



**City of Indio  
Sustainability Commission  
Sustainability Plan and Annual Work Plan Draft**

## About the Sustainability Commission

The City Council created the Sustainability Commission in 2014 and the Commission held the first meeting on February 23, 2015. Shortly after, the Commission created the following mission statement:

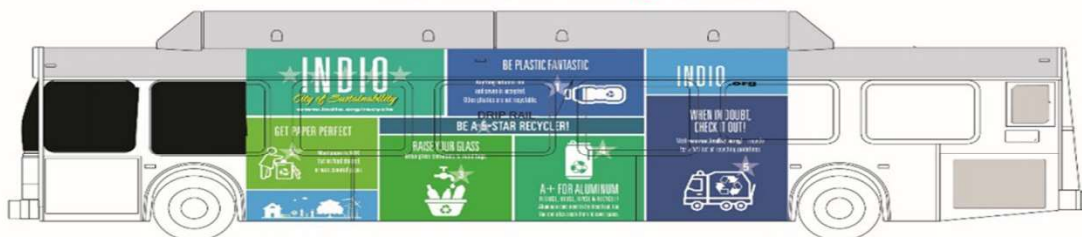
*The Indio Sustainability Commission is dedicated to contributing to a clean and healthy environment, preserving cultural and historic resources, promoting community engagement and creating a thriving economy.*

In 2020, The City Council approved Ordinance 1750 which included § 32.12 Sustainability Commission Establishment and Duties that specifically tasked the commission to develop and recommend for adoption by the City Council a Sustainability Plan. The Commissioners understood that sustainability is a vast and complex target, and that learning from experts is an important part of building sustainability programs and plans. With that understanding there have been many distinguished speakers from different organizations throughout the course of the Commission meetings including the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Electrify America, Global Green, students from Indio High School, SoCalGas, GRID Alternatives and CalRecycle.

The Commission actively considers projects, grants, partnerships and policy recommendations that advance sustainability goals.

## Commissioners

Chair	Morgen Bentsen	2021
Vice Chair	Anetha Lue	2022
Commissioner	Miguel Romero	2022
Commissioner	Jerry Tack	2014
Commissioner	Robert Patterson	2014

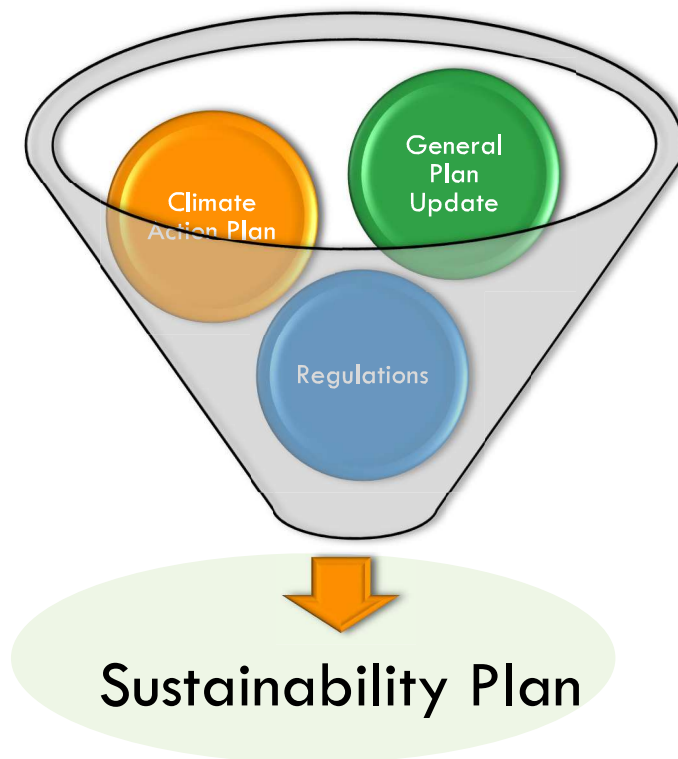


## Process

The commission began the process of developing a Sustainability Plan by considering other plans that have been developed for the City including the General Plan 2040, Climate Action Plan and Complete Streets. These plans have been through robust public engagement and contain multiple actions that affect sustainability in Indio either directly or indirectly. This plan lists possible projects to move toward sustainability and these projects are a mix of actions taken from these previous city plans and ideas discussed in the commission. Where actions are taken directly from previous plans that have been adopted by the city, a reference to that plan is included using the following notations:

