



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Clark called the meeting to order at **5:00** p.m.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for this Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission.

AGENDA APPROVAL: The agenda was presented by Chair Clark. A motion to approve was posted by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Goins and unanimously carried by an open vote.

		Present	FY 2019/2020	FY 2019/2020
	This Meeting	to Date	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
Roy Clark, Chair	X	38		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	36		
David Freedman	X	48		
Jennifer Futterman	X	34	1	
Greg Gauthier	E	28	1	
John Goins	X	24	1	
T Santora	E	14	1	
Carl Baker	L	16		
Jim Flanagan	X	7	1	
Lani Miller	X	7		
Sandra Garratt	X	3		

X = Present

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

L = Late

U = did not notify of absence

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability; Daniel DeGarmo, Program Coordinator; Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Christy Holstege

CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS – Manager Tallarico reported on the following:

- At the September 18, 2019 Council meeting the purchase of the Downtown trash containers was approved unanimously. There was also a first reading of the “No Dogs Allowed on Trails” ordinance.
- At the October 2nd meeting, Council Member Middleton asked that we do all we can to expand our EV charging network. Council Member Holstege asked that the Committee look into the implementation status of the Climate Action Plan and consider adopting a Climate Emergency Resolution. At the second reading of the “No Dogs Allowed on Trails” ordinance, one member of the public asked whether dogs could go on the lower parts of the trails based on a previous environmental study. The Council agreed to revisit the ordinance at the next meeting after conducting additional research.
- At the October 23rd meeting the Desert Protection Act resolution will be put forward on the Consent Calendar and there will be a brief presentation on SB 1383.
- At the November 6th meeting, the Solar Zoning Ordinance and building code changes are to be included on the agenda.
- Manager Tallarico attended a meeting with staff from the Agua Caliente Cultural Center to coordinate on sustainability issues. They suggested that if the Commission would like to meet with the tribe on the arena, we should coordinate with the Mayor and Council Member Roberts. It was suggested that this should include a discussion of trash and recycling, parking, and plastics.
- Manager Tallarico also met with the new Sustainability staff that will oversee the Convention Center and agreed to follow up on potential best practices for meetings.
- The business cards were updated based on feedback from the last meeting.
- ONE PS Brown Bag is planned for October 17th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Peter Maietta – Palm Springs. Mr. Maietta is running for City council in District 2. He emphasized the importance of sustainability issues to the city. He also provided an overview of his platform.

Bob Ballard - Courageous Resistance Climate Crisis Committee Co-Facilitator. He announced a November 9th Climate Crisis Forum event that will be held from November 1-3 PM in Coachella at the Veterans Park. Students have been invited to speak. He emphasized the importance of raising the alarm level for the climate crisis and encouraged the Commission to continue to do important work to address the impacts of climate change.

Kim Floyd - Palm Desert. Mr. Floyd strongly supported the recognition of a climate crisis. There are opportunities at the local level to do something about it. He offered the assistance of the Sierra Club. He will send fliers about the Climate Crisis Forum to Manager Tallarico to distribute to the Commissioners.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS –

B. MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes approval: A minor editorial change was suggested by Commissioner Freedman. Motion by Commissioner Freedman to approve with correction, second by Commissioner Goins. Motion passed 7-0-1 with Commissioner Futterman abstaining. (Commissioner Baker arrived after this vote).

C. RECYCLING REPORT, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported on the following:

1. Special events – The City will hold an e-waste and shredding event and bulk waste collection on October 19, 2019.
2. Site Visits – Mr. Calhoun and Manager Tallarico visited about 12 businesses to discuss compliance with recycling and organics requirements. There are approximately 140 businesses on the list to contact.

The Commission agreed to reverse the order of Old Business and New Business to discuss the two New Business items while Council Member Holstege was present.

D. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Student rep from Palm Springs High School or Desert Learning Academy.
 - Manager Tallarico confirmed that only Desert Learning Academy and Palm Springs HS have high-school level students. He also checked with other Commissions and confirmed that there were no student reps on other commissions. Parks & Recreation expressed interest in adding one. He will work with Parks & Recreation staff to issue a request for interest.
2. Fountain grass eradication.
 - Manager Tallarico will follow up with Maintenance on City practices.
3. Community garden naming plan.
 - The group discussed the plan to have a naming ceremony and tree planting ceremony in honor of Michele Mician. Commissioner Futterman will work with Commissioner Garrett and an arborist to identify appropriate fruit trees and will bring recommendations to the Commission at the next meeting.
4. Leaf blower enforcement
 - Manager Tallarico has started to send letters to homeowners to inform them of complaints about gardeners on their properties. He is also going to bring forward potential changes to the enforcement program to the ONE-PS Code Enforcement Committee and back to the Sustainability Commission. This includes potentially fining the homeowners if they are aware of the violation, and increasing fine amounts.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Single-use Plastics Ordinance Draft

- Manager Tallarico solicited additional interest in surveying local food service establishments to determine the type of foodware they use.
- Manager Tallarico reviewed the key elements of the ordinance including the focus on reuse because disposables are not a long-term solution.
 - The group discussed the option to require reusables. Members felt that reusables should be required for everyone instead of having a business size cutoff. Hardship should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Addressing tourist traffic may be a challenge. It might provide an opportunity for a reusable cup service or a remote dish washing service.
 - The ordinance would allow for rapidly biodegradable disposables or foil containers that can be recycled.
 - It allows for paper wrapping for food for in-house dining.
 - It also requires accessories on demand.
 - It also allows for bio-based plastics that meet the biodegradability standard.
 - It includes a requirement to allow customers to bring in reusable containers.
 - It does not include a fee for disposables if the money comes back to the city because that would constitute a tax.
 - The group discussed the broader restriction on the sale of polystyrene food service ware. Commissioners were generally supportive of the broader ban. Commissioner Miller suggested expanding that ban to include coolers and containers made from polystyrene that is not fully contained due to health and environmental concerns. Commissioner McCann suggested we broaden the foodware ban to only allow rapidly biodegradable products to be sold in stores – not just limit the restriction to polystyrene.
- Additional comments:
 - Consider adjusting pricing for waste materials versus recyclables and other materials.
 - Consider having a fee for disposables in retail spaces that could be used by vendors to offset costs of preferred products.
 - Monitor state requirements on cannabis packaging for impact on single-use plastics.
- Council members visited the School Board, and they expressed an interest in supporting the City's direction.
- The development time frame will be dependent on how rapidly the additional outreach and research can be conducted.

