



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 18, 2016 CONSENT

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Sustainability Master Plan.

FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager

BY: Office of Sustainability, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager

SUMMARY

The Office of Sustainability received a grant through Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to update the Sustainability Master Plan to include a slate of projects and programs that work to further implement the initial recommendations of the 20 First Steps on Sustainability agreed upon by the Palm Springs City Council on May 21, 2008 and further actions outlined in the *Palm Springs Path to a Sustainable Community* adopted on May 27, 2009. The updated plan serves as the City of Palm Springs' compass for our sustainability initiatives to guide not only our municipality's climate and energy action planning but also overall community and environmental health through 2021 and beyond. In addition, the attached updated Sustainability Master Plan provides a synopsis of existing and planned projects including policy and endeavors that directly serve to reduce resources, greenhouse gas emissions and fiscal impact.

City Council is being provided with this staff report and attached materials to prepare for the June 8 joint study session that will review details of the master plan and its implementation as well as review specific issues including green building and leaf blower policies. Following the Sustainability Commission and City Council joint meeting, staff will work on developing specific targets for each objective, along with baselines and metrics to track and report progress. The Office of Sustainability will coordinate this effort and work with the Sustainability Commission to implement the goals of the plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive the Master Plan for Sustainability.
2. Consider comments and recommendations from Council and direct staff to incorporate additions, corrections and revisions to the Master Plan in preparation for the June 8, 2016 joint study session.
3. Accept staff recommendations for 10 key initiatives for 2016-2021

STAFF ANALYSIS:

In March 2008, sustainability was identified as one of five top priority issues for focused attention and action by the City. Shortly thereafter, the City Council unanimously approved a set of twenty first steps towards making Palm Springs a sustainable city. Development of a master plan was identified as an important first step to provide an overall vision and framework to guide the Palm Springs Path to a sustainable Community.

Following issuance of a Request for Proposals in June 2008 and review of proposals, a team of Portland based consultants, led by the firm Cogan Owens Cogan, was contracted in October, 2008 to guide development of the plan. That plan drove the work of the Commission and the Office of Sustainability for the next five years. All of the programs and projects of the initial plan were put in place. The Office of Sustainability continued to create new programs far beyond the specific actions that were set as key initiatives. In 2013 staff began to investigate opportunities for funding to craft a new sustainability master plan to create a vision for the Office of Sustainability's initiatives for the coming years. Staff knew that a new plan was needed to provide city operations, the community and the commission with direction and ambitious goals to endeavor for the future. In May 2013 staff had the opportunity to apply for the SCAG Compass Blueprint Green Region Initiative program. In October 2013 the City won the award and work began to create a new Sustainability Master Plan.

The resulting Sustainability Master Plan (Attachment 1) builds upon existing plans and policies, best practices and programs, including input and feedback obtained during community outreach efforts conducted from December 2015 to March 2016. The plan provides a vision, guiding principles and strategic framework for future operational and policy decisions and sets priorities for action that further embed sustainability concerns into City decision-making and processes.

In addition, based upon the priorities identified in the plan, input from stakeholders and the results of the study session with the Council subcommittee on sustainability there were 10 specific action items identified by staff as key initiatives for implementation in for 2016-2021.

<u>Goal 1:</u> Help to Create 500 Clean Tech Jobs
<u>Goal 2:</u> Reduce Per Capita Energy Use by 50%
<u>Goal 3:</u> Receive 100% of Our City's Electrical Power from Clean, Renewable Sources
<u>Goal 4:</u> Help to encourage the building or retrofitting of 5 Million Square Feet of Green Buildings in the Community

Goal 5: Divert 100% of waste from Landfill
Goal 6: Recycle or Beneficially Reuse 100% of our Wastewater
Goal 7: Adopt a General Plan with even more measurable Standards for Sustainable Development
Goal 8: Ensure that 90 Percent of public Fleet Vehicles Run on Alternative Fuels
Goal 9: Plant 10,000 New Trees
Goal 10: Create 10 Miles of Trails connecting with on-street bikeways

The actions follow the organization of the draft master plan and include key initiatives from each of the priority goal and outcome areas included in the plan. While the master plan is broad in its framework and direction, staff recommended that actions focus on what can be accomplished in the near term with existing resources and capacity.