CAP	Climate Action Plan
GPU	General Plan 2040
CS	Complete Streets
TCC	Transformative Climate Communities Plan

New regulations that mandate food waste diversion, renewable energy standards and water conservation goals were also considered. Although these measures are mandated, they advance the city toward sustainability and require strategy, time and investment.



## Partnerships and Collaborating Efforts

The Sustainability Commission recognizes that partnerships with other organizations working on similar initiatives enhances city efforts. This Plan is meant to compile sustainability efforts as well as provide goals and visions for a sustainable city. Incorporating parallel efforts toward sustainability from outside entities is essential in understanding and incorporating new science and innovative solutions for sustainability. The Commission follows and considers the work of many organizations including:

AB617 addresses air pollution impacts in environmental justice communities including the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV). The ECV community produced the Community Emissions Reduction Plan in 2021.

AB1583 created a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling which produces reports with policy recommendations to CalRecycle

C40 Cities provide information and showcase solutions that cities are implementing to limit climate change.

SB375 prompts California regions to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

INDIO.org



## Limitations of the Plan

Aspects of sustainability touch almost all city functions and also extend far beyond city boundaries. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals include the need to address poverty, homelessness and health. The City of Indio's Transformative Climate Communities Plan considers housing availability and community centers. These are vital facets of sustainability, however, in order to keep the Sustainability Plan more focused, the Plan does not include recommendations and projects for every facet of sustainability. Limitations of this scope of this Plan should not limit sustainability actions taken by the City in any way. All

### SUSTAINABILITY COLLECTION EVENTS

Free events to bring oil, tires, household hazardous waste and documents to shred

### HOLIDAY PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Know when services will be delayed or sign up for the app

### BURGUNDY, GRAY OR GREEN?

A simple guide to your barrels

### BULKY ITEM PICK-UP

Free service for items that don't fit in your bin

city departments have opportunity and responsibility to undertake initiatives that affect sustainability.

## **Local Risks**

### Heat

California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment provided an overview of climate-related risks and adaptation strategies tailored to specific regions and themes and included the Inland Deserts Region Report. This report includes the Coachella Valley Region and highlights the risks of higher temperatures projected to increase by up to 8-14 degrees F by the end of the century and extreme drought and extreme wet events becoming more common (Hopkins, 2018). The City of Indio Climate Action Plan models predict an increase between 5.6 degrees F and 9.1 degree F with extreme heat events becoming more frequent and lasting longer. Indio and surrounding areas comprise a unique urbanized desert area where increased heat is a critical local risk.

### Water

Water resources are an important consideration, especially in a desert region. As climate change alters precipitation patterns, sustainable water becomes more and more critical. This Plan includes a chapter on water resources however, more in depth water resource management is addressed in the 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update and the 2018 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management and Stormwater Resource Plan. In Indio, water is a vital risk factor for sustainability.

### Air Quality

Indio is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) which is the agency responsible for improving air quality in parts of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for some air pollutants and air quality districts must meet the standards or execute an approved plan to meet the standards within specific time frames.

The Coachella Valley meets most NAAQS however, this area Valley is in extreme nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour Ozone standard of 0.08 ppm despite significant improvements over the years. Gas and diesel powered vehicles emit nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that mix with heat and sunlight to produce Ozone. Reducing vehicle emissions is an effective way to lower Ozone pollution, however, the primary source of the ozone pollution detected in the Coachella Valley emanates from the South Coast Air Basin and is blown into the Valley by prevailing winds (South Coast AQMD, 20)

## **Framework**

The commission considered outlines and information from several other sustainability and climate actions plans including the Los Angeles Green New Deal, Palm Springs Sustainability Plan and the Michigan Climate Action Plan A2Zero.

