Matter Initiative (CHMI) "Blueprint for Action"** Says

The Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI) strives to bring people together to reduce the prevalence of preventable diseases, close health disparity gaps and improve health equity, and reduce healthcare costs by improving access to key contributors to health for all people. Coachella Valley is the very first community selected to be a part of CHMI.

9.7%

people diagnosed with heart disease
(Source: AskCHIS, 2014)

16.1%

of people with fair or poor health status
(Source: AskCHIS, 2014)

29.8%

of people walk at least 150 minutes/week
(Source: AskCHIS, 2014)

1.6%

of people are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS
(Source: AskCHIS, 2014)



VISION

Residents and all sectors of our community are engaged in an active, life-long process making choices to achieve one’s potential and optimal well-being in life. 



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Adopted a ["Healthy Active Living and Sustainable Communities"](#) Resolution in 2011.
2. Wellness Park developed in cooperation with the Desert Healthcare District, Palm Springs Unified School District, and the Desert Water Agency features a walking track and exercise stations.
3. Hosting the annual "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" series of events, including the Mayor’s Race and Wellness Fair.
4. Recognized for achieving "Let’s Move! Cities, Towns, and Counties" (LMCTC) goals to promote improved nutrition and increased physical activity for children.
5. Forming the [Desert Aids Project](#).
6. Participating in the Coachella Valley Healthy Lifestyle Challenge.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Volunteer or collaborate with the City on a [Healthy Planet, Healthy You Event](#).
- Participate in the City's [running and biking group](#).
- Participate in the [Coachella Valley Healthy Lifestyle Challenge](#).
- Utilize the City's Free [Community Moves Me classes](#).
- Volunteer at the County's [Get Tested Coachella Valley \(GTCV\)](#) Campaign.





VISION

Residents and all sectors of our community are engaged in an active, life-long process making choices to achieve one's potential and optimal well-being in life.



Increase the City's overall health status by 5% in 2020 by encouraging life-long recreational physical activity.

1. Explore ways to maximize existing facilities, resources, and opportunities for physical activity.
2. Utilize partnerships to create an additional community recreation center.
3. Provide physical activity opportunities for people of all ages.
4. Examine city policies that relate to healthy activity.
5. Eliminate barriers to healthy food choices within walking distance of all residents.
6. Support complete neighborhoods and active transportation to promote social interaction and improve public health.
7. Design three new 5k City paths.

Engage community partners to provide health and wellness education and/or services.

1. Create an online calendar/directory/resource guide of wellness activities and services available in our region.
2. Identify three new partners for the Mayor's 5k Race.

3. Work with partner organizations to create a free "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" lecture series.

Promote mental, social, and emotional health.

1. City staff member(s) participate in at least one of the Coachella Valley Health Collaborative's "Mental Health Summits".
2. Develop a "Hands-On Palm Springs" (HOPS) Volunteer Program structure.
3. Challenge each neighborhood organization to host one "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" event per year.



Livable Communities

INTRODUCTION

Palm Springs is a City of great neighborhoods, each with unique characteristics. Each is populated by residents who are engaged in in shaping the places where they live, work, and recreate. The Sustainability Plan builds on the existing neighborhood fabric to enhance livability throughout the City. Incorporating housing in Palm Springs that serves a broad range of economic sectors allows these residents to have safe and convenient access to neighborhood-serving commercial and community services. Enhancing neighborhoods in this strategic manner brings many benefits and is an essential component of sustainability. Livable neighborhoods are environmentally sensitive – they encourage active modes of transportation, foster community interaction, and improve public health. Livable neighborhoods also incorporate sustainable building materials and use fewer natural resources, creating healthier indoor and outdoor environments.

As demonstrated by the City's adopted General Plan, Climate Action Plan (CAP), and EAP, many smart growth and sustainable principles are already incorporated into the City's policies and actions. Palm Springs has numerous green building programs and standards that support the creation of livable communities. These initiatives incentivize sustainable design principles that optimize site potential, protect and conserve water, minimize non-renewable energy consumption, use green products and materials, and improve public health.

4

LEED certified buildings

31

was Palm Spring's Walk Score in 2015 (Source: WalkScore.com)

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

What the **General Plan** Says

Recognizes sustainable development and site design as an integral part of the City's built environment. It includes goals, policies, and actions to promote mixed-use infill development and support safe, aesthetically pleasing community appearance. It establishes the City as a leader in sustainable development, requiring the use of energy-efficient and green practices that are appropriate to the desert climate.

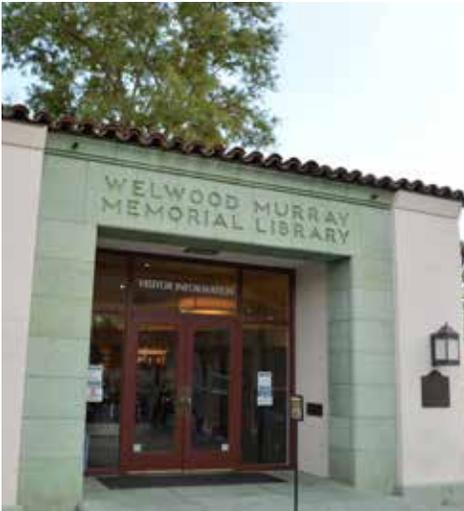
What the **Climate Action Plan** Says

In order to support the concept of complete neighborhoods, the CAP includes goals, policies, and actions supporting walkable neighborhoods and green building practices.



VISION

Palm Springs is a City of vibrant and livable neighborhoods.  



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Participating in the [Green for Life Program](#), which assists Coachella Valley Cities and Tribes to implement green building standards.
2. Created the [Green Façade Improvement Program](#).
3. LEED certification of four buildings.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Avoid buying property in environmentally-sensitive areas with the intent for development.
- Live in a neighborhood that has a grocery or convenience store nearby.
- Use [green or sustainable building techniques](#) when building or remodeling.
- Support mixed-use, infill projects that incorporate smart growth principles.
- Use the Walk and Roll app to plan trips.
- Work with your neighborhood to create a sense of place.
- Take advantage of sustainable rebates and incentives by becoming involved.
- Be involved in your neighborhood associations and government commissions.

built environment + public health

Health Co-benefits

The way our neighborhoods, streets, and homes are designed affects whether children can play outside and walk to school, whether families can access basic goods and services, and even whether neighbors can socialize and look out for one another. Supporting complete neighborhoods, transit supportive development, and a diversity of housing types can increase access to jobs, parks, healthy food, and health and social services. Complete neighborhoods also encourage people to drive less and walk, bike, and take public transit more. Reduced car ownership can also reduce the need for parking, which could free up space for wider sidewalks and reduce the cost of purchasing property.

Active travel has numerous health co-benefits, such as reduced chronic disease and obesity rates and reduced traffic injuries and fatalities. Strategies to reduce greenhouse gases such as higher efficiency vehicle fuels and reducing overall vehicle miles traveled benefits respiratory and cardiovascular health, due to decreases in air pollution.



WHAT IS placemaking?

Placemaking helps residents and business owners reimagine or reinvent public spaces. Placemaking promotes better urban design, empowers creative uses of space, and draws upon physical, social, and cultural identities to define a place based on a shared vision. Placemaking leverages community assets and local talent to create a high-quality public realm that improves public health, fosters community interaction, and encourages livable neighborhoods.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?

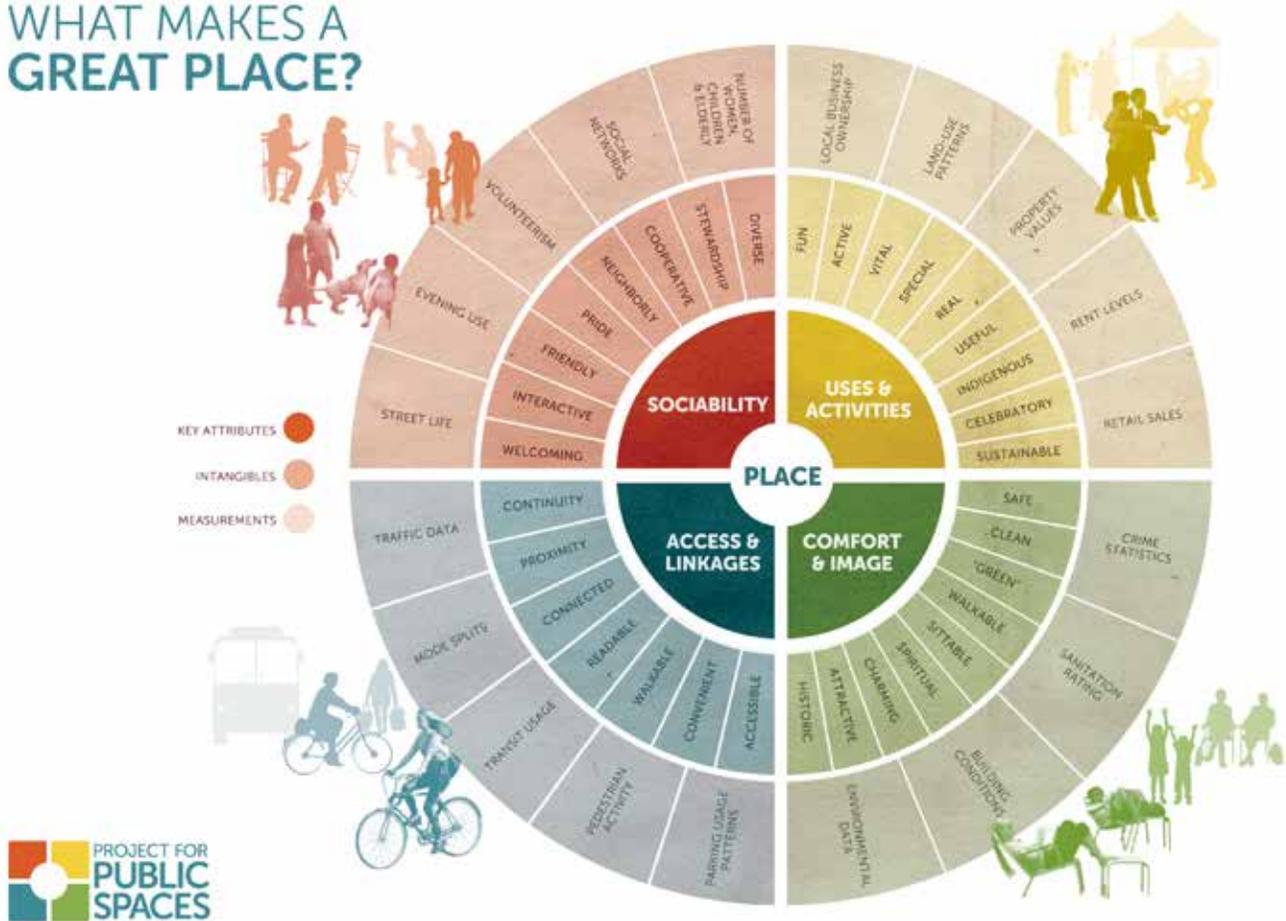


Image description: The Project for Public Spaces' What Makes a Great Plan Diagram helps communities evaluate places. The inner ring represents a place's key attributes, the middle ring its intangible qualities, and the outer ring its measurable data.



