

Sustainable City Commission

November 9, 2016

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Sustainable City Commission Policy Priorities for 2017

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.

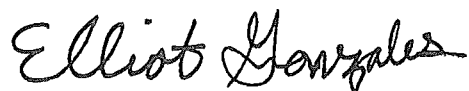
We appreciate the City’s assistance in increasing staffing and support to the Office of Sustainability, but as we review these priority policy areas it became clear that there is a need for the City to take action on some far-reaching initiatives that fall outside the Office of Sustainability’s scope 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 Commission Policy Priorities for 2017. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliot Gonzales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elliot Gonzales
Chair, Sustainable City Commission

Summary of Public Input

In preparation for the development of the 2017 Work Plan, public input was gathered from a SpeakUp Long Beach! community discussion board and the Sustainable City Commission Meeting held on August 25th, 2016.

Buildings & Neighborhoods

- **Steve:** Senior LGBT housing for LGBT people and allies (SpeakUp)
- **Chanel:** Visible, friendly walk paths on the west side of Long Beach to encourage both physical & mental health (SpeakUp)
- **Caitlin:** Enhancing the walkability of neighborhoods; making public space and amenities more accessible, safe, and enjoyable; encouraging people to use forms of alternate transportation (SpeakUp)
- **Laurie:** Improve bus routes and increase walkability (SpeakUp)
- **Marilyn:** Cleaning the alleys on street sweeping days; more effective process for removing graffiti (SpeakUp)
- **Chanel:** Create more walking paths and trails, especially in low income areas (SpeakUp)
- **Unknown Name, High School English teacher:** Modify land use to increase walkability and bike use, bring back corner stores, denser development (Commission Meeting)
- **Gabrielle, Sierra Club:** Cleaner air, safer water, safer open space, and outlawing leaf blowers (Commission Meeting)

Energy & Climate Change

- **Jae:** Stop fracking along the shore; promoting solar energy by applying for grants, training and employing residents to install solar panels (SpeakUp)
- **Caitlin:** Educating and providing incentives/rebates to residents and businesses to increase their energy efficiency; increasing the energy efficiency of City facilities by emphasizing energy accountability, interdepartmental partnerships, and aggressive applications for energy grants (SpeakUp)
- **Scott:** Pass an ordinance requiring any new building/construction to implement renewable energy sources; require solar for a percentage of all energy use; incorporate renewable energy infrastructure in city owned structures (SpeakUp)
- **Shamis, Engineer & Chair of LB chapter of Surfrider:** Work towards climate adaptation – sea level rise, coastal erosion; funds that encourage development off the beach (Commission Meeting)

Summary of Public Input Continued

Energy & Climate Change Continued

- **Jan:** Impact of air pollution from industrial areas, create climate justice emission plan, plan to move towards reliable and renewable energy, more community engagement and progress report of what's going on (Commission Meeting)
- **Patricia, Co-organizer for LB 350:** Adopting Climate Action Plan as element of the city's general plan, wants something that can last through more mayors, recommends it supports the Sustainable City Action Plan, make it as effective as possible (Commission Meeting)
- **Annie, Member of 350:** Urging the city to implement a community choice aggregation plan, a lot of energy can be saved by making the process more efficient (Commission Meeting)
- **Iris, Stop Fracking LB:** Encourage stop fracking, "keep it in the ground" (Commission Meeting)
- **Peter, Member of 350:** Install solar panels, study onshore wind power (Commission Meeting)
- **Carey, Member of 350:** Really impressed with what we're doing, would like the City to continue to support global climate change efforts (Commission Meeting)
- **Gabrielle, Sierra Club:** Implement community choice aggregation (Commission Meeting)