2. Climate Action Plan and Potential Additional Efforts to Address Climate Change

- The group discussed the potential next steps for doing more to address climate change. Commissioner Freedman noted that if we do a resolution, it should be concrete. He noted a few things that are under development through the Solar and Green Building Subcommittee. Chair Clarke noted that some of the things in the Climate Action Plan and the Sustainability Plan have been done, including the ban on gas powered leaf blowers. Commissioner Miller also noted the important role of waste in the generation of greenhouse gas emissions that needs to be accounted for and addressed.
- Commissioner Goins emphasized the importance of promoting basic activities such as walking and biking to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Council Member Holstege provided some background on the request. In particular what we are doing to ensure accountability on the Climate Action Plan. Reporting is not coming back to City Council or to the public.
- The group discussed what a product would look like that could convey progress and what resources would be needed. Vice Chair McCann suggested that one concrete thing that Council could do is advocate for more resources for sustainability to do the kind of assessment needed to understand where we are in relation to our goals and to identify potential opportunities for action. He also suggested that the City could get more aggressive in its targets.
- Manager Tallarico suggested developing a memo or roadmap that acknowledges that we know this is a problem, document what we have done, what we plan to do, and what resources we need to go further. The group agreed to try to have a draft at the next Commission meeting and have further discussions on how to engage with Council and the public.

- Council Member Holstege suggested that the group consider whether Sustainability needs a Council Subcommittee or whether a Council member needs to make more regular appearances at Commission meetings.
- Manager Tallarico will look into how other commissions and committees regard student reps.

F. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Flanagan
Commissioner Freedman reported on the following:
 - The Energy Code Training Program will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Commission members were encouraged to attend.
 - Solar Zoning Ordinance will go to Planning Commission on October 23rd and then on to the City Council on November 6th if things go as planned.
 - Sol Smart suggested including a statement about requiring that the area under ground-mounted systems should be used to promote pollinators. Commissioner Freedman will work on language to potentially include in the Solar Zoning Ordinance.
 - We will do a session on sustainability and historic preservation in the Spring.
 - Home Energy Label Pilot program. Residents would be encouraged to conduct an audit to identify opportunities for energy efficiency. The program will provide them with a rebate of up to \$100. Commissioner Freedman proposed a motion to approve the program at a budget of \$10,000. Commissioner Flanagan noted that it will require additional staff resources to administer and monitor. DCE may be able to provide subsidies to residents to make improvements. The motion was passed unanimously by the 9 members present.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair McCann, Chair Clark, Commissioner Miller
 - Manager Tallarico reported on the following:
 - Signage is being developed for trash and recycling containers.
 - The pilot is moving forward with the Cultural Center. They are looking at alternative materials for the café and new recycling receptacles.
3. Standing Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioners Futterman, Gauthier, Santora
 - No meeting this month, no report.
4. Standing Subcommittee on Water Conservation – Commissioners Freedman and Miller. Commissioner Freedman reported on:
 - First committee meeting in October.
 - The Committee discussed increased compliance with water waste rules.
 - DWA reported an 11.5% reduction in potable water use.
 - DWA reported that there was some testing for PFAS in groundwater, but it did not appear in Palm Springs wells.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Earth Day – Commissioner Baker
 - The group has not met. There was some discussion of having a tree planting on Earth Day. Concerns were raised about the timing of the planting and whether that was an acceptable time frame.
6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning - Commissioners Wilson, Gauthier, Futterman
 - Manager Tallarico stated the consultant proposals will be reviewed in October and selected in early November.
7. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Crosswalks and Pedestrian Safety – Chair Clark noted that he had not been able to meet yet with city staff.
8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Flanagan
 - Commissioner Flanagan and Mr. DeGarmo will be working on the Bicycle Friendly Community designation application with the assistance of Vic Yepello. Engineering has already done some work on collecting biking route information.
9. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky – Vice Chair McCann and Commissioner Flanagan
 - Commissioner Flanagan stated that the Subcommittee is looking into incentives for promoting better night sky practices and working with new construction projects to inform them about best practices.

10. Big Horn Sheep Habitat Protection – Commissioner Flanagan

- Manager Tallarico met with members of the public to develop a volunteer trail monitoring team that would help inform people about the no dogs on trails ordinance and other helpful hiking information. There is a call for volunteers on the Save Oswit Canyon Facebook page. The plan is to have volunteers at major trail heads in the morning to serve as a resource.

11. Wellness – Commissioner Baker

- Top of the tram race, Desert Aids Walk, and Desert Regional Wellness Fair will be held the weekend of October 19th.
- Roundup is no longer being used by the City. Commissioner Garratt suggested it should not be allowed anywhere. Commissioner Baker noted that the chemical companies are presenting data that it is not harmful which is why there has not been broader action.

12. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Commissioners Baker, Freedman, Miller.
There was no meeting since the last Commission meeting.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT -

Boards and Commissions Training is Monday December 2nd.

Commissioner Futterman attended the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to gather information about how they do their festival. She will continue to follow up on potential partnering opportunities to hold a similar festival. Commissioner Garratt reported on the Salton Sea meeting at UC Riverside on October 17th and 18th. She also noted that the State of California banned all new furs.

Vice Chair McCann reported on the efforts of save Oswit Canyon and requested that Commissioners get in touch with him if they know of people that would host a house party or if they want a lawn sign.

H. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:14 PM by a motion from Commissioner Flannigan and seconded by Commissioner Garratt and approved by a unanimous vote. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, in the Large Conference Room at the Palm Springs City Hall. The Sustainability Commission's regular meeting schedule is at 5:00 p.m. the third Tuesday each month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability



City of Palm Springs

Office of Sustainability

TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Patrick Tallarico, Manager

SUBJECT: Climate Action Roadmap Draft

DATE: November 13, 2019

At the October 15, 2019, Sustainability Commission meeting, Commissioners agreed that the City should develop a Climate Action Roadmap for enhancing the City's actions and communications related to climate change. The document below serves as an initial draft for that roadmap. Sustainability staff is seeking input from the Commission on additions and changes to the contents.

1. Acknowledgement of the Current Climate Crisis

The City of Palm Springs recognizes that climate change is real and is having a dramatic impact on our environment, our economy, and our way of life. Globally, we know that sea levels are rising, polar ice is retreating, permafrost is melting, and fires are increasing. Here in the Coachella Valley, climate change is and will continue to manifest itself in the form of longer periods of drought, more frequent above-average storm events, longer summers, and higher temperatures. We also know that changes in climate are having a dramatic impact on our local habitat – we have seen dramatic decreases in mammal populations and scientists note that the nearby iconic Joshua trees are threatened.

Our weather and environment play a critical role in why people come to Palm Springs and other Desert Cities to live, work, and play. Changes in our environment will have a significant impact on our tourists and residents. We recognize that we need to redouble our efforts to not only strategically address activities that contribute to climate change but also take steps to mitigate the impacts we expect to see.