After careful consideration, the commission agreed on an outline that is very close to the Indio Climate Action Plan. This framework consists of five primary goals, which organize the Plan, however, many of the projects can achieve more than one goal. The five goals are:

1. Clean Energy
2. Low Greenhouse Gas Environment
3. Zero Waste
4. Water Resources
5. Sustainable Environment, Land Use and Transportation

For each main goal, the Plan includes a chapter with information about objectives and projects. Accomplishments that the city has already made toward those goals is also included. Sustainability cannot be achieved through city efforts alone and there are many Indio residents who are involved in sustainability efforts by recycling, reducing waste and conserving water. In order to increase these efforts, the plan also includes information on what residents can do to support the five goals.

## Goal 1: Clean Energy

Objectives:

Increase Local Renewable Energy Generation

Mandates:

SB100 California Clean Energy Bill sets goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. This mandate does not directly affect the city however, it does effectively decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the city.

Potential Projects

- Residential Solar (CAP) (TCC)
- Commercial Solar (CAP) (TCC)
- Update Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Update the municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Increase solar energy use in city facilities
- Purchase Soofa Signs
- Purchase/Provide shade structures with solar panels at local schools
- Support renewable natural gas

What residents can do:

Plant Shade Trees

Consider moving from gas appliances to electric appliances

Conserve Water

### Annual Work Plan

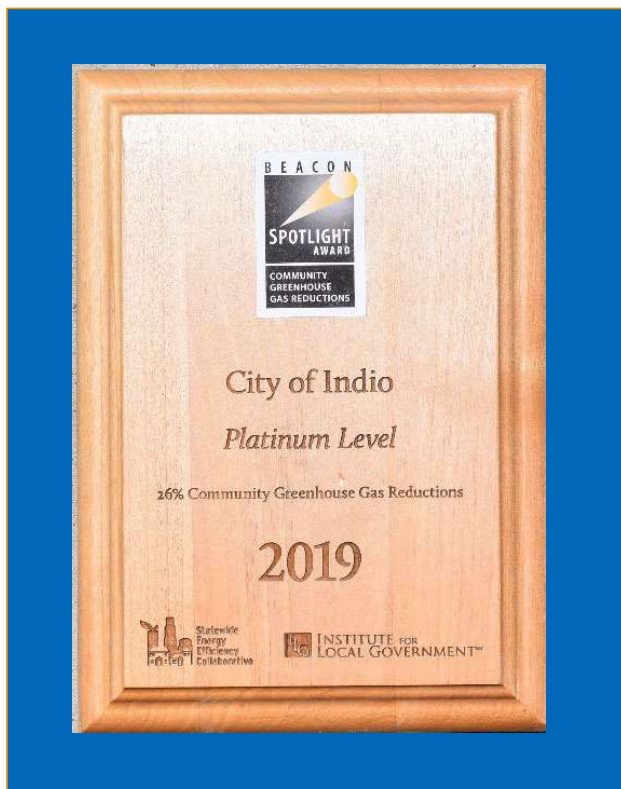
2022

Learn more about digesters or other local renewable energy options.



## Clean Energy Accomplishments

- Solar panels at City Hall, Teen Center, IWA Facilities
- EV Arc to power fleet zero emission vehicles
- Partnership with GRID Alternatives
- Soofa Solar Bench at Indio High School
- Food Waste to Biogas Study
- Community Greenhouse Gas Update that showed a 26 percent GHG reduction in community emissions resulting in a Beacon Spotlight Award from the Institute of Local Government.