BACKGROUND:

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 recent years, the City has advanced on its path to sustainability by adopting the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement by Resolution in 2008 and setting goals of reducing energy consumption by 20% and water use by 50% by 2012. The new Sustainability Master Plan outlines goals and strategies to create a healthy and livable community for future generations.

The Palm Springs' Sustainability Master Plan includes a variety of sustainability objectives, including the reduction of GHG emissions, the adaptation of green building

practices and the use of renewable energy sources. Over the past few years, staff has recognized the need to integrate health and wellness initiatives into the Plan.

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 (www.walkandrollpalm Springs.org).

The City of Palm Springs requested the assistance of SCAG to provide essential consultation services and the necessary tools in the evaluation and planning of the update of the Sustainability Plan to include a health and wellness framework that promotes local and regional sustainability. In agreement with the Southern California Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Strategy, the City of Palm Springs formally incorporated public health planning into its Master Plan by integrating health and wellness projects and policies into every chapter of the written document.

The firm Raimi and Associates was selected through an RFP process conducted by SCAG to aid in the City's development of a new Sustainability Master Plan. Raimi and Associates has worked closely with City department heads, staff and the commission to create the newly updated plan. Four public workshops were conducted including major public outreach events on the street interviews with constituents. An online social media campaign, on line public comment and special workshops were also produced to ensure we received maximum input on the plan. Special meetings and public outreach sessions were conducted as follows;

- June 8, 2015 –Study Session with Department Heads and Sustainability Commission in City Hall Large Conference Room
- December 5, 2015 - Public Workshop at Welwood Murray Library at 11:30 am
- January 24, 2016 - Outreach booth at Mayor's Wellness Festival 6 a.m. to noon
- March 5, 2016 - Study Session/Public Workshop at Desert Healthcare District from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Two on-line public comment areas with 60 day comment periods

A number of outcomes resulted from the many public input session and study sessions that took place to ensure the completion of a comprehensive update to the sustainability master plan. Each section below gives an overview of some of the main objectives of the plan.

POLICIES AND PILOT PROGRAMS

New and expanded policies and ordinances will be brought forward through existing public processes with recommended changes in how we operate and promote sustainability in areas such as green building, sustainable purchasing, economic

development, transportation impacts and energy efficiency. The Sustainability Commission Policy Recommendations to Council for 2016-2021 specifically sets a goal to adopt 6 ordinances including

	Policy	Goal Date for Adoption by Council
1.	A Policy Mandating Multi Family Recycling	In progress goal for end of 2016
2.	Product Stewardship Policies to ensure producers of waste create programs to take back their products and their packaging	First pilot program intended for medications in early 2017 and more products to be phased in through 2020
3.	Integrated Pest Management and No Pesticide Use Policy for City Facilities	December 2017
4.	No Idling Policy	Early 2018 for City fleet and extend to commercial through 2020 by sector
5.	Tree Protection Ordinance	Fall 2017 City facilities policy on replacement/removal and for all City community trees by 2019.
6.	Mandatory Green Building Practices	Late 2016 and early 2017

PARTNERSHIPS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Palm Springs will continue participation in the Desert Cities Energy Partnership and continue to look for opportunities for energy efficiency retrofit programs, small business retrofits, multi-family incentives and energy audits. The City will continue to serve in a leadership role in outreach and education campaigns on energy efficiency measures all citizens can take. Staff will seek grants to ensure an expanded fleet conversion to electric vehicles and continue to implement electric vehicle infrastructure at through a business partnership program.

ACTION PLANS & POLICIES

City efforts toward zero waste are underway and staff will work with our franchise waste hauler to implement many upcoming state policies. The City has already passed a single use plastic bag ban. Efforts will now focus on single use bottle waste reduction, large scale composting and all residential composting including multi-family composting and recycling. Staff will also work towards expansion of our existing construction and demolition waste reduction programs. A next steps strategy for AB 1826 and AB939 will be brought before the City Council in 2017.

TRANSPORTATION CHOICE

To ensure walking path and trails signage will be improved. More waking paths will be created from existing paths by adding signage to increase activity and improve safety of our system of trails and walking paths. Staff will complete at least one new grant

proposal to support expansion of our walking paths. In addition, the City will commit to a plan to increase rideshare and biking to work within our city and community workforce to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and associated emissions.