2. Goals and Plans

The City's current goal as stated in the Sustainability Plan is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This is consistent with the target identified by the state in AB 32 – California Global Warming Solutions Act. When the City conducted a greenhouse gas inventory in 2010, the results indicated that we had already achieved that level of emissions. The City has experienced significant growth since that time, and these emissions may have increased.

The Sustainability Plan outlined some high-level actions such as monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions; developing strategies based on the Climate Action Plan to reach the 1990 levels by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030; and improving community resiliency to the potential impacts of climate change, including determining what these impacts will be.

The Climate Action Plan includes more specific actions that the City could take to reduce its emissions. These actions are organized into the following key sectors:

- Residential (where we live)
- Business (where we work)
- Building (how we build)
- Transportation (how we get around)
- Municipal (how we govern)
- Hospitality and Recreation (where we visit and play)
- Education (how we teach and learn)

Although the City is planning to update its Sustainability Plan in 2021, it has not done regular progress reports on the Sustainability Plan or the Climate Action Plan in the past few years. As a result, we do not have a clear picture of how we stand today in relation to our stated goals or anticipated programs.

3. Past and Ongoing Activities

The City of Palm Springs has always taken climate change seriously. Early efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions included the following:

- Using co-generation facility to offset energy use at city facilities
- Solar panel farm at Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Solar panel installation at the Convention Center
- Use of hybrid vehicles in city fleet
- Commuter incentive programs for rideshare and alternative vehicle use
- Lighting retrofit project at city facilities
- Street light retrofits
- Implemented ban on gasoline-powered leaf blowers

[Include additional early actions identified in previous reports.]

4. Roadmap of Future Actions to Address Climate Change and Its Impacts

Near-term Actions

The Office of Sustainability, in coordination with the Sustainability Commission, has identified the following near-term actions to position the City to make additional reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of anticipated climate change.

- **Update the City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory report.** The Office of Sustainability had planned to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory internally this year, but it is unlikely that staff resources will allow for that. This is a critical first step in understanding where we are with our stated goals and to identify the highest priority areas to address. The inventory update will focus on 2018 unless 2019 data is available. Funds will be moved around in the Sustainability Budget to hire a consultant by the end of January. It is hoped that we can complete the inventory by the end of May 2020.
- **Promote adoption of the 100% Carbon free option as the default for rate payers under Desert Community Energy (DCE).** Implementation of DCE has moved up to April 2020. In 2010, the largest percentage of emissions – over 41% - came from the electricity used to power homes in the City. The City's decision to shift to carbon-free energy as the default for all residents and businesses will have a significant impact on the City's greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Implement Changes in the State Energy Code and Green Building codes effective in January 2020.** The changes in the building codes that will be in effect in January 2020 have several new energy efficiency and clean energy requirements for residential and commercial construction projects. As the Council knows, one of these requirements is that all new residential projects are required to install solar panels. These requirements along with improved energy efficiency and building envelope requirements should

have a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from new residential and commercial buildings moving forward.

- **Expand the network of EV charging stations.** The market for electric vehicles increased significantly over the past several years since the Climate Action Plan was developed. The City has not needed to promote electric and hybrid alternatives as was described in the Plan. This may be changing as people seem to be reverting to sport utility vehicles, but car manufacturers are also responding with electric and hybrid options. This is leading to an increased need for EV charging stations – something the Office of Sustainability has been working on with Engineering for the past several months. City Staff will continue to work with SCE to identify the infrastructure needed to support this expansion. The City will issue an RFP in December 2019 and install the units starting in Fall 2020.
- **Implement New Incentive Program for Home Energy Labeling.** The Sustainability Commission has approved a new program to provide rebates to residents that conduct a home energy review as part of an approved home energy labeling program. This program will likely begin in 2020. It is hoped that providing home owners with information about how they can reduce their home energy costs will help boost the energy efficiency of existing housing stock.
- **Cooling centers for the homeless.** The City has expanded its programs for cooling centers and services for the homeless to address the impacts of higher summer temperatures. These centers now offer overnight accommodations given that temperatures can stay above 90 degrees at night.

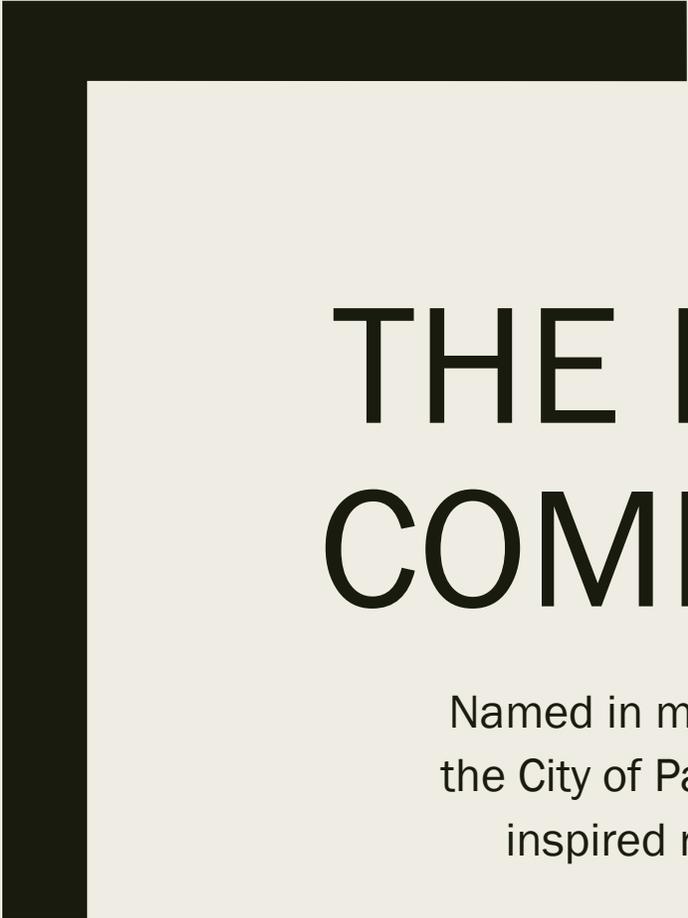
[Check with Engineering to determine if there are additional efforts underway to address climate change impacts such as new stormwater management techniques.]