## Goal 2: Low Greenhouse Gas Environment

Objectives:

Decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase EV charging infrastructure

Mandates:

AB1236 requires all cities and counties to develop an expedited, streamlined permitting process for all levels of EV charging stations

Green Building Codes provide

Potential Projects

- Provide more public EV charging stations
- Green Rental Housing Program
- Weatherization Programs for current housing stock
- Energy Efficiency Education for Businesses (CAP)
- Low income Weatherization Plan (CAP)
- Commit to EV charging stations at City Facilities
- Free Tree Program for private areas, residential and commercial.
- Create a “Buy Local” campaign
- Conduct outreach regarding existing rebate programs To purchase Zero-Emission Vehicles

### Annual Work Plan

2022

Identify Potential EV Charging Station Locations

Consider incentives for EV chargers installations

Recommend policy to require EV charging stations



What residents can do

Insulate windows and doors

Consider purchasing an electric vehicle

Turn your thermostat up one degree in the summer

## Low Greenhouse Gas Environment Accomplishments

- Upgrades at City Hall (HVAC, Lighting, Software)
- Streetlight LED replacement
- Bigbelly smart solar waste and recycling receptacles
- Partnership with GRID Alternatives
- Complete a Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2010 and a Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update (2016)
- City employee 9/80 schedule reduced VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled)
- Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing



### Goal 3: Zero Waste

#### Objectives:

Reduce materials that are landfilled through increased recycling and source reduction

Facilitate a circular economy to keep materials in use longer

Provide strategic and effective communication and outreach for proper waste management.

#### Mandates:

SB1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions.

Local governments must provide organic waste collection to all residents and businesses without resident or business subscribing to the service. The city must conduct outreach to all stakeholders to support moving clean organic waste to reuse rather than to the landfill. In addition there are record keeping, inspection and enforcement requirements.

AB1826 Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling

Requires commercial facilities that generate 4 cu yards of waste per week shall arrange for organics recycling (green waste is included as organic waste)

AB341 Mandatory Commercial Recycling

Requires commercial facilities that generate 4 cu yards of waste per week to arrange for recycling

#### Possible Projects

- Special Event Waste Diversion (GPU)
- Create a Litter Abatement Program
- Hold Zero Waste Challenge
- Partner with Riverside County to have a permanent household hazardous waste collection site in Indio.
- Establish a Commercial Ambassador Pilot Program or integrate with GPU Table 12-4 number 2, Establish and implement an annual business visitation program.

### Annual Work Plan

2022

Provide indoor waste, recycling and organics containers to businesses

Develop outreach Plan

Hold Sustainability Collection Events

Consider Circular Economy – Identify Repair and Reuse Infrastructure

This program would bring varied regulations and sustainability efforts into a more efficient platform. Many commercial facilities require storm water inspections and will soon require waste inspections. Compliance requirements can be brought together into one annual visit that also supports sustainability and builds positive business relations by including water and energy conservation tips.

- Start Food Waste Diversion Program at Senior Center

What residents can do:

Put only clean dry items in the recycle bin

Check out the Indio website for more information on what is recyclable

Dispose of food waste in the green bin to be processed into compost

Bring your household hazardous waste (HHW) to a Riverside County HHW collection event



## Zero Waste Accomplishments

- Sustainability Collection Events (oil, oil filters, compost exchange, shredding, electronic waste and waste tires)
- Household Hazardous Collection events
- Battery collection program
- Install bottle filling stations at parks and city facilities
- Single-use Plastic Bag Ban
- Provide waste and recycling containers to schools and businesses

**20,716**

**Pounds of household hazardous waste collected at the Indio collection events**



## **Goal 4: Conserve Water Resources and Ensure a Sustainable Water Supply**

### Objectives:

Promote water use efficiency and conservation efforts through outreach and incentives.

Work with regional water agency agencies for consistent conservation messaging throughout the Coachella Valley.

### Mandates:

#### ***SB606 and AB1668 Water Conservation and Drought Planning***

The legislation requires the establishment of water use objectives and long-term water use efficiency standards for urban water suppliers. Ultimately, each urban water supplier will be given a “water use objective” that is comprised of indoor residential water use, outdoor residential water use, commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) irrigation, water loss and other unique local uses. It is the responsibility of the water supplier to develop and implement the necessary policies, programs and projects to ensure the water use objective is met as a water supplier.

Minimally for indoor residential water use, the law sets the standard at 55 gallons per person, per day through January 1, 2025; this figure will be incrementally reduced over time to 50 gallons per person, per day in January 2030.