Green Economy & Lifestyle

- **Caitlin:** Create a "shop green" program or directory and encouraging healthy food options and recreational activities (SpeakUp)
- **Tony, Long Beach Fresh and Don't Waste Long Beach:** Consider adopting a Good Food Purchasing plan that increases standards for city-level food procurement; seek policies that connect green lifestyle to other critical values including, key values of local business, nutrition, animal welfare, and a valued workforce (SpeakUp & Commission Meeting)
- **Steve, LA Sierra Club:** Create more green job opportunities (Commission Meeting)

Summary of Public Input Continued

Transportation

- **Caitlin:** Expand transit lines and enhance bus stop amenities; create further bicycle infrastructure and expand City bike share programs; reduce emissions related to the port, airport, and City-affiliated vehicles (SpeakUp)
- **Lisa:** Maintain noise levels to an acceptable level; carefully consider sustainability into decisions such as introducing international flights at the Long Beach airport; decision making regarding this proposal must balance social, economic, and environmental considerations (SpeakUp)
- **Unknown Name, High School English teacher:** Accelerating the EV charging stations to encourage early adoption of city vehicles (Commission Meeting)

Urban Nature

- **Helen:** Revisit the Heartwell Park plan and get feedback from a larger number of people; establish a green waste plan (SpeakUp)
- **Caitlin:** Create greater connectivity between parks and transit; incorporate community participation with regards to planning parks and other green projects (SpeakUp)
- **Robin:** Urging urban agriculture incentive zone (Commission Meeting)

Waste Reduction

- **Caitlin:** Establishing City purchasing guidelines while promoting and educating residents/businesses on sustainable waste practices; establishing a food waste recovery program and an E-waste facility (SpeakUp)
- **Tony, Long Beach Fresh and Don't Waste Long Beach:** Establish a more far-reaching compost program for local businesses; working with restaurants more closely to reduce food waste by making portions more reasonable and encouraging programs that get excess food to the hungry (SpeakUp & Commission Meeting)
- **Louise:** Transition to a fully managed Waste Recycling System by establishing higher standards that address the needs of the small businesses, large office complexes, restaurants, or home owners, while providing fairness in pricing; begin the process of instituting a Long Beach Waste Reduction program and seek to franchise haulers who meet the City's solid waste reduction requirements (SpeakUp)
- **Ryan:** Encourage the food industry to not waste their excess food supply; educate the community and restaurants on what they can do with their excess food (SpeakUp)

Summary of Public Input Continued

Waste Reduction Continued

- **Stella:** Create local zero waste goal, currently lack access to recycling bins, encourage a recycling driven job hub (Commission Meeting)
- **Linda:** Increase number of recycling bins, establish a local zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)
- **Shamis, Engineer & Chair of LB chapter of Surfrider:** Waste reduction – ban of Styrofoam (Commission Meeting)
- **Unknown Name, Member of Earth Justice & Don't Waste Long Beach:** Adopt a zero waste goal, reduce reliance upon incinerator (Commission Meeting)
- **Francisco and Elizabeth, Don't Waste LB & Students LBCC:** Establish zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)

Summary of Public Input Continued

- **Diana, VP of Food Finders & Don't Waste Long Beach:** Despite the amount of food rescued, it is still the single largest source of food waste in CA, ensure all residents have access to food waste collection (Commission Meeting)
- **Natasha, Don't Waste LB:** Have limited access to green waste collection (Commission Meeting)
- **Alice, Nurse and Mother of 2 & Organizer of LB 350:** Would like to see solutions that have positive influences, adopt a zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)
- **Chloe and Sophia, Daughters of Alice:** Adopt a zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)
- **Patricia, Co-organizer for LB 350:** Adopt a zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)
- **Iris, Stop Fracking LB:** Have composting available citywide (Commission Meeting)
- **Unknown name, Member of 350:** Include ongoing public input components, adopt the zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)
- **Leah, Don't Waste LB:** Develop more comprehensive food waste reduction program (Commission Meeting)
- **Steve, LA Sierra Club:** Adopt a zero waste goal (Commission Meeting)
- **Stephanie, US Zero Waste Business Council:** Creating a zero waste economy for everyone, zero waste is the Cinderella of climate change (Commission Meeting)
- **Robin:** Adopt a zero waste goal and ban Styrofoam (Commission Meeting)
- **Gabrielle, Sierra Club:** Styrofoam ban (Commission Meeting)
- **John, Member of Surfrider, Smokefree LB, & Don't Waste LB:** Give citations out for littering (Commission Meeting)

Summary of Public Input Continued

Water

- **Caitlin:** Improving irrigation systems and impermeable surfaces, updating landscaping standards, and implementing means of recycling water (SpeakUp)
- **Nancy:** Increase infrastructure for reclaimed water so it can cover all of Long Beach (Commission Meeting)

Sustainable City Commission Policy Priorities for 2017

Following public meetings, stakeholder feedback and the annual planning retreat of the Sustainable City Commission, the Commissioners wish to establish the following policy priorities, building on the Office of Sustainability Work Plan.

These policy priorities focus on initiatives that will guide the City in its efforts to improve the well-being of those who live, work, and play in the City of Long Beach. The Commission asks that the City Council endorse the goals outlined below, and direct the appropriate City Departments to incorporate these commitments into their work. The Sustainable City Commission stands ready to support staff and provide our expertise in these policy areas.

Commitment to 100% Renewable Energy

- A commitment to utilizing only renewable forms of energy to power our future is imperative, and these resources are available to the City
- A growing number of cities are making the pledge to 100% Renewable Energy, and the City of Long Beach can be a leader in this effort
- Forming a Community Choice Energy program that focuses on local generation of renewables can help the City achieve this goal while boosting our economy by bringing green jobs to Long Beach and reducing utility costs to customers

Sustainable Waste Management

- Our waste management should be guided by a long term plan centered on a zero waste policy
- This includes new sustainable infrastructure, as well as programs to meet the needs and expectations of our residents and businesses
- The City should continue to be a regional leader while collaborating with other agencies and partners
- Shifting our waste management system will likely require a public 5-year notice

Sustainable City Commission Policy Priorities for 2017 Continued

Sustainable Transportation

- The City should continue to facilitate and encourage the transition of moving goods and people using zero emission and sustainable means, including:
 - Electrification of the Port of Long Beach, cold-ironing, on-dock rail, etc.
 - Bicycle infrastructure, amenities, incentives and education
 - Encouraging zero emission vehicles, including City fleet
 - Zero emission mass transit such as LB Transit busses
 - Implementation of EV charging plan to encourage private EV use

Sustainable Buildings and Neighborhoods

- Update green building policy to incorporate "cool" roofs and pavement practices
- Require solar installation on large commercial properties
- Establish sustainable landscaping requirements that phase out toxic practices and equipment such as pesticides, 2-stroke commercial lawn equipment, etc.

Water Resiliency

- Continue to be a leader in water conservation
- Identify opportunities to increase groundwater recharge
- Maximize the use of recycled water, increase education on greywater systems

A Connected Ecosystem

- Preserving and enhancing our remaining parks and open space; Identifying and maximizing benefits of open space including exercise, recreation, habitat, etc.
- Establish a plan to mitigate drought impacts to our existing urban forest while growing it in future years

Sustainable City Commission Policy Priorities for 2017 Continued

A Commitment to Enhancing Quality of Life

- Nourishing our residents with local, healthy food through promoting farmer's markets, urban agriculture, food recovery programs, etc.
- Continuing effort to make our communities more walkable and bikable
- Addressing local sources of air pollution to improve health outcomes
- Push for investment in Long Beach to create local, green jobs

A Commitment to Stakeholder Engagement

- Increase profile of Commission meetings, promote topics in advance and encourage stakeholder engagement
- Host or sponsor events and activities to engage the community outside of staffed meetings (in partnership with other non-profits to minimize City costs)
- Partner with local businesses to pilot and showcase new initiatives, develop findings and recommendations before programs are rolled out Citywide