Longer-term Actions

The City is also researching additional potential additional actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change impacts, including the following:

- **Develop ordinance to require carbon-free energy for commercial buildings.** The Sustainability Commission is researching whether and how to require carbon-free energy for commercial buildings. This research can only proceed when DCE sets its rates as the most expedient path for any business to comply with such an ordinance is by adopting the 100% carbon free option from DCE. The draft ordinance will be developed in the February time frame.
- **Implement new organics waste management requirements.** One of the challenges that the state continues to have in managing greenhouse gas emissions broadly is managing emissions from landfills – much of which is generated by organic waste. The State is working on a new law – SB 1383 – that is designed to reduce the amount of organics going to landfills. The City is currently working with PSDS to anticipate and respond to this new law. This will help the city reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.
- **Investigate capture technologies for greenhouse gas emissions from wastewater treatment plants.** The City may be able to further reduce its direct greenhouse gas emissions by incorporating some sort of emissions control technology that captures emissions from the treatment process for use as fuel. The Sustainability Commission is investigating whether this idea is feasible.
- **Development of a Walkability and Safe Routes to School Master Plan.** The Master Plan will help promote pedestrian safety and increase pedestrian traffic as one way to reduce car transportation-related emissions.
- **Update the General Plan to reflect climate adaptation strategies.** The City is starting the process of updating its General Plan to include climate adaptation strategies. As part of this update, the General Plan will include a greenhouse gas emissions analysis and forecast. This may help the city strategize on new areas to address based on anticipated growth and other changes. This analysis will be done by September 2020.

[Any other things in the works?]



THE MICHELE MICIAN COMMUNITY GARDEN

Named in memory of Michele C. Mician, Sustainability Manager for the City of Palm Springs between 2009 and 2016. Her life and work inspired residents and left a lasting impact on the health and environmental wellbeing of our City.





City of Palm Springs

Office of Sustainability

TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Patrick Tallarico, Manager

SUBJECT: Proposed new elements of leaf blower enforcement

DATE: November 13, 2019

In the last month, the City has seen an increase in leaf blower complaints. This is due in part to the return of seasonal residents. It is also our understanding that some gardeners in the community are starting to spread the message that the leaf blower ordinance is not being enforced so gardeners can use whatever they want.

We have started to send letters to all homeowners when we get complaints, especially if we are not able to catch the gardener. In addition to that, we would like input from the Sustainability Commission on a few possible approaches to enhance our enforcement efforts.

- 1) **Increase fines to \$500 for a first offense.** This would require a modification of the ordinance. Given that most offenders have been reported multiple times and given that the ordinance has been in place for a year, the increased amount will hopefully be a fresh deterrent.
- 2) **Provide the option of citing the homeowner** if they are aware that their gardener is using a gas-powered blower. This system is in place in Los Angeles. The addition of this reference in recent letters has prompted homeowners to engage in the process more actively and, at least in some cases, has resulted in a change in gardener practices.
- 3) **Adding temporary supplemental enforcement staffing** to patrol neighborhoods and at least document violations so that we have clear proof of a violation. This could mean redirecting some of the money Sustainability had set aside for incentives to hire someone on a temporary basis to monitor neighborhoods that have frequent complaints. The City would need to determine how this could be done given the training needed by Code Enforcement officers. We may be able to accomplish this with an "enforcement push period" similar to the one that we had when we started the enforcement, if we can get some dedicated time from a newly hired code enforcement officer in the coming months.

We appreciate any additional ideas that the Commission might have as some confirmation on whether to move forward with the ideas above.



City of Palm Springs

Office of Sustainability

TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Patrick Tallarico, Manager

SUBJECT: Potential New Topics for Discussion at November 19th Commission Meeting

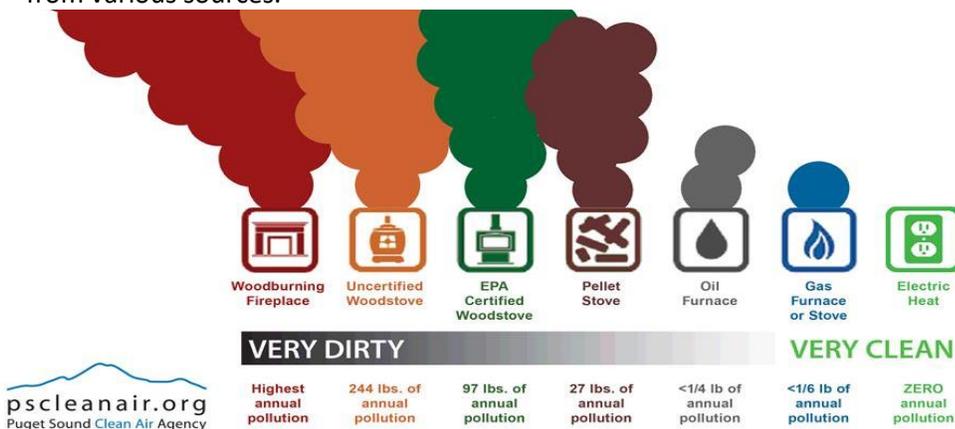
DATE: November 12, 2019

The Office of Sustainability has received a variety of suggestions for new sustainability initiatives in the recent months. They are listed below along with a brief explanation. **Please review the list and be prepared to discuss the following:**

- Are there any issues that you do not feel are appropriate or of sufficient priority for the Commission or the City to pursue at this time? If so, which ones and why?
- Of the remaining issues, are there ones that you feel deserve follow up by a Commission member or Committee? If so, which issues and who should take them on? Each issue will need to be researched, and a recommendation will need to be provided to the Commission for approval.

Potential New Topics

- Ban Fire Works – It represents an increase to the City’s carbon footprint and diminishes air quality.
- 3-4-50 Campaign – This is an educational campaign that started in the U.K. and has been implemented in Vermont and San Diego. The campaign is a community health improvement strategy based on evidence that three health behaviors elevate risk for four chronic conditions that together cause more than fifty percent of deaths. The three health risk behaviors are unhealthy diet, sedentary lifestyle, and tobacco use.
- Ban wood burning fireplaces – This would have to be carefully crafted to address different scenarios such as space heating, outdoor fire pits, etc. Graphic below depicts relative emissions of fine particles from various sources.



pscleanair.org
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

- Tree Inventory – When the trees were cut down in the median on Indian Canyon near Alejo, there were some calls to update our tree inventory in an effort to make sure we are continuing to expand our tree canopy.
- Ban Use of Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) – Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) is an inorganic, colorless, odorless, non-flammable, non-toxic but extremely potent greenhouse gas. Sulfur hexafluoride is an ultrasound contrast agent that is used to improve the quality of an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart).
- Ban non-essential Helium sales - The planet only has 10 years remaining supply of Helium. The prospects of more found reserves is highly questionable and logistically extremely expensive to secure. Helium is needed for important uses such as MRIs, deep sea diving exploration, research and construction, the Hadron Collider, and so much more critical purposes. Additional information:
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/helium-supply-world-shortage-run-out-recycle-mri-scanners-deep-sea-diving-balloons-a8741081.html>
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2019-08-28/we-re-running-out-of-helium-and-helium-one-might-have-a-fix>
<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/04/12/helium-shortage-is-hitting-balloons-and-scientific-research.html>
- Reducing heat island effects by changing street coatings from black to gray – This idea will be coming through the Solar and Green Building Subcommittee.