Currently, state agency efforts are underway to develop outdoor residential use standards with consideration for climate factors, defining performance measures for commercial, institutional and industrial (CII water use), and variances in which the data will be incorporated as part of the overall water use objective. The State Water Board continues to conduct extensive public comment process, with the intent that urban retail water suppliers are to submit the first annual report beginning on November 1, 2023 and annually thereafter.

#### ***California Water Code Section 10632.1***

The Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment is a new State mandated report due on July 1, 2022 and every July 1<sup>st</sup> thereafter. Water suppliers will be required to submit regular reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide estimates of any gap between water demand and actual supplies available each year. The report will provide information to DWR with information for any anticipated shortage, triggered shortage response actions, compliance and enforcement actions

and communication actions consistent with the supplier's Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

### **SB 555**

Senate Bill 555 was adopted in 2015 during the last drought, which required urban retail water suppliers to submit water loss audits to the State annually. Subsequent legislation (i.e. AB 1414) changed the reporting frequency of the water loss reports to be due by January 1 of each year, starting January 1, 2021. The water loss audit focuses on water system specific water loss. Efforts are currently underway by the State Water Resources Control Board to develop water loss performance standards for urban retail water suppliers.



#### Possible Projects:

- Identify effective ways to promote water conservation, offer rebate incentives and conduct more strategic outreach.
- Explore recycling water project in partnership with the East Valley Reclamation Authority.

#### What residents can do:

- Remove turf and replace with drought tolerant landscaping (rebates are available).
- Replace indoor and outdoor appliances with water efficient toilets, clothes washers, and/or smart irrigation controllers (rebates are available).
- Eliminate water waste (e.g. avoid excess water runoff to sidewalks and walkways)
- Fix indoor and outdoor leaks as soon as possible.
- Monitor water usage via IWA's customer engagement tool.
- Visit the Indio Water Authority website to learn about current rebates and conservation tips.

## Conserve Water Resources Accomplishments

- Prepared and adopted the 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan, which describes the anticipated water supplies and demands for the next 25 years.
- Prepared and adopted the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which outlines how the City of Indio will respond in the event of a water shortage.
- Amended the Indio Municipal Code sections regarding water conservation to align with the 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan for enforceability.
- Regular communications and outreach to promote water conservation and rebate programs via various media e.g. City newsletter, social media, and bill insert/messaging.
- Completed a water infrastructure master plan and corresponding long range financial plan to prioritize capital improvement projects and ensure affordability.





## Goal 5: Sustainable Environment, Land Use and Transportation

### Objectives:

Increase safe bike lanes and other aspects of complete streets (GPU)

Build a cultural connection to the importance of caring for land/environment (similar to water) through outreach and art.

### Mandates:

Executive Order N-79-20 directs state to require that, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero emission vehicles.

### Possible Projects

- Complete Amtrak Station
- Create a Sustainability Calendar
- New Hire Packet for city employees with Sustainability Information and Contact for Innovative Ideas or Suggestions.
- Create a Map of Bike and Electric Vehicle Lanes
- Develop a Health Resources Inventory (GPU)
- Urban Agriculture (GPU)
- Host a Hike on the Indio Trail for National Trails Day
- Consider Light Pollution Policy Recommendation
- Create a Neighborhood Clean-up Program

### What residents can do:

Become active with the city of Indio  
Sustainability Commission

Consider using active transportation for your next  
trip to the store or to see a friend.