Placemaking does not have to be an expensive, time-consuming process. Many placemaking activities use an incremental, low-cost approach to create high-quality places. These can be implemented in a number of locations, including on public streets, in parks, and in public parking lots.



VISION

Palm Springs is a City of vibrant and livable neighborhoods.



Actively promote transformation of public spaces to support placemaking and bring vibrancy into neighborhoods and community public spaces by piloting projects in two neighborhoods by 2020.

1. Develop a toolkit of simple, low-cost solutions that support placemaking that can be used in Palm Springs. ✓
2. Work with Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs (ONE-PS) and its constituent [Neighborhood Organizations](#) to identify locations for public space transformation.
3. Pilot test placemaking tactics in two neighborhoods.

Promote smart growth.

1. Support new, diverse housing opportunities within walking distance of Downtown Palm Springs, neighborhood commercial clusters, and mixed-use areas.
2. Support the streamlining of the construction of multifamily and mixed-use development in areas identified by the General Plan and identify areas for multifamily and mixed-use development in the City not currently shown in the General Plan's land use districts.
3. Promote bike parking and amenities in mixed-use, multifamily, and commercial development.
4. Amplify and augment efforts to encourage developers to provide alternative parking facilities such as carpools, van pools, electric vehicle, and car share.

5. Require new, continuous sidewalks on both sides of the street with new development and be fully compliant with ADA regulations. ✓
6. Support development projects that adhere to smart growth principles, including new development around existing neighborhood assets, diverse uses, and transit.
7. Ensure that public health issues are guiding land use planning and development decisions.

Encourage the building or retrofitting of one million square feet of green buildings.

1. Require all city-owned buildings be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards, [CVAG Green for Life standards](#) and Well Building standards.
2. Require project developers to meet the standards in the Green for Life Green Building Program.
3. Expand businesses participation in the Green Façade Improvement Program.
4. Conduct a systematic review of the General Plan and implementing ordinances and standards to identify additional opportunities to incentivize and encourage green building practices.
5. Encourage green architectural and historic preservation and remodeling practices.
6. Develop an outreach and education plan for developers, realtors, and institutions (schools and hospitals) focused on sustainable design principles and green building.



-
7. Establish energy and water efficiency handbooks for City departments, residential and commercial users with checklists for self-assessment and resource guides. 
 8. Promote rebates and programs to community members through public and online advertisements.
 9. Establish green building standards for the downtown redevelopment project.

Promote Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles when designing sites, buildings, facilities and the surrounding areas.

1. Incorporate CPTED principles into the City's General Plan and related policies.
2. Evaluate basic CPTED design and management strategies for incorporating into design standards and zoning.

Encourage the building and preservation of workforce housing in new and existing housing projects.

1. Encourage workforce housing across the City and advocate for a percentage of new residential construction to accommodate a diverse income group. 
2. Establish replacement housing requirements.
3. Explore providing downpayment assistance, housing allowances, and short term rentals options.
4. Streamline the development process by offering targeted fee waivers, land acquisition subsidies, infrastructure assistance, property tax abatements, smart impact fees, and relaxing certain density, height, size and parking requirements.



Active + Sustainable Transportation

INTRODUCTION

As a leader in promoting active, clean transportation, the Palm Springs has committed to increasing sustainable modes of transportation through numerous policies in existing plans: the City has committed to California's Plug in Partners Resolution and the California Clean Cars Campaign to promote clean vehicle technology; installed 40 electric vehicle charging stations; transitioned its transit fleet to compressed natural gas; and established a goal to build over 300 miles of bikeways in the City's 2014 Bicycle Route Plan.

However, transportation accounts for nearly one quarter of the community's greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, Palm Springs residents primarily get around in the private automobile - over 92% of workers drive alone to work; only 1% bicycle, 3% walk, and 2% take transit. There is still much work to be done to increase the number of people using active and sustainable transportation.

20%

of greenhouse gas emissions are from transportation
(Source: GHG Inventory, 2010)

2%

of all employees bike to work
(Source: GHG Inventory, 2010)

30

Bike to Work Day participants
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

600

Cycledelic participants
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

300

Bike to School Day participants
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

What the **General Plan** Says

Recognizes bicycling and walking as integral parts of the transportation network. It calls to improve and expand bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and develop programs to support the education and understanding of biking and walking to increase use and comfort.

What the **Climate Action Plan** Says

Supports sustainable transportation by including several action items to facilitate electric vehicle use, reduce vehicle emissions by reducing idling and encouraging regular tune-ups, promoting rideshare and telework programs, supporting transit oriented development, and expanding biking and walking programs and infrastructure.

What the **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Non-Motorized Transportation Plan** Says

Sets an objective to reach 5% of all trips to be made by bicycle region wide. It was adopted by City of Palm Springs City Council in 2011.

What the **Bicycle Route Plan** says

Provides bicycle design guidelines for a range of bike facilities and identifies over 300 miles of bikeways in Palm Springs.

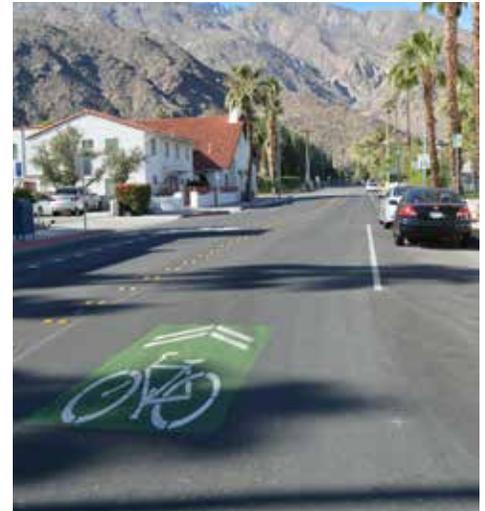
What the **Sunline Short Range Transit Plan** Says

Identifies opportunities to improve transit service in Palm Springs by increasing frequency on existing lines.



VISION

Palm Springs is a leader in sustainable transportation.



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Supporting a 100% Certified Natural Gas (CNG) and hydrogen cell bus fleet, placed solar panels on bus stops, and installed public CNG fueling stations at airport and City Hall.
2. “Greened” their transportation operations by including an Electric Nissan LEAF incorporated into the City’s fleet and providing two bicycles for employee use.
3. Winning the Friends of CV Link Award for its bicycle education material as well as recently creating a “Bicycle Friendly Business District” in the downtown business corridor.
4. Adopting the Transportation Demand Management ordinance requiring new nonresidential developments to preserve two percent of the gross floor area ratio for employee locker and shower facilities.
5. Receiving the 2014 gold medal [Let's Move award](#) at the National League of Cities for its work to create environments that support healthy eating and physical activity.
6. Celebrating National Bike Month in May since 2009 by holding safety classes and special events and distributing children's helmets and bike lights.
7. Receiving a federal grant in the amount of \$382,500 through the Safe Routes to School program from the California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”) to improve biking and walking facilities near Cahuilla, Cielo Vista, Katherine Finchy, and Vista Del Monte Elementary Schools, and Raymond Cree Middle School.
8. Established the [BUZZ trolley](#) along the Palm Canyon corridor.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Participate in the annual Bike to Work Challenge in May.
- Take a bicycle education class with the City of Palm Springs.
- Attend [Cycledelic](#).
- Sign your child up to participate in a [Safe Routes to School](#) program.
- Attend a monthly [Active Transportation Committee](#) meeting to see how you can help improve and promote bicycling in Palm Springs.
- Participate in the [Drive Smarter Challenge](#).
- Ride the BUZZ trolley in Palm Springs and take Sunline Transit buses to other Coachella Valley cities.
- Donate your unused bike.

active transportation + public health

Health Co-benefits

How much we move our bodies is directly linked to our health. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 150 minutes of physical activity per week for adults and that children and adolescents should do an hour or more of age-appropriate physical activity per day. Yet the amount of physical activity in our community is declining. Health trends related to poor diet and lack of physical activity continue to worsen, particularly among children. Obesity rates are strongly correlated to a low level of physical activity. Obesity increases the risk for health conditions such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, and osteoarthritis. The rate of obesity in California has been on the rise for the past two decades from 10 percent of adults in 1990 to 25 percent in 2014. In the Coachella Valley, only 50% of children meet the recommended amount of physical activity each day.

Poor air quality – due in large part to vehicle-related emissions - also influences health. With worsening air quality, the percent of adults diagnosed with respiratory diseases – such as asthma – is also increasing. In the Coachella Valley, the rate of adult asthma has increased from 8% to 10% between 2007 and 2013. Asthma is also severely affecting our children. Fourteen percent of 0-5 year olds (6,137 children) and 13% of 6-17 year olds (12,011) in Eastern Riverside County have been diagnosed with asthma.

Increasing physical activity by creating safe places for people to bike, walk, take transit, and play improves health. Simply walking and biking to work or school can satisfy much of the recommended levels of physical activity for children and adults. It is often forgotten that transit is also an active way to travel. On average, transit riders walk 19 minutes a day to and from their home and their final destination.



5



VISION

Palm Springs is a leader in sustainable transportation.

Promote transportation choices.