COMMITTEE REPORT

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 11/19/19

SUBMITTED BY: David Freedman

COMMITTEE NAME: Standing Committee on Solar and Green Building

SUBMITTED DATE: 11/11/19

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 11/05/19

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 12/03/19, 10 am

Committee Meeting Goals:

- Planning for Energy Code training session
- Council Meeting agenda Items
 - Palm Springs Solar Zoning Ordinance
 - New Building Codes, including 2019 Energy Code
- Climate Action Plan implementation
- Home energy audit program
- EV charger update

Summary:

Commissioners Freedman provided an update on the 2019 Energy Code training session, scheduled the following morning at UCR Palm Desert. 74 people registered for the event, and approximately 40 attended. All costs were covered by a grant from SCE through the Coachella Valley Energy Partnership managed by CVAG. Commissioner Freedman will report back at the November 19 Commission meeting, and Manager Tallarico will post the presentation and handouts to the Office of Sustainability website.

Commissioner Freedman noted that the Solar Zoning Ordinance approved by the Commission at its September meeting was on the Council agenda for the following evening. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on first reading and provided direction to the Office of Sustainability and Planning Services Department to work together on an Administrative Regulation that sets out parameters in cases where a solar energy system is subject to discretionary review. The ordinance will be presented for final adoption at the December 18 meeting at the same time as an ordinance adopting the 2019 state Building Standards Codes, effective January 1, 2020. The code package includes the 2019 Energy Code, which, among other things, will require solar energy systems on all new residential development three stories and under.

Commissioner Freedman presented his Memorandum describing greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures that would assist the City in achieving the goal in the Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Plan to reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The Memorandum is attached as an addendum to this Committee report.

Committee members and Manager Tallarico discussed the various proposals in the Memorandum, with Commissioner Flanagan noting his opposition to various measures that could add significant costs. They agreed as follows:

- Research on GHG-free energy requirements for commercial buildings will continue. Manager Tallarico will contact the Building & Safety Department to get statistics on the size of buildings in the City, which would assist in determining which size commercial buildings would be subject to the requirement to procure 100 percent carbon-free or renewable electricity and what the implementation schedule would be. Commissioner Freedman will follow up with Desert Community Energy (DCE) on the timing for their 2020 launch and their rate-setting, as this information is necessary to provide an estimate of the additional cost above Southern California Edison (SCE) base rates for commercial buildings. Committee members will continue their discussions on this topic at the December Committee meeting.
- Cannabis industry cultivation facilities would not be subject to a solar mandate considering the increased costs and the concern expressed by Commissioner Flanagan on the viability of indoor grow facilities. However, cannabis industry facilities are commercial buildings and would be included with other commercial buildings in the requirement to procure 100 percent carbon-free or renewable electricity noted above.
- Additional solar and energy efficiency requirements for non-residential and major retrofits will not be considered at this time. Commissioner Flanagan noted that the Energy Code already requires certain energy efficiency upgrades for additions and alterations.
- As the 2022 Energy Code will have building decarbonization as the primary goal and industry opposition to any local measures would be expected, the City would defer to statewide rules.

In addition to the GHG reduction measures in Commissioner Freedman’s Memorandum, Commissioner Flanagan proposed two measures for cooling urban heat islands and sent resource materials to Manager Tallarico for additional research. First, solar reflective “cool pavements” stay cooler than traditional pavements by using reflective aggregate, binders or surface coating. Los Angeles is planning on coating 250 miles of streets with reflective coating to help reduce urban temperatures. Second, urban heat islands can be dramatically altered through the planting of more shade trees. Commissioner Freedman noted that tree planting is one of the measures being considered in the updated walkability plan being developed with a grant from the Southern California Association of Governments.

Committee members discussed the home energy label pilot program approved by the Commission at its October 15 meeting. Commissioner Freedman will provide Manager Tallarico with the name of the home inspector who is certified to carry out energy efficiency audits. Manager Tallarico will begin work on a rebate application. Homeowners would need to submit their completed home energy reports agree to participate in a survey to see if they carried out any energy efficiency measures based on their report.

Finally, Manager Tallarico provided an update on the City’s EV charger project. Discussions with SCE on costs for the required electric wiring are continuing. The current plan is to install about 40 chargers to supplement the existing charging network throughout the City. Manager Tallarico said the challenge is to determine whether fees from the third party selected to manage the chargers following an RFP would cover the costs. Commissioner Flanagan recommended that the city consider pre-wiring Indian Canyon for EV chargers as part of the two-way conversion project.

Recommendation/Request:

Continuing working with stakeholders on 2019 Energy Code issues as it moves towards effectiveness.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	Approve GHG-free energy requirements for commercial buildings once a proposal is ready.
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	Work with CVAG on launch of DCE in 2020. Implement home energy efficiency label rebate pilot program.

POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	The cost to the City for the EV charger program will be approximately \$200,000, in addition to the \$80,000 that will be covered by grants.
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Potential Climate Action Roadmap Actions

TO: Commissioner Jim Flanagan, Solar and Green Building Committee Member
Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability

FROM: David Freedman, Solar and Green Building Committee Member

At the Sustainability Commission's October 15 meeting, the Commissioners discussed implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and provided direction to the Solar and Green Building Committee to continue researching proposals that would assist the City in achieving the goal in the CAP and Sustainability Plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This Memorandum describes GHG reduction measures other California cities have recently implemented, how those measures could be implemented in Palm Springs, and potential barriers to their local implementation.

1. Commercial Buildings GHG-Free Energy Requirements

San Francisco recently adopted an ordinance to transition private commercial buildings of 50,000 square feet and larger to 100 percent GHG-free or renewable electricity. The legislation calls for the city's commercial buildings of at least 500,000 square feet in gross floor area to procure 100 percent GHG-free or renewable electricity by any combination of on-site generation or purchase from the city's electricity providers by 2022. Starting in 2024, additional buildings will be subject to the requirement, encompassing by 2030 all commercial buildings 50,000 square feet or larger.

This measure would be relatively easy to adopt in Palm Springs, to take effect at the same time as the launch of Desert Community Energy (DCE) in Palm Springs in September 2020. DCE will offer a 100% carbon-free product, and all electricity users in the City will automatically be enrolled in that product unless they opt down to DCE's 50% carbon-free product or opt out of DCE and remain with Southern California Edison (SCE). SCE offers a Green Rate Program under which it purchases renewable energy from independently owned solar farms in California on behalf of the customer, who then purchases this renewable power from SCE. SCE also offers a Community Renewables Program, under which the customer enters into an agreement with a California renewable energy provider to buy a share of their energy output. SCE purchases the electricity that is produced under the agreement – up to 120 percent of the power forecasted to meet the customer's usage needs – and SCE pays the customer directly, via bill credits.