Join a neighborhood clean-up event

Plant trees and that plants support pollinator species

New Hire Packet for city employees

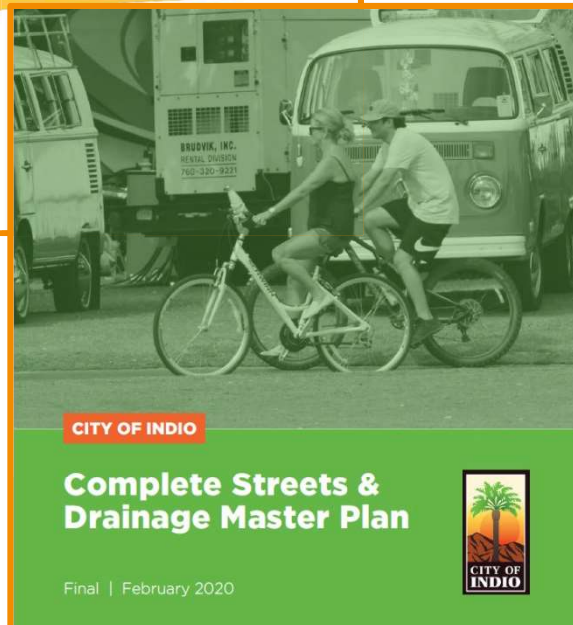
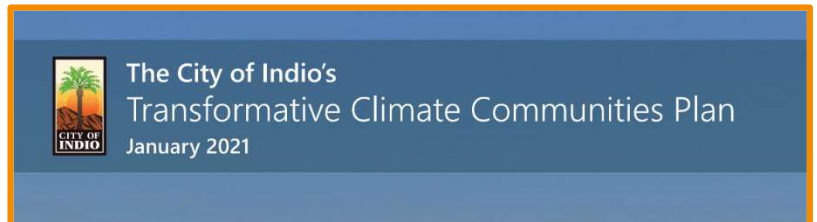
## Annual Work Plan

2022

Increase bike lanes per  
Complete Streets Master  
Plan

## Sustainable Environment, Land Use and Transportation Accomplishments

- Complete Streets and Drainage Master Plan
- Traffic light Synchronization Projects
- Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan
- General Plan 2040
- Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant
- Added 14 center line miles of bike lanes in the last three years



## Sustainability Calendar 2022

Sustainability Calendar 2022		
<b>January</b>	5	National Bird Day
<b>February</b>	27	Indio Trails Day
<b>March</b>	22	World Water Day
<b>April</b>	22	Earth Day
<b>May</b>	20	Bike to Work Day
<b>June</b>	8	World Oceans Day
<b>July</b>	15	Indio Zero Waste Day Challenge
<b>August</b>	20	National Honey Bee Day
<b>September</b>	21	Zero Emissions Day
<b>October</b>	5	Energy Efficiency Day
<b>November</b>	TBD	Indio Arbor Day
<b>December</b>	TBD	Indio Recycles Day

**Table 2022 Work Plan**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Goals</b>
Complete Sustainability Plan and Annual Work Plan for Recommendation	All
Learn about digesters and other renewable energy options	Clean Energy
Consider Policy Recommendation to Increase installations of EV Charging Stations in the City	Low Greenhouse Gas Environment
Provide Indoor Recycling and Organics Containers to Businesses	Zero Waste
Develop Outreach Plan	All
Hold Sustainability Collection Events	Zero Waste
Consider Circular Economy – Identify Current Repair and Reuse Infrastructure in the City	Zero Waste
Increase Bike Lanes per Complete Streets Master Plan	Sustainable Environment, Land Use and Transportation
Consider a permanent household hazardous waste facility in Indio	Zero Waste

## References

Hopkins, Francesca. (University of California, Riverside). 2018. Inland Deserts Summary Report. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. Publication number: SUM-CCCA4-2018-008. Retrieved from [Inland Deserts Region Report \(ca.gov\)](#)

South Coast AQMD. (2020). *Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone Standard Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from South Coast Air quality Management District:  
<http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/clean-air-plans/air-quality-management-plans/2022-air-quality-management-plan/coachella-valley-ozone-plan-fact-sheet-091420.pdf?sfvrsn=21>



## Project Status: Learn about Digesters and other Renewable Energy Options

### Summary

The Commissioners agreed to learn more about and explore renewable energy options.

### GOAL - STATUS

Clean Energy - In Progress

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Speakers and presentations at the Commission meetings	On going		

### BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	% OF TOTAL	NOTES
N/A			

### CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Last presentation was from Margaret Laub, Project Development Manager with Anaergia (2021).