BASELINE MEASURES, TARGETS AND REPORTING

The Sustainability Office will be tasked with working with the community to identify measurable baselines and targets for our overall plan and program. This will include working with neighborhoods and not for profits to create a comprehensive plan for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. We will also ask the Sustainability Commission to create a new Sustainability Report Card in conjunction with this effort and a process to monitor and report on progress.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FRAMEWORK

Currently, the City participates in the Statewide Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign. HEAL members work with city officials to identify pathways to health through three policy areas; land use, healthy food and worksite wellness. City council has signed a resolution in support of a local HEAL campaign that supports mixed-use, complete neighborhoods where houses are located near schools, parks, public transportation and where there are safe routes for walking and biking. This practice creates a healthy alternative to non-motorized transportation and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. Other HEAL projects include health and nutrition plans, such as a workplace wellness program that decreases obesity and the risk of chronic diseases, resulting in an increase in overall productivity. Additional partnerships that promote healthy lifestyles are the City's partnership with the Clinton Foundation Health Matters Initiative and the National League of Cities Let's Move Campaign.

A comprehensive health and wellness network improves air quality, economic conditions and the general welfare of local residents. By incorporating health and wellness initiatives into every chapter of the Sustainability Master Plan, the City of Palm Springs can continue on its path towards a more livable, healthy community.

Palm Springs is one of two cities to receive the honor of working with the Clinton Foundation to develop the Health Matters Initiative. The Healthy Planet, Healthy You series of events is an offshoot of the program, which includes a race and wellness festival that registered over 600 walkers and runners this past year. Palm Springs is proud to be a part of First Lady Obama's Let's Move Project, which combats childhood obesity. Partnering with the National League of Cities, municipalities strive to succeed in five areas which target nutrition, physical fitness and overall wellness.

In the complete master plan, the abovementioned programs were incorporated and explained in detail, with a strong emphasis on environmental and economic benefits. Every plan concept relies heavily on outreach and education efforts. From the Let's Move Campaign to the HEAL project, local residents are informed and educated by the

City's Office of Sustainability and Sustainability Commission regarding the plethora of available choices in the realm of nutrition, fitness and safe and healthy living. The City employs educational pamphlets, events, lectures, seminars and film showings to increase awareness and encourage local citizens to start or continue on their journey towards a happier, healthier lifestyle. The existence of a plan that acknowledges the importance of a complex health and wellness network to the functioning of the City, complemented by diverse outreach and education outlets, will allow the City of Palm Springs to progress more quickly towards its ultimate goal of sustainability.

A detailed, comprehensive plan provides a multitude of benefits to the environment and the community. The City of Palm Springs is committed to the creation of an urban landscape that promotes the use of public transportation, walking and biking as a healthy and convenient alternative to driving to work or recreational activities.

The City of Palm Springs' Health and Wellness Initiatives furthers the mission of the Sustainable Communities Strategy by developing a method to improve the health and welfare of the people that protects the environment, stimulates the economy and enhances the quality of life in the region. The update to the Sustainability Master Plan also implements the approved 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) that was developed with a bottom-up partnership for a livable and prosperous Southern California through 2035. The Sustainability grant program enables SCAG to partner directly with our city by providing financial assistance to local planning initiatives that help implement the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and, at the same time, support local priorities. The City's proposal is consistent with SCAG's Sustainability Program's goals of improving livability, mobility, prosperity and sustainability and moves us one step closer to realizing our shared vision. The attached report provides a complete review of the Office of Sustainability's future planning.

Upon receipt of the Plan and acceptance of recommended key initiatives by the City Council, the Manager of the Office of Sustainability will work with the Sustainability Commission, neighborhoods and others to develop a detailed action plan with specific targets, roles and responsibilities and measures.

An important early factor in implementation will be enhanced public engagement and outreach on community health and sustainability.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACTS:

No negative fiscal impact to the City of Palm Springs will be incurred by consenting to the adoption of the Sustainability Master Plan. The Office of Sustainability will implement projects utilizing the existing budget and will report to Council. Staff recommends that Council consider allocation of general fund monies to further sustainability initiatives over the next five years.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Staff finds that adoption of this Sustainability Master Plan is not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act, because the adoption of the plan does not involve any commitment to a specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, as contemplated by Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15378(b)(4). Therefore no negative environmental impact is noted.

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Attachments:

1. Sustainability Master Plan
2. Implementation Matrix
3. Greenhouse Gas Info graphic
4. Walk and Roll Power Point