City Council would need to determine which categories of commercial buildings would be subject to the requirements to procure 100 percent carbon-free or renewable electricity, which can be satisfied through on-site generation, remaining with DCE's carbon-free product or participating in SCE's Green Rate or Community Renewables Programs. Council would also need to determine whether the requirements should be phased in, as is the case in San Francisco. Staff time would

be necessary to administer the requirements, including establishing rules for verification of compliance with them and enforcement of violations. Approval of the California Energy Commission as discussed in Section 3 below would most likely not be required, because this measure does not impose any change on the quantity of electricity consumed, just the sources of electricity.

The key barrier to implementation at this time is that DCE has not yet set the rates for its electricity products or its net energy metering policies for customers with on-site generation from solar panels. The current expectation is that SCE's carbon-free product will cost 5% to 10% above the SCE base product; however, that will not be certain until the DCE Board sets electric rates in advance of the expected launch in 2020. DCE's and SCE's rates will fluctuate in the future, so Council may want to grant authority to the City Manager or designee to suspend the requirements if the DCE carbon-free option costs more than 10% above the SCE base product. A similar provision is in the San Francisco ordinance, at a 5% cost differential threshold.

2. Indoor Cannabis Cultivation Facilities Solar Requirements

There are currently 14 cannabis permit holders operating in the City, four of which hold cultivation licenses. There are also non-operating permit holders with cultivation licenses and pending permit applications for cannabis facilities that include cultivation.

According to a recent article in the Desert Sun, in the SCE service area encompassing the western side of the Coachella Valley, cannabis cultivation facilities use about 235 megawatts a day, or the equivalent of about 100,000 California homes. The energy used by these facilities could represent 1-2% of overall usage. Indoor cannabis cultivation facilities (which includes all those in Palm Springs) generally use about 25 times what a standard industrial development may need, to power ventilation systems, overhead fans and light bulbs that run 12 to 18 hours a day. The Desert Sun article also discussed a Desert Hot Springs cannabis business that operates a solar project consisting of more than 700 solar modules set up on carports, which offset about 30% of the energy used at the facility.

The cannabis industry is new in California and there are no state or local codified energy standards for it. Recognizing this gap, the Solar and Green Building Committee met on June 4 with Jocelyn Kane, Vice President of the Coachella Valley Cannabis Alliance Network (CVCAN), to discuss sustainability considerations for the industry. Ms. Kane advised that because of federal rules limiting access of the cannabis industry to banks, it was difficult for the industry to obtain financing for solar equipment. The Desert Hot Springs cannabis business is the first in the industry to use commercial-scale solar.

A substantial amount of research is necessary to determine whether the City could establish a solar policy for indoor cannabis cultivation. Initially, a field trip to the Desert Hot Springs facility should be organized to better understand its operation. Even if a solar policy for indoor cannabis cultivation would not be practical because of the financing difficulties, cannabis businesses could be among those subject to the requirement to obtain all their energy needs through 100 percent GHG-free or renewable electricity, as discussed above. This requirement can be added to the conditions for a cannabis cultivation permit set out in Palm Springs Municipal Code Section 5.55.096.¹ In addition, the Sustainability Commission can develop a sustainability package for the cannabis industry supply chain, which would include energy and water conservation and waste reduction.²

¹ The draft ordinance presented for discussion at the October 24 meeting of the City Council Cannabis Standing Subcommittee adds a requirement that a cannabis cultivation facility have sufficient power availability to meet the requirements of the proposed use.

² Section 5.55.096 currently requires a cannabis cultivation facility to include adequate measures to address the projected energy demand and minimize use of water for cannabis cultivation at the site.

3. Non-Residential and Major Retrofits Solar and Energy Efficiency Requirements

The recommendations to City Council that the Sustainability Commission approved in December 2016 included a solar requirement for major additions to and remodels of single-family residences. City Council did not include this recommendation in the solar policy it adopted in January 2018, which covers only new residential construction.

At the time of the Sustainability Commission decision in December 2016, only Sebastopol had extended a solar requirement to retrofits. This requirement is now included in several ordinances that other California cities recently adopted. West Hollywood's ordinance requires new residential, nonresidential, and mixed-use buildings with a gross floor area of 10,000 square feet or greater, or a major remodel that causes residential, nonresidential, and mixed-use buildings to become 10,000 square feet or greater, to install one of following three sustainable roof measures:

- a. Photovoltaics (PV), sized to offset a minimum of 15% of the building's total estimated electrical usage, or
- b. Solar thermal systems (i.e., solar hot water), with a minimum 0.50 solar fraction, or
- c. Vegetative roof, covering a minimum 30 percent (30%) of the roof area not occupied by mechanical equipment or access stairways as a landscaped roof.

Carlsbad's ordinance requires all new non-residential buildings and renovations to existing non-residential buildings with a building permit valuation of \$1,000,000 or higher that affect 75 percent or more of the existing floor area or renovations that increase roof area by greater than or equal to 2,000 square feet to include a PV system that meets one of the following minimum size requirements:

- 1) offsets 80 percent of the building's electrical demand;
- 2) generates a minimum of 15 kilowatts per 10,000 square feet of gross floor area; or
- 3) generates a minimum of two kilowatts for buildings under 10,000 square feet of gross floor area.

Carlsbad also requires all renovations of existing single-family and multi-family residential buildings with a building permit valuation of \$60,000 or more to include energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, cool roofs (when the roof is being replaced) and LED lighting.

The Davis ordinance requires new nonresidential buildings to install a solar PV system sized to offset approximately 80% offset of the building's modelled annual electric load. Santa Monica requires major additions to one- and two-family dwellings shall install a solar PV system with a minimum total wattage of 1.5 times the square footage of the addition. All major additions to multi-family and non-residential buildings are required to install a solar photovoltaic system with a minimum total wattage of two times the square footage of the addition's footprint. Santa Monica also requires new high-rise multifamily housing and non-commercial buildings to have a solar system generating a minimum of two watts per square foot of building footprint.

It should be noted that any mandatory solar and energy efficiency measures that are more stringent than the Energy Code require approval of the California Energy Commission. Local governmental agencies may adopt and enforce energy standards for newly constructed buildings, additions, alterations and repairs to existing buildings provided the Energy Commission finds that the local standards will require buildings to be designed to consume no more energy than permitted by the Energy Code. Local jurisdictions are required to apply to Energy Commission for approval, documenting the supporting analysis for how the local government has determined their proposed energy standards will save more energy than the current Energy Code and the basis of the local government's determination that its standards are cost effective.

There are recent studies that demonstrate cost-effectiveness of the measures adopted by other California cities. While these studies cover each climate zone in the state and thus include data for Climate Zone 15 where Palm Springs is located, it would be helpful to have a cost-effectiveness study done that takes the data from the state-wide studies and specifically analyzes the situation in Palm Springs. Because the state-wide studies use SCE electric rates, it will be necessary for DCE to set its rates before any local cost-effectiveness study is done.

4. Electrification Requirements

At a workshop on the 2022 Energy Code on October 17, Energy Commission staff stated that the 2019 standards is the last code cycle focused primarily on the zero net energy goal. The 2022 and subsequent standards cycles will have building decarbonization as the primary goal.

In recognition of the decarbonization goal, in July, Berkeley became the first city in the country to ban gas hookups in most new residential construction. Half a dozen other California cities, including San Jose and Santa Monica, have approved building codes this year incentivizing or requiring electric appliances in new buildings. San Francisco is considering a similar measure.

Santa Monica does not prohibit gas in new buildings but requires mixed-fuel buildings to be more energy efficient than all-electric buildings. Santa Monica's ordinance states that for new pool construction, if the pool is to be heated, an electric heat pump water heater or a solar thermal system shall be used for such heating. The Marin County ordinance also requires mixed-fuel buildings to be more energy efficient than all-electric buildings and requires them to be prewired for future electric cooking.

According to a recent article in the Los Angeles Times, the California Public Utilities Commission recently voted to allow \$1 billion in annual energy efficiency funding to be spent, in part, on rebates for consumers to replace gas appliances with electric versions. The Legislature has allocated \$200 million toward programs to reduce emissions from buildings, including incentives for low-emissions space and water heaters.

The Los Angeles Times article discusses opposition by Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) to the electrification efforts currently occurring in California, and SoCalGas opposition to any electrification measures in Palm Springs should be expected. Energy Commission approval would be required if a measure requiring additional energy efficiency for mixed-fuel buildings is included. Existing state-wide studies demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the electrification measures recently adopted, but a local study would be helpful in this case as well.

5. Electrical Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Requirements

Many California cities are adopting ordinances requiring buildings to install EVSE infrastructure. The California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen), which will also enter effect January 1, 2020, contains requirements for EVSE infrastructure for new residential and commercial buildings. AB 1236 passed in 2015 requires cities and counties with a population of less than 200,000 residents to adopt an ordinance by September 30, 2017, that creates an expedited and streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations. The City has not yet adopted the required ordinance, so should do so as soon as possible to facilitate EVSE installation.

The Office of Sustainability has been working on with the Engineering Services Department for the past several months on the City's program to install additional EV chargers throughout the City. The City has worked with SCE to identify the infrastructure needed to support this expansion and is able to start to develop an RFP to secure chargers and charger maintenance services. The cost to the City will be approximately \$200,000, in addition to the \$80,000 that will be covered by grants. The Office of Sustainability will be working with Engineering to finalize these numbers and submit

a request for funding from Measure J or the General Fund, which would need City Council approval. Any GHG reductions as a result of the City's EV chargers should be included in the GHG inventory.

The Solar and Green Building Committee recommends that the City rely on the CalGreen standards and concentrate its resources on the program to install additional EV chargers throughout the City. Should these new chargers together with the ones already installed be insufficient to satisfy demand, the City could consider an ordinance going beyond the CalGreen requirements.

6. Home Energy Efficiency Label / Rebates

At the October 15 meeting, the Commission approved a home energy label pilot program. Certain cities (e.g., Berkeley, Portland) require a label at the time of listing or sale of a house but obtaining a home energy score is also useful to homeowners considering an energy efficiency upgrade. The Commission authorized a \$10,000 pilot program, which will provide up to 100 homeowners a rebate of \$100 each upon submission of a completed energy report.

This type of program could serve as a precursor to a more robust program that could be done when the City makes the switch to DCE, including providing rebates for energy efficiency upgrades carried out by low and middle-income DCE customers. The program would be subject to DCE Board approval and input from DCE's Community Advisory Committee, but the City's initial work could provide important lessons learned about the effectiveness of such a program. As a condition to participation in the program, rebate recipients will be asked to participate in a survey to see if they carried out any energy efficiency measures based on their energy report.

Implementation of the pilot program will require City staff time. As there are only three main audit or labeling systems and available lists of those certified to perform the work, it is not expected that implementation will require substantial staff time.

At the November 5 Committee meeting, Patrick and I would like to get your feedback on the first four measures discussed above; measures 5 and 6 are already progressing based on direction previously given by the Committee and full Sustainability Commission. Implementation of the home energy efficiency label / rebate pilot program approved by the Commission at its October 15 meeting will be a separate item for discussion at the November 5 Committee meeting.



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: November 19, 2019	SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing SubCommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR)	SUBMITTED DATE: November 14, 2019
LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 7, 2019	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: December 5, 2019

Subcommittee Goal:

Divert 90% of waste generated by the City of Palm Springs from landfill by 2030.

Summary:

1. C&D Waste Ordinance.
 - No developments to report.
2. Reducing Single-use Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.
 - Manager Tallarico met with a sustainability consultant from UPSTREAM to discuss the draft ordinance on October 30 and November 12. They discussed outreach strategies as well as potential content changes to the draft ordinance language. Two key suggestions that emerged were to: 1) Eliminate the reference to banning polystyrene “foam” and reference polystyrene instead due to its health impacts. The foam version presents different environmental hazards because of its light weight and propensity to crumble. 2) Have a tiered approach to implementation focusing on banning polystyrene now, implementing accessory restrictions, and requiring reusable food ware. Phase 2 would include more instruction on acceptable disposable food ware. This is because we will not have a system in place to accommodate biodegradable food service ware and recyclables are typically food contaminated. A later implementation date will also coincide with state efforts to further define acceptable disposable food service ware. UPSTREAM is also working on language to clarify that reusable material for on-site food consumption should be reused on site.
 - Manager Tallarico is also working with UPSTREAM to include two additional components to the ordinance – a requirement that all dry cleaners make reusable bag systems available to customers at no charge and incorporation of the state law banning single-use toiletries in plastic bottles.
 - Food vendor surveys are continuing and will be completed in the next month.
 - The revised ordinance components will be presented to the Commission for further consideration at the November meeting and additional outreach will be conducted with the business community in December.
3. Battery Recycling Project
 - Staff continue to collect used batteries from the various locations around the city.
4. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
 - The group reviewed an updated version of the signage graphics at the November SSCoWR meeting. In

general, all images seemed acceptable. The only comments were to provide a more realistic used food packaging image and to eliminate the word “containers” from the Styrofoam picture. Manager Tallarico will work with the consultant to finalize the graphics and get it into final format. This will include development of the stickers that will appear on the containers.