# Project Status: Consider Policy Recommendation to Increase EV Charging Stations in the City

## SUMMARY

Consider Policy Recommendation to Increase EV Charging Stations in the City.

## STATUS

Low Greenhouse Gas Environment - In Progress

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Identify Potential Locations			
Identify Current Incentives and Consider Additional Incentives	In progress		
Outline and Record Evaluations to Determine what policy or Incentives to Consider	In progress	4/26/2022	Sara to Send out outline for discussion at 4/26/2022 meeting. – Delayed to May

## BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	NOTES
\$60,000		The Commission is working to leverage these funds with other air quality funding such as MSRC and SCAQMD

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS



# Project Status: Indoor Recycling and Organics Containers

## SUMMARY

The city provides indoor recycle and organics bins for businesses to support businesses working to comply with new waste diversion laws.

## GOAL/STATUS

Zero Waste / On going

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Outreach and bin delivery	On-going		The City consultant, D & B Visions, is working to do outreach to businesses to inform them of the new laws and offers and delivers these bins upon request.

## BUDGET

AMOUNT	SPENT	NOTES
\$15,000	\$5000	

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS





# Project Status: Develop an Outreach Plan

## SUMMARY

Outreach is important to the Sustainability Commission and to city sustainability efforts. The Commission has identified outreach as a critical component to sustainability. A Plan would provide organization and goals that would support outreach implementation.

## GOAL - STATUS

All - Not Started

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Draft an Outreach Plan	Not Started		This project will not start until after the draft Sustainability Plan and 2022 Work Plan is approved by City Council

## BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	% OF TOTAL	NOTES
N/A			

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS



# Project Status: Hold Sustainability Collection Events

## SUMMARY

These events collect used oil and used oil filters, electronic waste and waste tires. Paper shredding and compost exchange are also provided.

## GOAL - STATUS

Zero Waste - In Progress

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Set Calendar Year Event Dates	Complete		March 19, May 21 and September 24
Confirm vendors	Complete		
Outreach Events			March 19, May 21 Complete
Staff events, set up, tear down, record keeping			March 19, Complete

## BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	% OF TOTAL	NOTES
Grant OPP AB 939			

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Compost Exchange will stop or change once SB1383 comes into full effect. It will most likely become a compost give away.

The Commission may consider ways to include more outreach into these events.



# Project Status: Explore Circular Economy Initiatives

## SUMMARY

Consider circular economy initiatives or programs.

## GOAL - STATUS

Zero Waste – Next Steps Pending

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Identify circular economy infrastructure in the city	Complete		Staff compiled a list of Donation, Recycling and Electronic repair shops in the city in May 2021.

## BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	% OF TOTAL	NOTES
N/A			

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

2021 the Commission considered starting a computer repair and giveaway program for students/youth. Desert Arc showed interest in partnering with the program, however long term funding has not been identified.



# Project Status: Increase Bike Lanes per the Complete Streets Master Plan

## SUMMARY

Consider circular economy initiatives or programs.

## GOAL - STATUS

Sustainable Environment, Land Use and Transportation - Complete

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Increase Bike lanes throughout the City.	Complete		

## BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	% OF TOTAL	NOTES
N/A			

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

At the March 28, 2022 Commission meeting Terry Cechin, Street Maintenance Supervisor, presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Cechin showed a map of established bike lanes and proposed bike lanes. Approximately 14 center line miles of bike lanes have been added over the last 3 years. He explained that the bike lanes are added as streets need grind and overlay.



# Project Status: Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility

## SUMMARY

Work toward providing a permanent HHW facility in Indio.

## GOAL - STATUS

Zero Waste – In Progress

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK	STATUS	DUE DATE	NOTES
Connect with Riverside County because they would ultimately run the facility	In progress		Lisa Thompson, Environmental Compliance Manager with Riverside County Department of Waste Resources will speak at the May 23 <sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting

## BUDGET

CATEGORY	SPENT	% OF TOTAL	NOTES
N/A			

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS