

Sustainable City Commission

October 24, 2016

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Sustainable City Commission

Re: Policy Priorities for Sustainable Long Beach

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council:

In March our Commission wrote to you to let you know that as a body, we are seeking opportunities to be more active in increased dialogue with you, and very importantly—elevating the requests and voices of the public.

Since that communication, we are pleased to report that the Sustainable City Commission has seen a significant increase in public participation and comment. The public has organized and been very vocal in laying out their concerns and expectations for a sustainable Long Beach. As a Commission, we serve to offer suggestions and recommendations which will advance the quality of life for Long Beach residents, and it is our responsibility to ensure that you are hearing from the residents of Long Beach on these important matters.

To this end, we request that you review and give due consideration to the attached document, “Summary of Public Input.” This document reflects public comment both heard at our Commission meetings, as well as through the SpeakUp website.

Long Beach residents have come together and been especially articulate about several priority areas of interest. We would specifically like you to take note of the repeated public request for the following sustainable city goals, and provide your endorsement to:

- The establishment of a zero waste goal for Long Beach;
- A commitment to 100% renewable energy; and
- Increased walkability and public transit.

We appreciate the City’s assistance in increasing staffing and support to the Office of Sustainability, but as we review these priority policy areas it became clear that there is a need for the City to take action on some far-reaching initiatives that fall outside the Office of Sustainability’s scope and resources.

As a Commission, we feel strongly that the City of Long Beach needs to make a commitment to the policies in the enclosed Sustainable City Work Plan Goals. We would like to encourage the City Council to consider a renewed commitment to sustainability in Long Beach by supporting these key environmental initiatives and directing the appropriate City departments to pursue them.

The Sustainable City Commission stands in solidarity with the public's request, is also willing to volunteer our service in assisting staff with drafting appropriate policy recommendations to advance sustainability in Long Beach.

We look forward to your response to these requests so that we may extend that information to the residents of our great city.

Sincerely,

Sustainable City Commission