- Manager Tallarico reported at the November SSCoWR meeting that he had met with Maintenance staff to discuss enhancing recycling and waste containers at the park. Manager Tallarico will meet with Commissioner McCann to develop a clear strategy for moving forward.
- The Airport has asked for input on the airport recycling containers. Manager Tallarico will follow up with them to look at what they plan to do.
- Downtown trash containers will be delivered in December. Manager Tallarico will check with City staff to determine how to approach signage.

10. Outreach

- Manager Tallarico sent a note to Joy Meredith at Main Street Merchants to solicit interest in conducting the recycling and waste management brown bag. No response was received at the time of this report.
- Manager Tallarico, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner McCann gave a sustainability presentation at the October 17th ONE-PS Brown Bag. The presentation covered recycling and other sustainability topics.
- Manager Tallarico delivered a similar brown bag presentation at the Lions Club meeting on October 24th.
- Manager Tallarico delivered a presentation to the CVAG Technical Working Group on Recycling and Waste Management on October 28th. The presentation provided an overview on the City’s efforts to reduce single-use plastics. Other cities in the valley have been considering efforts, but have not implemented anything. The group also discuss compliance with SB 1383. In particular, there was some interest in having CVAG conduct more research on organics treatment processes. Manager Tallarico will follow up with CVAG regarding this research effort.
- Manager Tallarico reviewed the proposed changes to the City’s recycling web site. Participants had minor comments and were asked to get additional comments to him by Tuesday November 12th.
- The group reviewed a draft press release for America Recycles Day. The group provided minor changes – eliminating the ellipses and adding a bullet about boxing loose paper due to windy conditions. Manager Tallarico will revise the press release and work with City staff to have it issued on November 15th.

11. Non-compliance with Commercial Recycling and Organics Requirements

- Over 50 of the 140 site visits have been conducted. Unfortunately, very few of those establishments visited have followed up with PSDS to request changes in service.
- PSDS has contacted all multi-family units.

12. Cultural Center Pilot

- Manager Tallarico conducted research into the installation of a water filler and provided that information to the Cultural Center representative.
- Manager Tallarico met with the Cultural Center Board on November 12 to discuss the three elements of the project – enhancing recycling infrastructure, the water filler conversion, and addressing the food service ware at the café.

Recommendation/Request

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products to improving recycling rates and report on progress at future Commission meetings.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION

Review and comment on next iteration of draft ordinance text or summary of proposed changes.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	Develop draft disposable food ware reduction ordinance and present to Council. Continue to work with Maintenance on downtown and other public spaces recycling programs. Work with Commissioner McCann on plan for park trash and recycling containers. Update website. Make additional efforts to coordinate with Main Street on Brown Bag. Begin additional outreach on single-use plastics ordinance.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	N/A



COMMITTEE REPORT

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 11/19/19

SUBMITTED BY: David Freedman

COMMITTEE NAME: Standing Committee on Water Conservation

SUBMITTED DATE: 11/11/19

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 11/06/19

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 12/04/19, 9 am

Committee Meeting Goals:

- City turf conversion project
- City water conservation rules and enforcement
- Water conservation for new residential projects
- Methane capture at wastewater treatment plants
- Work plan for 2019-20

Summary:

Desert Water Agency (DWA) Outreach and Conservation Manager Ashley Metzger joined the meeting, which began with a discussion of the City turf conversion project. Manager Tallarico said he would follow up with Facilities Manager Staci Schafer on a project to remove turf along the edges of Victoria Park. Although the turf would be replaced by a walking path and not desert landscaping, Ms. Metzger said that DWA could be flexible on the project eligibility for a DWA turf conversion rebate.

Manager Tallarico reported on his discussions with Airport Director Tom Nolan on turf conversion at the airport, including a demonstration project. Manager Tallarico will work with City Manager David Ready and Assistant City Manager Marcus Fuller on the process for obtaining Airport Commission and City Council approval for the project. Commissioner Miller asked to be involved in discussions on the landscaping and requested that the project not include any plastic weed barriers. Commissioner Freedman asked that the project include pollinator-friendly plants, in recognition of the City's participation in the Mayor's Milkweed for Monarch's Pledge.

Committee members agreed that water waste reports should be referred to DWA for its enforcement. Manager Tallarico will follow up with Code Enforcement to see whether reports made using the City's app can be assigned to DWA. The City will handle any water waste reports involving its own facilities.

Commissioner Freedman reported on the discussion at the previous day's DWA Board meeting on the Palm Springs Surf Club approved by the Planning Commission at its October 23 meeting. Ms. Meltzer confirmed that DWA would like to have more advanced notice from the City of residential and commercial projects with substantial water use, so DWA can work with the developers on water conservation measures. Manager Tallarico will discuss with Planning Services staff the possibility of a sustainability review on projects subject to Planning Commission review.

Commissioner Miller expressed strong interest in having the methane generated at the City's wastewater treatment plant captured and converted to energy. She will follow up with Doug Loar of Veolia, which operates the City's wastewater treatment plant, to discuss available technology and arrange a tour of the

plant. Ms. Metzger will follow up with DWA staff on whether this technology could also work at the DWA wastewater treatment plant.

Committee members then discussed projects for further work in the remaining months of the fiscal year. Commissioner Miller would like to see plastic weed barriers banned in the City and will work on a recommendation for the City to stop using them and to educate gardeners about them. Manager Tallarico expressed concern that an outright prohibition on plastic weed barriers would be challenging for the gardeners, who are still dealing with the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Ms. Metzger expressed interest in seeing the recommendation and said that in 2016 DWA stopped requiring weed barriers as a condition of eligibility for its turf removal rebates.

Ms. Metzger mentioned pre-rinse nozzles for restaurants that would help them reduce their water consumption. Manager Tallarico will include them as part of the educational outreach to restaurant owners in connection with the proposed ban on single-use plastic food ware.

Recommendation/Request:

As noted below.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	Approve recommendation on plastic weed barriers when ready for consideration.
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	Work with airport, parks and rec and maintenance staff on turf removal projects. Work with DWA on water conservation education.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	The Office of Sustainability and the Airport have each budgeted \$100,000 for the airport turf conversion. A \$60,000 grant from Prop 1 funds is being sought for the airport demonstration project. DWA has \$100,000 in rebate funds available for City projects in FY 2019-20. The Office of Sustainability and the Airport have each budgeted \$100,000 for the airport turf conversion. A \$60,000 grant from Prop 1 funds is being sought for the airport demonstration project. DWA has \$100,000 in rebate funds available for City projects in FY 2019-20. Costs for turf conversion efforts at Victoria Park are still being assessed.