1. Dedicate a portion of the transportation budget to pedestrian and bicycling projects and programs.
2. Create 10 miles of trails connecting with on-street bikeways.
3. Launch a robust public information campaign highlighting the health, environmental, and economic benefits of active transportation.
4. Launch a public information campaign to educate people about eco-driving, including anti-idling and getting regular vehicle tune-ups to limit vehicle-related emissions.
5. Engage Green Team and Sustainability Commission members in strategies to implement General Plan goal and associated policies and actions to "Reduce the City's dependence on the use of single-passenger vehicles by enhancing mass transit opportunities."
6. Partner with local public health agencies and hospitals to promote biking and walking.
7. Engage with elementary and middle schools to expand the Safe Routes to School program by identifying local champions.
8. Continue to partner with the downtown business community to enhance the Bicycle Friendly Business District.
9. Continue promotion of National Bike Month and provide promotional gear and education classes to prospective bicycle riders.
10. Become a [bike-friendly community](#).
11. Expand the bicycle "fix it" station program and refueling stations to improve the visibility and usability of bicycling in the community.
12. Investigate the feasibility of car sharing in the city and at the airport.
13. Conduct a study to determine if bike share is feasible in Downtown Palm Springs.
14. Develop a centralized portal of transportation information that allows residents and visitors to find multimodal transportation information, ride matches, and log trips for incentives.
15. Promote "Healthy Planet, Healthy You" and "Walk and Roll" apps across the City, especially in schools, and create new health and wellness metrics.
16. Hold Open Streets events to improve awareness of biking and walking.
17. Partner with SunLine transit to launch an individualized marketing program in neighborhoods with the highest levels of transit service.
18. Develop a campaign to promote the CV Link trail and create local linkages.
19. Expand the number of days BUZZ trolley service operates and the span of service; explore creation of an East-West route connecting the Palm Springs International Airport, the Convention Center, and Downtown Palm Springs.

GOAL PROGRESS: EARLY MODERATE ADVANCED ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY NEXT STEP



Promote transit-oriented development.

- 1. Promote transit-oriented development to foster development along SunLine Transit corridors.
- 2. Assess parking requirements in Downtown Palm Springs and along SunLine Transit lines for opportunities to reduce parking minimums and ratios, recognizing the full costs and outcomes associated with inefficient parking strategies.

Integrate sustainable transportation infrastructure and programs through the development process and through partnerships with employers.

- 1. Consider expanding General Plan policy to encourage all, not just large, employers to adopt incentive programs that include ridesharing, preferential parking for rideshare, telecommuting, flex hours, bike racks, and other amenities.
- 2. Incentivize developers to provide facilities such as carpool, vanpool, electric vehicle (EV), and bicycle parking; sponsor bus stops; and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to facilitate multimodal access.

Promote clean transportation through alternative fuels and vehicles.

- 3. Develop a clean airport shuttle service to major destinations within the city and valley.
- 4. Continue to support development of electric vehicle infrastructure and charging stations at City-owned facilities and through developer incentives.
- 5. Develop ordinances allowing neighborhood electric vehicles (e.g., golf carts and other similar vehicles) as a mode of travel on appropriate routes in the City.

Develop policies and programs for the City of Palm Springs to lead the way in sustainable planning and operations.

- 1. Adopt a policy to transform the municipal fleet conversion to ensure 80 percent of public fleet vehicles run on alternative fuels. ✓
- 2. Adopt a no idling policy for the City fleet by 2018 and extend to commercial vehicles by 2020. ✓
- 3. Reduce employee vehicle miles traveled in city vehicles by promoting teleconferences and the availability of alternative transportation options for business trips.
- 4. Encourage telecommuting and flexible hours policies to avoid at least one commuting day per month per employee.
- 5. Develop a comprehensive transportation options program for City employees that includes an online ridematching program and allows employees to log trips for awards.

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Urban Forests + Natural Systems

INTRODUCTION

Urban forestry and natural systems are essential to the City's path towards greater sustainability. Palm Springs' adjacency to natural areas and its urban parks and forest enhance its environmental quality and the mental and physical health of its residents, while bringing significant economic benefits through increased property values and ecotourism. Urban forestry and natural systems will make the City and region more resilient to the likely impacts of climate change by reducing energy use through cooling and shading and sequestering carbon dioxide.

Unlike urban forests in wetter cities like Portland and Chicago, the geographic location of Palm Springs makes the urban forest different than cities which receive more rainfall. Palm Springs has a diversity of tree species but has seen years of drought. To maintain a healthy urban forest, the City must use water wisely by installing high-efficiency irrigation systems and selecting drought-tolerant plant species. These species will need to be mixed with the City's iconic palms and urban street trees that provide significant shade.

The City's efforts will focus on protecting sensitive lands including hillsides and open deserts by enforcing sustainable practices, reevaluating building regulations, and working with active community groups in the area. The City also sees an opportunity to expand the urban forest canopy and educate the community on the different tree species in the area. These actions will create a healthier environment for all City residents.

15,224 1,174 87,000

public trees
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

vacant tree planting sites
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

Areas conserved by the Coachella Valley Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan
(Source: CVMSHCP, 2007)

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

What the [General Plan](#) Says

Support the preservation and protection of biological resources, especially sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species, wildlife, or habitats. The General Plan recommends a comprehensive trail network that is sensitive to the natural environment, wildlife and habitat, culture and history, and recreational and circulation needs of residents. It also recommends developing a strategy to incorporate sustainability principles and practices in to park design.

What the [Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan](#) Says

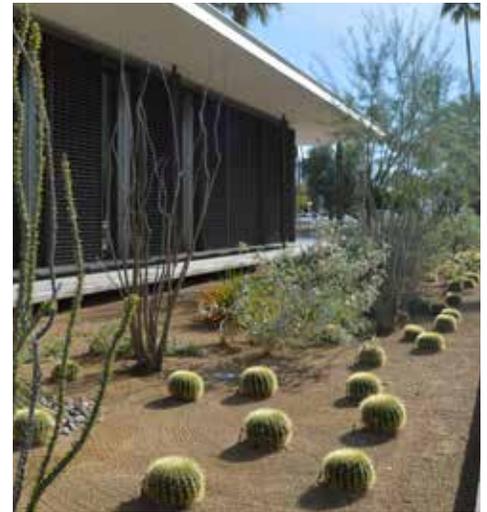
Balance environmental protection and economic development objectives and simplify compliance with endangered species related law. The Plan establishes a regional reserve or conservation system and establishes a plan for funding the system.

What the [Urban Forest Management Report](#) Says

Provides maintenance recommendations for each tree or tree site in the City, includes a tree planting palette, and suggests programs for young tree maintenance. It also identifies tree planting funding sources.

VISION

Palm Springs cultivates a flourishing urban forest and desert ecosystem, ensuring habitat protection and access to open space, recreation and natural resources.



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Completed [tree inventory](#) and management plan in 2014.
2. [Wellness Park](#) developed in cooperation with Desert Healthcare District, Palm Springs Unified School District and Desert Water Agency features demonstration gardens and [low water use landscaping](#). The Park also features walking track and exercise stations.
3. Re-vegetating public landscapes including pilot projects in City medians.
4. Initiated the [Legacy Tree Program](#) allowing community members to honor special people, places and organizations with a tree memorial.
5. Planted three tree orchards with approximately 15 fruit tree planted at each.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Track progress on the [land acquisition efforts of the CVMSHCP](#).
- Plant a street tree using the City's recommended [tree palette](#).
- Replace impervious surfaces, such as driveway or patios with permeable pavements.
- Remove [invasive species](#) from your property, while adding [native](#), drought-tolerant species in multi-layered canopies.
- Reduce or eliminate chemicals and use environmentally friendly herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- Participate in the [Legacy Tree Program](#).

forests + public health

Health Co-benefits

Urban tree planting and green infrastructure such as swales, planted medians, and other vegetation can help protect the natural environment and promote safer and healthier urban places. Mature tree canopies can reduce air temperature by five to ten degrees (helping to counteract the urban heat island effect), provide protection during extreme heat events, reduce the production of harmful ground-level ozone, and provide protection from cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation. Well-placed trees can also reduce energy use through shading, saving residents and businesses money. Well-vegetated urban parks also mitigate the impact of the urban heat island by cooling and cleaning the air. Public parks and green spaces allow people to congregate, socialize, and be more physically active which helps reduce cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, hypertension, obesity, and depression.

Pervious surfaces allow natural ground absorption of rainfall, replenishing groundwater tables and reducing the amount of storm-water runoff. Contaminant runoff into water bodies is reduced; therefore, residents swimming or fishing in these waters may benefit from reduced exposure to oils, lead, and other toxins.



VISION

Palm Springs cultivates a flourishing urban forest and desert ecosystem, ensuring habitat protection and access to open space, recreation and natural resources.



Expand the urban forest by planting 5,000 new trees on public and private sites and become a Tree City USA community by 2020.

1. Adopt a Tree Protection Ordinance that address tree replacement and removal. 
2. Plant new climate appropriate trees in the nearly 1,200 vacant sites identified in the inventory of public trees, or other high-value locations. 
3. Continually replace urban trees that have been removed or have died with appropriate, new landscaping or add shade canopy.
4. Establish a young tree maintenance program to properly care for newly planted trees.
5. Develop a tree planting and maintenance guide for residents and businesses based on the planting palette in the Urban Forest Management Report.
6. Encourage properly-sited and selected shade trees in 100% of new construction to reduce heat islands and provide shade to offset air conditioning demand.
7. Identify areas suitable for urban forestry based on existing space and requirements on public areas.
8. Continue hosting an annual Arbor Day celebration.
9. Expand the City's tree inventory to include trees on private property.

10. Hire a full-time arborist by 2020.

11. Become a Tree City USA community by 2020.

Promote access to sustainable, open space, recreation and natural resources.

1. Create and implement a plan to ensure that all residents live within a 10-minute walk of a neighborhood park, open space and/or community garden.
2. Add new trails to the regional network, while connecting and enhancing the existing network.
3. Provide more developed facilities at trail heads, including kiosks, signage, restrooms, and bike parking.
4. Improve active transportation infrastructure connecting to parks and open spaces by creating complete streets, adding bike lanes, enhancing signage for pedestrians and cyclists, and improving sidewalk connectivity and quality.



Support efforts to protect and enhance regional ecosystems.

1. Continue to work cooperatively with regional partners to assemble conservation areas identified in the CVMSHCP.
2. Establish development standards for residential, commercial, and industrial projects that:
 - Control and manage invasive plants found on site by requiring best management practices to be used during construction and subsequent site maintenance.
 - Prohibit planting of invasive species identified on the California Invasive Plant Council list.
 - Encourage the removal of non-native vegetation, except when the vegetation supports habitat useful to native wildlife.
 - Limit the total area of high-water-use plants in landscape design.
 - Recommend plantings in multi-layered clusters, placing ground-cover, shrub, and tree canopy layers in the same area.
3. Create bird safe design guidelines that promote bird safety through measures such as façade treatments and lighting. Identify areas where guidelines would be most appropriate.
4. Adopt an integrated pest management and no pesticide use policy for City-owned and managed properties. 

Exceed regional standards for stormwater control.

1. Develop a low-impact development handbook for residential and commercial project developers.
2. Require project developers to prevent stormwater pollution by implementing best management practices for construction activities.
3. Explore the potential impacts of climate change on storm frequency, duration, and intensity to understand the potential implications for stormwater infrastructure.
4. Require new construction to capture and remove all on-site trash before it enters the stormwater system.
5. Expand the use of permeable pavement in large commercial and infrastructure uses, such as the Palm Springs Airport and Convention Center.
6. Increase the number of green infrastructure projects, such as bioswales, street trees, and permeable pavement throughout the City.

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Energy Conservation + Renewable Energy

INTRODUCTION

Energy consumed by residential and commercial buildings accounts for nearly three-quarters of all greenhouse gas emissions in Palm Springs. Improving energy efficiency and encouraging renewable energy is an essential component of the City's path towards sustainable development, carbon neutrality, and a resilient community. Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective strategies to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, while leading to lower energy costs and healthier homes, schools and businesses. Similarly, generating electricity from renewable energy, such as wind, solar, and biogas, can reduce demand for fossil fuels and decrease emissions of carbon dioxide and air pollutants. Both renewable energy generation and energy efficiency programs also help to create local, green jobs that support the City's economic development.

The City's Energy Action Plan lays the foundation for transitioning to cleaner energy and for deep reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The City has made strides to incentivize renewable energy practices throughout the City, helping residents and businesses leverage Southern California Edison, California Solar, and Gas Company incentive programs. While many programs promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency have been created, it is important to keep them active and up to date. The City's Sustainability Action Plan continues this momentum, mirrors the policies and actions outlined within these existing documents, and provides specific implementation actions for the City to make clean energy and energy efficiency a priority.

3.7

kilowatts per hour of electricity is generated annually from solar systems
(Source: Energy Action Plan, 2010)

70%

of GHGs are from commercial and residential energy use
(Source: GHG Inventory, 2010)

627,504,889

kilowatts per hour are from residential, commercial, and municipal electricity use
(Source: Energy Action Plan, 2010)

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Energy Reduction Targets

- 15% savings from municipal facilities 2004 baseline by 2015.
- 10% savings from the 2006 municipal facilities baseline by 2015.
- 10% reduction from 2004 baseline for community emissions by 2015.

What the **General Plan** Says

Support and encourage the use of alternative energy sources and generating industries to provide more reliability in the supply of electricity to the City and to promote the development of clean, sustainable, and alternative energy industries in the City.

What the **Energy Action Plan** Says

Sets energy reduction targets and outlines key actions to reduce municipal energy use. The Energy Action Plan recommends numerous energy efficiency upgrades, fleet performance and efficiency policies, and guidelines for selecting improvements.

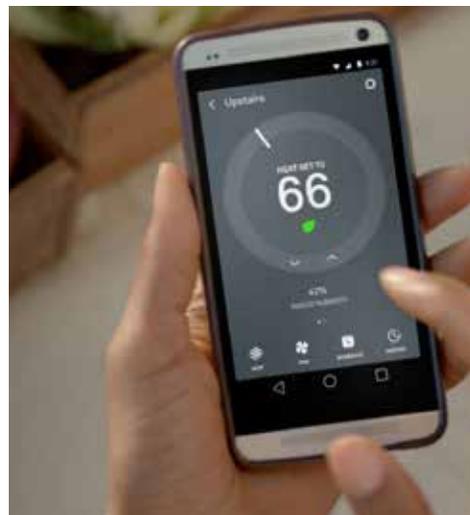
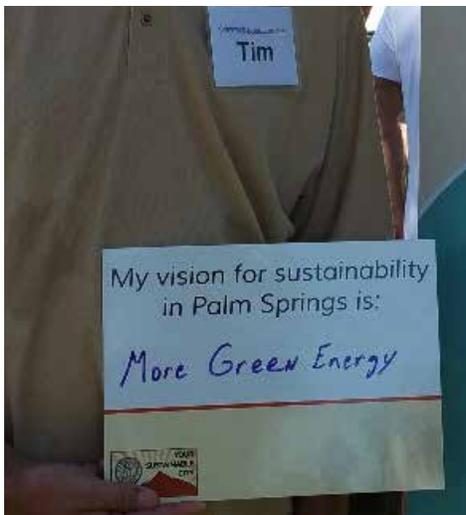
Supportive Energy Policies and Regulations

- [Energy Benchmarking Policy and Procedures](#): Provides the City with a tool to assess the relative energy needs for City buildings and guidance to monitor energy use and report, assess and recommend changes and improvements.
- [Commissioning and Retro-Commissioning Policy](#): Guides the City in "tuning-up" to ensure proper operation of major equipment, proper indoor air quality, desired occupant comfort, and optimum energy consumption of existing equipment.
- [Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System Permits](#): Provides for expedited, streamlined permitting processes for small residential rooftop solar.
- [Solar Ready Ordinance](#)



VISION

Palm Springs is a high efficiency, renewable energy city.  



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Adopted the City's Energy Action Plan in 2013.
2. Upgraded the City's cogeneration plant resulting in 2.5m kWh in electricity savings and reducing City energy costs by over \$800,000.
3. Recent sustainability initiatives have resulted in energy savings of over 14.7m kWh and over 37,000 therms, equivalent to 4,400 tonnes of CO₂e annually.
4. Installed LED lights in all traffic signals throughout the City and all taxi areas and runways at the Palm Springs airport.
5. Placed 40 electric vehicle stations around the City with installations completed in 2013.
6. Received over 50,000 ENERGY STAR pledges from Palm Spring's residents and visitors.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Turn lights off when you leave a room, and turn off electronics when not in use.
- Replace standard light bulbs with energy-efficient LED and high-performance fluorescent lighting.
- Upgrade to high-efficiency appliances and get rebates from [SCE](#) and the [Gas Company](#).
- Participate in Energy Upgrade California, the [HERO](#) or [YGRENE](#) program to help finance energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades.
- Participate in the Palm Springs [Residential Energy Efficiency Program](#) and rebates.
- Air-seal and insulate your home to reduce air conditioning use in summer months.
- Urge policy makers to support national, state and local legislation and regulations to reduce barrier to residential and commercial installations of solar.
- Obtain an [energy audit](#).

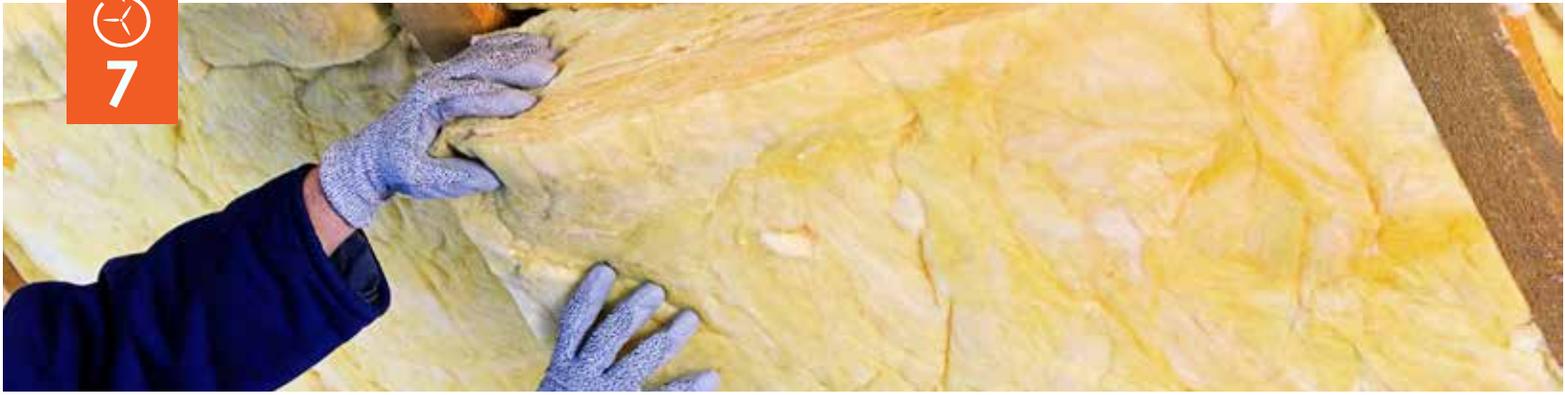
energy + public health

Health Co-benefits

Promoting energy efficient buildings and renewable energy will provide many health co-benefits to residents and business owners in Palm Springs. Improving ventilation, sealing drafty leaks, and other residential efficiency upgrades improve indoor air quality by reducing exposure to outdoor allergens and harmful air pollutants. These improvements can also control moisture, reducing mold and other indoor allergens that contribute to and exacerbate asthma. Improving insulation, sealing cracks, and installing double-pane windows can also lessen the impact of noise pollution, making homes quieter and improving stress levels and sleep conditions. Improving energy efficiency can reduce employee exposure to pollution sources, improve ventilation, and enhance personal comfort, leading to improved employee health and well-being. Efficient buildings tend to have more natural light, which is associated with workers getting more sleep and physical activity. All of these outcomes have all been proven to increase employee productivity. Students, faculty, and staff also benefit from school energy efficiency upgrades. Improved air quality leads to fewer sick days, more engaged students, and overall enhanced student performance.

