

DATE: May 29, 2008

TO: Sustainability Partners

FROM: Mayor Steve Pougnet

SUBJECT: The Palm Springs Path to Sustainability

A sustainable city includes a clean and healthy environment, strong and active community engagement and a thriving economy.

We see the threats and challenges to these things all around us. Water is becoming scarcer and more expensive. The quality of our air continues to be threatened. In spite of our best efforts, we continue to consume at record rates and waste resources.

The City of Palm Springs has identified sustainability and the creation of a comprehensive plan for sustainability as a priority for the coming year. Our quality of life is dependent upon our ability to translate that intention into a reality.

A true community plan must also provide for input, engagement and discussion in both the public and the private sector. Your attendance this evening at the "Call to Action" dinner begins an important dialogue for Palm Springs and the entire region.

The City will be playing a leadership role in this process. Moreover, encouraging each of you to consider your own level of participation and engagement, I've attached the following items for your organization to review, including:

1. 20 First Steps on Sustainability agreed upon by the Palm Springs City Council on May 21, 2008
2. A Model Resolution committing community leaders to join the City of Palm Springs on the Path to Sustainability
3. 20 Steps We Can All Take Toward Sustainability

On behalf of the entire Palm Springs City Council, we look forward to your participation on the Leadership Council, where you will assist in shaping the direction, monitoring progress, and reporting results for the community. Together, we will make Palm Springs a shining example of a Sustainable Community.

The Palm Springs Path to a Sustainable Community First Steps

1. Develop an action plan for sustainability this year including:
 - An inventory of City activities
 - SCE Partnership
 - Research of best practices
 - Determination of priorities and measures for the next 1-5 years
 - Formation of a Leadership Committee to help guide and refine the plan
2. Complete a comprehensive water audit of all public buildings and facilities and develop an action plan that will reduce City water usage by 50% by 2012.
3. Complete an energy audit and develop an action plan that will reduce City energy use by 20% by 2012.
4. Develop a recycling action plan to become a zero waste community.
5. Identify City Hall as a showcase for public sustainability efforts and a model for energy, water and waste conservation.
6. Develop an interactive website that allows the community to get information on sustainable projects underway, research what they can do to help and offer their ideas.
7. Host a Sustainable Community Summit in November 2008 including:
 - Free public lecture by noted environmental expert David Suzuki
 - Exhibits on residential technology, energy saving and recycling
 - Technology fair for developers, home remodelers, architects and designers
8. Create the Palm Springs Partners in Sustainability Award to honor leading business, organizations and individuals who contribute to making life more sustainable. The inaugural award will be presented at the first Summit in November 2008.
9. Implement a model re-landscaping project showcasing the Tahquitz Median from the airport to downtown by the end of 2009.
10. Develop a plan to transition the City's non-emergency vehicles and equipment to a 50% clean air, energy efficient fleet.

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First Steps
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11. Develop a Green Economic Development Strategy with initiatives to support and promote clean technology businesses, create new green jobs and develop incentives for existing and new businesses that encourage sustainability.

12. Develop a plan to promote ecotourism in partnership with the Tribe, recreational user groups and the environmental community.

13. Review City procurement and contracting policies to promote sustainability concerns.

14. Develop a policy to provide priority parking for alternative energy vehicles throughout Palm Springs.

15. Incorporate sustainability efforts into the five year capital funding plan.

16. Require City funded events to have a sustainability plan and be substantially waste-free in order to continue receiving public funding.

17. Work with College of the Desert to incorporate sustainability, green building and environmental sustainability training and classes into Palm Springs campus.

18. Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a public/private solar roof initiative.

19. Host a national summit on sustainability in Palm Springs in 2012.

20. Acquire consultant services for the development of a sustainability master plan, including a staff implementation process.

The Palm Springs Path to a Sustainable Community

Steps We Can All Take

1. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
2. Turn your thermostat down
3. Clean or replace your air conditioning filter
4. Conserve water
5. Reduce, reuse, recycle
6. Use energy efficient appliances
7. Turn off lights, computers, TVs when not in use
8. Leave the car at home – bike, walk, carpool or take the bus
9. Incorporate shade into your landscape
10. Install insulation in your home
11. Get a home energy audit
12. Use low or no VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint
13. Buy and use local, sustainable foods and food products
14. Get a water audit and incorporate changes
15. Consider replacing lawn with low water use landscape
16. Buy alternative fuel or hybrid vehicle
17. Use green or sustainable building techniques when building or remodeling
18. Drink tap water
19. Get an annual tune up
20. Full loads for both clothes and dish washer