Generating electricity from renewable energy can reduce demand for coal and natural gas energy generation and lower emissions of carbon dioxide and air pollutants, noise levels, and visual impacts, and make contributions to improve public health for people living and working near power plants. Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy can reduce premature mortality, lost workdays, and overall healthcare costs. Supporting lower-income residents and small businesses through income-qualified programs to install solar panels reduces utility bills freeing up more funds for healthier food, preventative health care, or higher employee wages. Solar panels can also increase property values which helps build wealth, a top predictor of health.

Renewable energy can also make Palm Springs more resilient. Distributed energy systems spread out over a large area may be better able to withstand equipment system failure during extreme heat events, localized flooding, or other natural disasters.



VISION

Palm Springs is a high efficiency, renewable energy city.  

Reduce the total energy use by all buildings built before 2012 by 10%.

1. Continue to actively partner with serving utilities through the Desert Cities Energy Partnership to fully utilize energy efficiency and demand response programs in municipal facilities.
2. Increase educational and outreach efforts to residential, commercial, and institutional building owners to increase awareness of SCE and the Gas Company programs, rebates, and incentives and CVAG's Green for Life Green Building Program to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings and pools.
3. Promote third-party programs and financing sources, such as the PACE program, to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.
4. Facilitate income-qualified energy efficiency programs such as those offered by the LiHEAP program managed by the Community Action Partnership of Riverside County and other programs administered by the SoCal Gas Company and SCE.
5. Continue leveraging federal, state, regional, and other funding sources to retrofit existing municipal facilities and public housing.
6. Complete 100% of remaining Energy Action Plan measures outlined in Phase III of the Energy Action Plan.
7. Install timers on outdoor recreational facilities and schools.

8. Partner with Board of Realtors to create a policy requiring energy disclosure, audits, and/or upgrades at time of sale for residential and commercial properties. 
9. Promote and participate in group purchasing of energy efficiency goods and services with other CVAG cities/tribes.

Reduce energy use and carbon use from new homes and buildings.

1. Partner with CVAG to increase educational and outreach efforts to the construction industry and local developers to participate in the Green for Life Green Building Program to increase building efficiency.
2. Highlight development projects that voluntarily meet complete the Green for Life Green Building Program.
3. Establish incentives, educational materials, and local partnership to encourage highly-sustainable building design and site design that receive LEED, Sustainable Sites, Living Building Challenge, or similar certification.
4. Evaluate and amend the zoning code to ensure passive solar techniques are integrated into site and building design guidelines.



Promote outdoor lighting standards that minimize light trespass and reduce light pollution and protect the surrounding outdoor environment from outdoor lighting impacts.

1. Consider implementing an outdoor lighting ordinance that reduces glare, light trespass, and skyglow such as the [IDA Dark Sky](#) model.
2. Encourage new construction to use energy efficient fixtures controlled by motion sensors and include cut off controls and outdoor lighting controls.
3. Encourage new construction to design and orient lighting towards development and minimizing light trespass into natural areas.

Supply 50% of the all energy renewable sources by 2030 and 75% of all City building's energy from renewable sources by 2020.

1. Produce a City resource guide for commercial and residential solar installation, including information on state and local regulations, incentives, and other third-party programs.
2. Promote solar housing programs that provide no- or low-cost solar for families living with limited or fixed incomes. ✓
3. Explore establishment of a Community Choice Aggregator to procure and sell electricity to Palm Springs residents at competitive rates.
4. Evaluate establishment of a local energy ordinance to require new commercial and residential buildings to provide solar-generated power.
5. Develop a solar "Model Citizens" program for Palm Springs residents that promotes solar installation.
6. Establish an ordinance to enable wind generation on residential and commercial buildings in Palm Springs.
7. Hold annual demonstration workshops for City permitting and inspection staff to enhance understanding and familiarity with renewable and new technology and installation procedures.
8. Leverage grant funding to increase renewable energy generation on City-owned facilities and properties.
9. Evaluate opportunities to increase local energy generation at the City's municipal waste water treatment plant.
10. Work with Social Edison to retrofit or buy back street lights and retrofit them with LEDs that comply with Dark Sky standards.

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Water Conservation + Efficiency

Source: Desert Sun

INTRODUCTION

California is facing one of the most severe droughts on record. Though droughts are a natural part of the climate, climate change has the potential to significantly alter the patterns of water availability and demand in the future. Because of this, Palm Springs will need to make permanent changes to water fixtures, irrigation systems and landscaping, and overall water use to ensure it is prepared for climate change. For the City to achieve a high-level of sustainability, water conservation and efficiency is considered a high priority.

Fortunately, Palm Springs has made great strides in reducing water use. The City has implemented new water efficiency and conservation initiatives, including the programs to increase the use of smart irrigation controllers and low-flow toilets and to buyback lawns. In addition to these programs, the City is enforcing stricter water regulations, providing resources to residents to reduce water usage at home, and increasing recycled water throughout the City. Moving forward, the City will maintain its commitment towards water conservation and water efficiency throughout the community.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

GOALS

- 50% reduction in municipal water use
- 30% reduction in community water use

What the **General Plan** Says

Ensure an adequate supply of quality water is provided to the City by implementing an integrated water conservation program, increasing the use of reclaimed water, and developing model ordinances for stormwater runoff.

What the **Water Conservation Ordinance** Says

Promote water conservation and establishes regulations for water conservation and water waste, including penalties for violation.

What the **Water-efficient Landscaping Ordinance** Says

Establish minimum water-efficient landscape requirements for newly installed and rehabilitated landscapes to promote water conservation through the planning, design, installation, and maintenance of landscapes by the use of climate appropriate plant material and efficient irrigation.

10

gallons of water used annually citywide
(Source: State Water Resources Control Board, 2010)

201

gallons of water per capita used daily
(Source: State Water Resources Control Board, 2010)

1.4

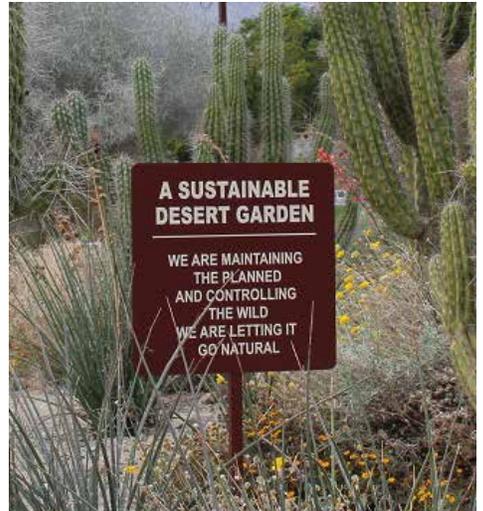
billion gallons of water is recycled annually
(Source: State Water Resources Control Board, 2010)

8,253,211

gallons of domestic water used in 2010
(Source: GHG Inventory, 2010)

VISION

Palm Springs is a leader in water efficiency and reuse.  



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Adopting Water Conservation and Water-efficient Landscaping Ordinances.
2. Participating in the Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee of the Resource Conservation Commission to evaluate opportunities for water and energy conservation.
3. Using reclaimed water on the Tahquitz Creek and Mesquite municipal golf courses, DeMuth Park, and Indian Canyons Golf Resort.
4. Implementation of the City's "Chevron Project" will save over one million gallons of water annually.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Participate in the [Lawn Buyback Program](#) to replace turf with low- or no-water-use, desert friendly, and native landscaping.
- Take part in the TAPit! Program.
- Replace the standard toilets in your home to low-flow toilets and get a rebate through the [City's Low-flow Toilet Program](#).
- Limit outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week between 7pm and 7am.
- Participate in a Desert Water Agency's [hospitality conversion program](#).
- Get a free shower timer and low-flow faucet aerator from the City.
- Request the no-cost [Energy Efficiency Starter Kit](#) from SoCal Gas, which include faucet aerators and a low-flow showerhead.
- Use green household cleaning products.
- Improve and protect the watershed by increasing our commitment to water conservation, restoration, and creeks.
- Install water filtration systems in your home.

water + public health

Health Co-benefits

Maintaining an adequate water supply is a basic necessity for health of individuals and communities. Promoting conservation programs and supporting water infrastructure improvements to expand water reuse and recycling helps insure that tap water remains healthy for human consumption and prevents consumers from having to purchase bottled water. On a household level, water conservation can generate financial savings – allowing low-income families to spare money for healthy food, health care, housing or other

necessities. Identifying and fixing leaking pipes can reduce or prevent the unhealthy growth of indoor molds and mildews which in turn improves indoor air quality, reduces allergens, and improves respiratory health. Replacing lawns with drought-tolerant, native plants and trees can provide shade and a cooling effect for residents. This can increase the comfort of homes without air conditioning. Incentive programs can target low-income and communities of color to ensure an equitable distribution of resources.



VISION

Palm Springs is a leader in water efficiency and reuse.



Reduce potable water use in City facilities by 50% by 2020.

1. Continue converting road median and parkway strips to low-water, native, and drought-tolerant species.
2. Limit watering times at City facilities.
3. Develop guidelines that reduce water use for road medians, parkways, parks, and other city facilities.
4. Continue implementing water efficiency and conservation methods at all City facilities, targeting those facilities with the highest water use.
5. Convert park and golf course irrigation systems to recycled water use, reduce high-water plants, and use smart irrigation systems.
6. Encourage the installation and provide resources for waterless urinals.

Reduce potable water usage per capita in Palm Springs by 30% by 2020.

1. Collaborate with the Desert Water Agency to promote and implement water conservation measures, leak detection, and water efficient fixtures in Palm Springs.
2. Continue to expand community outreach and engagement efforts to residential, commercial, and hotel owners to increase awareness of existing water efficiency incentive programs and City water conservation requirements through the City's website, the Organized Neighborhoods of

Palm Springs (ONE-PS), the Neighborhood Organizations, and other community-based organizations.

3. Continue to promote and augment rebates for individual residences and HOAs for Lawn Buy Back Program and drought-tolerant landscaping.
4. Work with the Desert Water Agency to identify high-water consumer homes and businesses and target outreach and engagement efforts to these properties.
5. Partner with the Desert Water Agency to promote smart metering and continuous monitoring of community water use.
6. Partner with hotels and the Desert Water Agency to increase the number of hotels participating the "Desert Water-Worth Saving" campaign.
7. Promote the installation of irrigation control sensors and drought-tolerant plants for golf courses.
8. Partner with CVAG to increase educational and outreach efforts to the construction industry and local developers to participate in the Green for Life Green Building Program to increase building water efficiency.
9. Establish incentives, educational materials, and local partnership to encourage highly-sustainable building and site design that receive LEED, Sustainable Sites, Living Building Challenge, or similar certification.
10. Work with the Desert Water Agency to increase water and wastewater rate tiers to encourage more conservation.



Increase recycled and gray water usage in Palm Springs by 10% by 2020.

1. Explore adoption of a local gray water ordinance that requires all new residential development to be constructed for easy implementation of gray water systems.
2. Require new parks, golf courses, and other large open areas to connect to the recycled water system.
3. Support expansion of the recycled water system to serve existing commercial and multifamily development.
4. Establish a municipal gray water pilot project.

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Solid Waste + Recycling

INTRODUCTION

Managing and reducing solid waste is an essential part of Palm Springs' path towards sustainability. The City of Palm Springs has a very successful existing residential recycling program, diverting 75% of household waste and ranking third out of 24 cities in Riverside County. Getting to zero waste is more than asking how we deal with the garbage we have but also how we handle things upstream, at the point of product design and distribution. If waste is designed out from the start, we eliminate the throw away end product as well as the materials, time, and energy required to get it there in the first place.

Recycling and composting are important steps in reducing the environmental impact of homes and businesses. However, the majority of energy use and carbon emissions from the goods we buy and the food we consume relate to the production, transportation, and selling of these products. A sustainable community continues to invest and support in its waste diversion program, but it also makes smart and sustainable decisions about product purchasing, use, and production. Going further, the City can adopt policies and find opportunities to create closed-loop systems where waste from one source becomes a food stock or input for another.

Though Palm Springs residents and businesses are good recyclers and composters, there are many opportunities to improve existing solid waste, recycling, composting, and other diversion programs. Typically, renters and linguistically-isolated groups do not have access to the same program information and services available to homeowners. Identifying and targeting outreach to these underserved populations can remove barriers to participation in these programs. Rapid acceleration of aggressive waste reduction and re-use programs is critical to help Palm Springs move towards becoming a zero waste community.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Targets

- Divert 80.1% of solid waste by 2015
- Divert 90.1% of solid waste by 2020

What the **General Plan** Says

Decrease the risk of exposure of life, property, and the environment to hazardous and toxic materials and waste, while utilizing municipal sewage and solid wastes as an alternative energy source. The General Plans calls for the City to implement a program to recycle construction and demolition debris.

75%

diversion rate citywide
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

14,000

households and 70 HOAs
participating in the
recycling program
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)

79%

of all recyclable
materials are recycled
appropriately
(Source: City of Palm Springs, 2015)



VISION

Palm Springs is a zero waste community.  



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Diverting 75% of waste in 2010, up from 40% in 1995.
2. Creating citywide recycling programs via roadside pick-up, hazardous waste collection, and other initiatives have diverted over 169,000 tons from landfills, resulting in greenhouse gas reductions of 29,000 tonnes of CO₂E.
3. Adopted an ordinance to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and promote the use of reusable bags in retail establishments.
4. Shredding and diverting more than 50 tons of e-waste from the landfill each year through community events.
5. Offering a 24-hour electronic waste drop off facility.
6. Installed over 150 solar-powered trash compactors in high traffic areas downtown, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 70%.
7. Hosted a free composting workshop run by Riverside County.
8. Developed a [Green Packaging Grant](#) to incentivize businesses to switch from non-biodegradable/non-compostable packaging to biodegradable and compostable packaging and materials.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Recycle and encourage others at work or in businesses you patronize to recycle and reuse.
- Buy products with less packaging and bring your own cloth bag to the store and containers to restaurants.
- Reuse bags and containers when shopping, traveling, or packing lunches or leftovers.
- Choose products that are returnable, reusable, or refillable over single-use items.
- Sign up for the [Stop Junk Mail campaign](#).
- Substitute reusable items for consumables: use towels, rags, and sponges for cleaning, use cloth napkins, use reusable bags, collect and use plastic food storage containers.
- Utilize the [City's electronic waste center](#) for unwanted computers, used batteries, other electronic equipment.
- Compost leftover food waste.
- Divert green waste using the [PSDS Green Waste program](#).
- Utilize the [needles and other medical sharps disposal program](#).

waste + public health

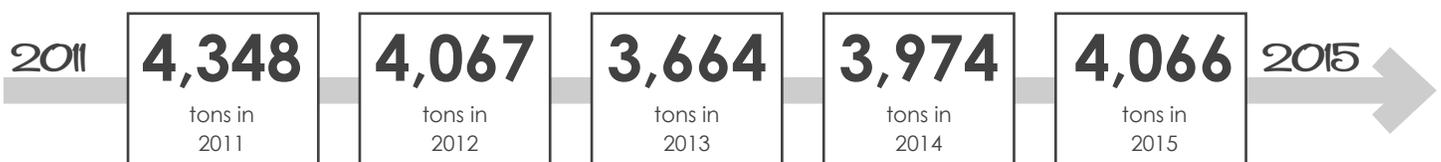
Health Co-benefits

Reducing the City's overall waste stream can provide many health and equity co-benefits to residents and business owners in Palm Springs. Recycling and composting programs can result in a significant diversion of waste from landfills, which reduces the City's need to expand or create new landfills. Living near landfills poses health risks such as inhaling methane gas, along with leachate, a toxic liquid that comes out of all that compressed trash. Additionally, leaks in landfill pipes can contaminate ground water (which can become tap water). Studies have found that health impacts include: possible increased risks of certain types

of cancer, including bladder, brain and leukemia; increased risk of birth defects; reduced immune system function; and increased child hospitalizations for acute respiratory infections and asthma.

When residents and businesses work towards zero waste, they often become more conscious consumers. The zero-waste approach to food preparation can result in healthier, less processed, and more affordable food. Additionally, community members may save money by repairing existing possessions instead of purchasing new ones.

Recycling Timeline





VISION

Palm Springs is a zero waste community.  

Encourage an overall reduction in materials and goods consumption.

1. Adopt product Stewardship Policies to ensure producers of waste create programs to take back their products and their packaging. 
2. Partner with local commercial and residential developers to evaluate materials management strategies, including the sourcing of raw materials, reuse and recycling of materials, and selection of environmentally-sensitive sources.
3. Create a local campaign that connects residents to resources to that advocate buying smart, reusing, sharing goods and services, and maintaining existing products.
4. Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of buildings to conserve natural resources, historic resources, and reduce waste.
5. Recruit businesses to Palm Springs who can use existing waste streams as inputs.
6. Continue to support on-going programs for reusable shopping bags.
7. Expand Product Stewardship programs for drug and SHARPS recycling to encourage and include pharmacies and pharmaceutical company participation.
8. Encourage businesses to participate in [Compostable Packaging Grant](#).

Expand programs to increase landfill waste diversion, recycling, and composting to recover 90% of all waste generated by 2030.

1. Adopt an ordinance to require multi-family recycling. 
2. Expand outreach and technical assistance to Homeowner Associations, multi-family residences, and seasonal residents to increase participation in the residential recycling and composting programs. 
3. Work with Palm Spring Disposal Services to help implement plans of action for HOA recycling and do conduct regular audits of the program.
4. Work with Palm Springs Disposal Services to provide incentives for homeowners to select the economy service.
5. Explore increasing the minimum requirements for construction and demolition waste to 65%, consistent with the CALGreen Tier I guidelines.
6. Expand commercial recycling and composting for businesses in the City by encouraging participation in waste audits and providing technical assistwindsance focused on small businesses. 
7. Work with Palm Springs Unified School District to educate students about the lifecycle of consumer goods and food and promote recycling and composting at home.
8. Work with Palm Springs Unified School District schools to increase recycling and composting.



-
9. Continue funding the Household Hazardous Waste and electronics recycling programs to provide the community a continuous opportunity to properly dispose of these waste products.
 10. Evaluate implementation of a recyclable take-out container program to reduce the use of non-recyclable take-out containers at restaurants across the City.
 11. Implement net zero special events.

Reduce food scraps and green waste sent the landfills by 50% by 2025.

1. Develop and promote food sharing programs within Palm Springs, providing excess food to organizations that support food security. 
2. Work with Palm Springs Disposal Services (PSDS) to include food scraps as part of the green waste collection for residential uses.
3. Partner with PSDS to implement provisions of the California Commercial Organics legislation.
4. Pilot a small businesses and school food-composting and green waste program with PSDS for businesses not covered by State Commercial Organics legislation.
5. Initiate a food scraps program at all City facilities, placing compost bins in all public locations and common areas.

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Food + Urban Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Healthy food is critical to the health, wellbeing, and sustainability of Palm Springs. A strong community-based food system can promote equity and strengthen the local economy. Despite the relative affluence of Palm Springs, many residents do not have access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food. In a healthy food system, all residents have access to healthy food.

Though Palm Springs neither grows, processes, nor distributes food, the City's policies can foster an environment that supports these activities. The City can embrace sustainable food production by setting citywide policies and regulations, promoting local food efforts, and providing best practices and other related information to residents and businesses. All of which can support urban agriculture efforts in the City.

4.1%

low-income food
insecurity
(Source: AskCHIS, 2014)

22.8%

of the population is
obese
(Source: AskCHIS, 2014)

1

community garden
(Source: City of Palm Springs,
2015)

3

school gardens
(Source: City of Palm Springs,
2015)



VISION

Palm Springs is a healthier, more food-secure community that supports community-based agriculture.  



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Worked with the Clinton Foundation and other partners to plant an orchard at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center.
2. Established Demuth Community Center Garden and other gardens at local Palm Springs schools.
3. Conducted Palm Springs' first Edible Garden Tour.
4. Hosted a workshop informing regional gardeners what grows best in desert climate and at what time of the year.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Volunteer at one of the City's community gardens.
- Start a community garden in your neighborhood or volunteer at an existing garden.
- Volunteer at a [food bank](#).
- Reduce the amount of meat you eat.
- Plant fruit trees, vegetable garden on your property and participate in [edible landscape grant](#).
- Donate excess fruits and vegetables for redistribution.
- Visit your [local Farmers' Market](#) and strive for a more plant based and locally sourced seasonal diet.
- Compost food scraps and green waste.

food + public health

Health Co-benefits

Promoting and supporting a local food system that connects producers with consumers, through farmers markets and community programs, and that supports resident gardening can create more equitable, healthy food access. Improving poor nutrition can also improve the associated health risks, including obesity and type 2 diabetes. Low-income residents are particularly affected by diet-related disease and would benefit substantially from improved healthy food access by these efforts.




VISION

Palm Springs is a healthier, more food-secure community that supports community-based agriculture.  

Reduce the consumption of resource-intensive foods.

1. Create policy and practices to provide healthy, locally-produced food and beverage options at City-sponsored events. Provide tap water rather than bottled water.
2. Encourage a city-supported "Meatless Monday" initiative.
3. Promote healthier, more sustainable diets through collaborations with community-based organizations.
4. Support efforts to increase composting on non-edible food.
5. Provide incentives to SNAP participants to redeem benefits at local farmers markets.

Support community-based food systems that produce healthy foods and reduce food waste.

1. Support farmers markets and small retailers that sell healthy and locally produced food.
2. Partner with a community-based organization to manage, maintain, and evaluate the potential for new community gardens.
3. Continue to expand the school garden program to additional campuses in Palm Springs.
4. Establish a neighborhood produce exchange.
5. Work with community partners to create a food share network (or citrus gleaning program) that allows homeowners, growers and other to donate excess food (citrus) to food-insecure residents in Palm Springs and surrounding communities.

6. Continue increasing the planting of fruit trees on publically-owned land.
7. Promote educational opportunities for residents and business to increase skills and knowledge of gardening, food preservation, and fruit production.
8. Continue providing rebates for homeowners who replace lawns and high-water plants with [edible gardens](#).
9. Establish a pilot project to demonstrate alternative agriculture methods, such as permaculture, hydroponics, and aquaponics.
10. Evaluate alternative food source options such as Hydroponics and encourage business development for alternative methods of food production.
11. Create at least one urban farming pilot project.

Evaluate existing regulation to better understand barriers to growing and producing food.

1. Incorporate urban agriculture uses into long range planning efforts, including the General Plan and zoning. 
2. Examine city policies that relate to healthy food production.
3. Encourage innovative design in new development by incorporating community gardens, allotments, edible landscapes, or other community-based food systems.
4. Promote efforts to expand urban food production on privately-owned land.



Source: Heather Collins

INTRODUCTION

Palm Springs is a leader on sustainability issues. The City has taken steps to reduce energy and water use, lower vehicle fuel consumption, and divert solid waste from landfills. Cogeneration plant retrofits, street light upgrades, and the energy efficiency and solar installation at City facilities have helped lower municipal energy use and costs. The City has made deep and permanent cuts to water use meeting the State's goal for water reduction. Taken together, these actions highlight the leadership of Palm Springs on making municipal operations more efficient and effective.

By taking a leadership role, the City motivates residents and businesses to be more healthy and sustainable. Opportunities for the City to lead by example include committing to build public buildings to high green standards, accelerating vehicle replacement, enhancing energy efficiency and the use of sustainable products, and developing the infrastructure to support the use of active transportation.

Still the City can do more. Ensuring that all residents have access to healthy, livable neighborhoods, prosperity through green jobs, and the myriad of sustainability benefits will ensure that all residents will benefit from sustainable actions.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

What the **General Plan** Says

Establish the City as a leader in energy efficient and environmentally sustainable development and planning practices.

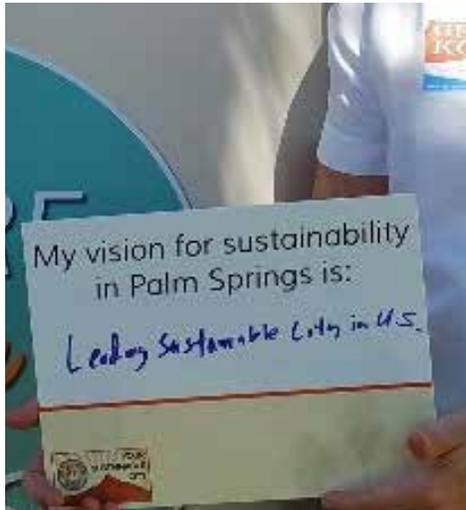
29,232

tonnes CO₂e of
greenhouse gas emissions
from municipal operations
(Source: GHG Inventory, 2010)



VISION

Palm Springs is a model for sustainable practices throughout every department in the City.



CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Organized a Sustainability Summit Week including a public lecture on sustainability featuring noted environmentalist David Suzuki.
2. Created the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission.
3. Adopted a local preference ordinance.
4. Made energy efficient updates to the City's cogeneration facility to become more sustainable, efficient, and high performing.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get involved in the local community by volunteering at one of our [“Healthy Planet, Healthy You” events.](#)
- Participate in the [Community Moves Me](#) days.
- Get connected with the Office of Sustainability through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter.](#)
- [Register to vote.](#)
- Get involved in your [neighborhood organization.](#)



VISION

Palm Springs is a model for sustainable practices throughout every department in the City.



Embed sustainable principles and practices into city operations.

1. Form a collaboration between the Sustainability Commission, Mayor, and Green Team to establish an annual sustainability action goal.
2. Identify a senior staffer from each City department or agency to carry out sustainability measures.
3. Develop annual departmental work plans for sustainability that define three to five actions that the department will implement during the year.
4. Reconvene an inter-departmental Green Team that meets quarterly to share best practices, identify opportunities for collaboration, and discuss progress towards annual sustainability goals. Twice a year the meeting would be led by the City Manager and Council subcommittee and twice a year led by the Office of Sustainability. 
5. Through the Green Team, define numeric goals for reductions in fuel consumption, energy and water use, solid waste generation for municipal operations and other health and sustainability issues.

6. Continue to increase capacity by adding additional full- or part-time staff to the Office of Sustainability.
7. Publish an annual, standardized sustainability report card showing progress towards numeric goals and promoting departmental accomplishments.

Embed sustainability into capital improvement review, design, and construction.

1. Establish a process to incorporate sustainability into the planning and design process for capital improvement projects, screening projects using a triple bottom line approach and incorporating a life-cycle evaluation of costs and benefits.
2. Whenever feasible, utilize post-consumer recycled content of at least 50% of the total mass of infrastructure materials:
 - Roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, unit paving, and curbs.
 - Water retention tanks and vaults.
 - Base and subbase materials for the above.
 - Thermal energy distribution systems.



VISION

Palm Springs is a model for sustainable practices throughout every department in the City.



3. During infrastructure construction, use recycled water to meet water needs where available.
4. Encourage use of equipment to achieve a 60% average annual energy reduction below the estimated baseline energy use for those products.
5. Encourage use of construction equipment powered by alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas rather than conventional petroleum or diesel to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Encourage use of electric or hybrid-electric construction equipment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ensure all employees have a baseline understanding of sustainability principles and regular opportunities for learning.

1. Conduct "Sustainability 101" trainings with all employees with approval from their supervisors.
2. Conduct bi-annual trainings of all employees on key sustainability topics and how to implement sustainability measures through existing City programs and processes.
3. Provide training and accreditation for select City staff related to LEED for Neighborhood Design, LEED New Construction, Well Building, the Living Building Challenge, EcoDistricts, Sustainable Sites, CALGreen, and other related building and urban design standards.

Foster a safe and healthy work environment.

1. Pilot healthy building design and/or retrofit at a City facility.
2. Establish a workplace wellness program that identifies places around the City facilities to engage in physical activity and encourages employees to walk or bike to work, among other things.
3. Add healthy foods to vending machines and provide healthy snacks and tap water during meetings.
4. Place health-related posters (nutrition, physical activity) in public places.
5. Provide the opportunity for all employees to receive an annual ergonomic evaluation of their work area.
6. Support nursing mothers by providing comfortable rooms for expressing milk.
7. Provide regular, onsite health, wellness, and mental health services, including flu shots. Restrict the use of "Red List" chemical in municipal operations as defined by the Living Building Challenge.

Adopt sustainable practices and purchasing policies.

1. Adopt a green purchasing policy that gives preference to goods and services that minimize exposure to toxic chemicals, prevent waste, reduce consumption of electricity, fuel, water or paper, conserve natural resources, and support sustainable manufacturing, fair trade, and the local economy.



2. Develop guidelines regarding purchasing and labor procurement with attention to fair labor practices.
3. Expand the City's local preference ordinance to include social equity and environmental practices.

Embed sustainability concepts and practices into the local culture through education, promotion, and community engagement.

1. Form a Green Citizen Academy to help teach the community about sustainability. ✓
2. Maintain a single, City sustainability website as a resource for the community. ✓
3. Encourage community members of all ages to participate in Palm Springs Neighborhood Organizations, community improvement efforts, and civic affairs.
4. Develop an engagement framework that moves from inform and consulting the community about planning and implementation efforts to collaborative decision making and empowerment.
5. Continue working with the local network of sustainability-related groups to share resources, build partnerships, and unify outreach efforts.
6. Work with community partners and public and private schools to incorporate sustainability into curriculum.
7. Continue implementing the Healthy Planet Healthy You program.

Be a regional leader.

1. Support regional efforts through the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) to protect and enhance regional ecosystems.
2. Promote and participate in group purchasing of energy efficiency goods and services with other CVAG cities/tribes.
3. Participate in the development and implementation of regional strategies to meet the requirements of AB 32 and SB 375.
4. Continue participation in the Desert Cities Energy Partnership.
5. Continue working with local jurisdictions to plan, design, and implementation regional transportation solutions.

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glossary

AB 32

California State Law that fights climate change by establishing a comprehensive program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources throughout the state.

Action

An action is a program, implementation measure, procedure or technique intended to help achieve a specified objective.

Active Transportation

Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating or skateboarding.

Adaptation (or climate change adaptation)

Actions that develop ways to protect people and places by reducing their vulnerability to climate impacts.

Bikesharing

Bikesharing provides short-term bicycle rentals that allow users to access bicycles on an “as-needed” basis.

Bikeways

A term that encompasses “bicycle lanes,” “bicycle paths” and “bicycle routes.”

Carsharing

Carsharing programs provide individuals with on-demand access to a shared fleet of vehicles on an as-needed basis.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Legislation and corresponding procedural components established in 1970 by the State of California to require environmental review for projects anticipated to result in adverse impacts to the environment.

California Green Building Code (CALGreen)

The current version of the California Green Building Standards Code.

Carbon Neutrality

Achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset, or buying enough carbon credits to make up the difference.

Certified Farmer's Markets

A certified farmers' market is a location, certified by the Agricultural Commissioner, where a producer sells only their own fruits and vegetables directly to consumers. A Certified Farmers' Market may only be operated by a local government, a certified producer or a non-profit organization.

Clean Air Vehicle

A vehicle that meets specified emissions standards as defined by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Clean Technology

Products, processes or services that reduce waste and require as few non-renewable resources as possible.

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

A planning document developed for or by a governmental body aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within its jurisdiction. A CAP typically provides an inventory, sets benchmark goals, and provides policymakers with a set of recommendations.

Climate change

The long-term shift in regional and global weather patterns, including temperature.

CO₂

Carbon Dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

CO₂e

The universal unit of measurement used to indicate the global warming potential (GWP) of each, or a combination of greenhouse gases. It is used to evaluate the impacts of releasing (or avoiding the release of) different greenhouse gases.

Coachella Valley Health Collaborative (CVHC)

A collaborative of local community leaders that strive to provide a meaningful forum for individuals, agencies, and organizations to improve the health and well-being of residents of Eastern Riverside County, California.

Coachella Valley Healthy Lifestyle Challenge

A walking challenge that is put on each year by the Coachella Valley Health Collaborative (CVHC) to encourage physical activity and fitness. Cities like Palm Springs are encouraged to issue challenges to other cities to foster friendly competition for physical fitness.

Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)

CVAG is the regional planning agency coordinating government services in the Coachella Valley. By providing solutions to the common issues of the local governments and tribes that are its members, CVAG promotes a better quality of life and balanced growth for residents of Central and Eastern Riverside County.

Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP)

CVEP is a nonprofit economic vitality organization devoted to attracting, retaining and expanding business and developing a high-skilled workforce to enhance the economy and quality of life of the region.

Community Garden

A piece of land that is gardened by a group of people. Community gardens provide access to fresh produce and plants, as well as neighborhood improvement and a sense of community and connection to the environment.

Conservation

The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction or neglect.

CNG

A readily available alternative to gasoline that's made by compressing natural gas to less than 1% of its volume at standard atmospheric pressure.

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)

A multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design.

Desert Healthcare District (DHCD)

A public agency, created in 1948, that serves residents of Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and Palm Desert. DHCD's mission is to promote good health for the District's residents by providing community grants and protecting and enhancing the assets of the District.

Edible Park

A public park where ornamental plants are replaced with edible plants such as herbs, fruit trees, and vegetables. Edible parks may provide opportunities to provide food security, nutrition education, and community stewardship.

Ecosystem

An interacting system formed by a biotic community and its physical environment.

Electric Vehicle (EV)

An electric vehicle is an alternative fuel automobile that uses electric motors and motor controllers for propulsion, in place of more common propulsion methods such as the internal combustion engine.

FixIt Station

A public station containing all the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance.

Foodshare Network

A program for harvesting and gleaning the backyards and open spaces of the City of Palm Springs. The program functions to gather and distribute, amongst the community, nutritional fruits and vegetables on participating properties as well as individual backyards that would otherwise go to waste.

General Plan

A compendium of City policies regarding its long-term development, in the form of maps and accompanying text. The General Plan is a legal document required of each local agency by the State of California Government Code Section 65301 and adopted by the City Council. In California, the General Plan has seven mandatory elements (Circulation, Conservation, Housing, Land

Use, Noise, Open Space and Public Safety) and may include any number of optional elements the City deems important.

Get Tested Coachella Valley (GTCV)

A region-wide public health campaign dedicated to dramatically reducing HIV by making HIV testing standard and routine medical practice and ensuring linkages to care.

Global Warming

The long-term warming of the planet.

Goal

A description of the general desired results that Hermosa Beach seeks to create through the implementation of the General Plan. Goals are included in each element and may include the key physical or community characteristics that the City and its residents wish to maintain or develop.

Grant

Grants are non-repayable funds or products disbursed by one party (grant makers), often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust, to a recipient, often (but not always) a nonprofit entity, educational institution, business or an individual.

Greywater

The less contaminated portion of domestic wastewater, including wash water from clothes washers and laundry tubs.

Groundwater

Water that exists beneath the earth's surface, typically found between saturated soils and rock, and is used to supply wells and springs.

Green Building

Environmentally responsible and resource-efficient processes throughout a building's life-cycle: from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition.

Green Job

Work in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development (R&D), administrative, and service activities that contribute(s) substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality.

Greenhouse Effect

A term used to describe the warming of the Earth's atmosphere due to accumulated carbon dioxide and other gases in the upper atmosphere. These gases absorb energy radiated from the Earth's surface, "trapping" it in the same manner as glass in a greenhouse traps heat.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation produced by solar warming of the Earth's surface.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

An accounting of the amount of greenhouse gases discharged into that atmosphere, usually within a given jurisdiction.

Habitat

The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Healthy Active Living and Sustainable Communities (HEAL) Resolution

As a part of the Healthy Eating Active Living Cities campaign, Palm Springs adopted a HEAL resolution in 2011.

Healthy Planet, Healthy You

A series of health-related events put on by the City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability, including the annual Mayor's Race and Wellness Fair, held in January of each year.

Human Capital

The skills, knowledge, and experience possessed by an individual or population, viewed in terms of their value or cost to an organization or country.

Impervious Surface

Surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as a roof, road, sidewalk, and paved parking lot. The amount of impervious surface increases with development and establishes the need for drainage facilities to carry the increased runoff.

Implementation

Actions, procedures, programs or techniques that carry out policies.

Invasive Species

Plant, fungus, or animal species that is not native to a specific location, and which has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.

Kilowatt-hour (kWh)

One thousand watt-hours.

Land Use

The occupation or utilization of an area of land for any human activity or any purpose.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

A voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing and rating high-performance, sustainable “green” buildings. LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals, such as water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED standards are currently available or under development for: new commercial construction and major renovation projects, existing building operations, commercial interiors projects, core and shell projects, and homes.

Let’s Move! Cities, Towns, and Counties (LMCTC)

A comprehensive initiative launched by the First Lady Michelle Obama that is dedicated to solving the challenge of childhood obesity.

Master Gardener

A volunteer program to advise and educate the public about gardening and horticulture in general. Master Gardeners are highly trained professionals who provide information to the public via hotlines, public events, written articles, and other partnerships.

Meatless Monday

A global movement to encourage people to go without meat one day a week. Going meatless may reduce the risk of chronic preventable conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity, while also helping to reduce water usage and fossil fuel dependence.

Mental Health Summits

A series of three events facilitated by the Coachella Valley Health Collaborative (CVHC) designed to raise awareness about specific mental

health issues and spark collaboration between agencies to address these issues. The 2014-2015 mental health summits focus on depression.

Mitigation

Actions that attempt to slow the process of climate change by lowering the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Mixed Use

Any mixture of land uses on a single parcel, including mixtures of residences with commercial, offices with retail, or visitor accommodation with offices and retail. As distinguished from a single use land use designation or zone, mixed use refers to an authorized variety of uses for buildings and structures in a particular area.

Natural Habitat Area

An area that sustains animal and vegetative biotic resources that has not been improved or disturbed. Natural Habitat Areas can also be areas that were previously “disturbed” and have been reclaimed or rehabilitated.

Per Capita

A measure for each person; in relation to people taken individually.

Policy

A specific statement of principle or of guiding actions that implies clear commitment but is not mandatory. A general direction that a governmental agency sets to follow, in order to meet its goals and objectives before undertaking an implementing action or program.

Placemaking

Capitilizing on a local community’s assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people’s health, happiness, and well being.

Reclaimed/Recycled Water

Wastewater that has been treated to remove impurities, and then allowed to recharge an aquifer. This is typically done by using the reclaimed water for irrigation. Typically, reclaimed water is intended only for non-potable uses such as landscaping maintenance.

Renewable Energy

Any energy source that is naturally replenished, like that derived from solar, wind, geothermal or hydroelectric action.

Resilience

Resilient communities ensure that all residents are prepared and ready to withstand social or environmental challenges.

SB 375

Directs the California Air Resources Board to set regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to encourage a more sustainable Southern California now and in the future.

Smart Growth

Building urban, suburban and rural communities with housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools.

Shared parking

Shared Parking is when parking spaces are shared by more than one user, which allows parking facilities to be used more efficiently.

Stormwater Runoff

Rain (also melting snow and ice) that washes off driveways, parking lots, roads, yards, rooftops, and other hard surfaces.

SunLine Transit Agency

A regional transit company that provides safe and environmentally conscious public transportation services and alternative fuel solutions to the Coachella Valley.

Sustainable Economy

Local economies that are economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible.

Transportation Demand Management

TDM strategies provide incentives for travelers to make the most effective use of our transportation networks, shifting travel by mode and time of day to take advantage of available capacity and reduce congestion.

Telecommuting

A work arrangement in which employees do not commute to a central place of work.

United States Green Building Council (USGBC)

A non-profit trade organization headquartered in Washington, DC, dedicated to promoting green building practices.

Urban Forest

Careful care and management of tree populations in urban settings for the purpose of improving the urban environment.

Urban Greening

Public landscaping and urban forestry projects that create mutually beneficial relationships between city dwellers and their environments.

Vulnerable Populations

The susceptibility of a given population to harm from exposure to a hazard, directly affecting its ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover. vulnerability is a function of diverse demographic and socio-economic factors that influence a community's sensitivity to climate change.

Wastewater

Water that has already been used for washing, flushing, or in a manufacturing process, and therefore contains waste products such as sewage or chemical by-products.

Wastewater Irrigation

The process by which wastewater, that has undergone appropriate treatment, is used to irrigate land.

Zero Net Energy (ZNE)

An entity that produces as much energy as it consumes. This often refers to a building, or group of buildings.

