

Un Futuro Sostenible en Long Beach 2021

Event Report

Event held on July 13 from 6-7:30pm via Zoom

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the partners that made the Un Futuro Sostenible en Long Beach event possible. Without the expert input and enthusiasm of each topic's facilitators, we would not have been able to host such in-depth and productive conversations with all our community participants. Listed below are all the City staff and community partners who gave their time and energy to guide the conversations and collect community feedback in our breakout sessions. They also helped us to spread the word to the Long Beach community to ensure we invited as many voices to the table as possible.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in Un Futuro Sostenible en Long Beach. We appreciate your time and thoughtful discussion of sustainability issues in Long Beach. We will incorporate your ideas into the Sustainability Strategic Plan whenever possible and look forward to continuing to collaborate with you on future initiatives to make our city more sustainable and resilient.

Facilitators:

Carmen Quezada, Recycling Specialist, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau

Ricardo Light, Transportation Planner, Long Beach Transportation Mobility Bureau

Hilda Gaytan, Vice Chair, Sustainable City Commission

Cris Sarabia, Conservation Director, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Introduction

This report summarizes the community input received at the 2021 Un Futuro Sostenible en Long Beach event hosted by the City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability on July 13, 2021 from 6pm to 7:30pm via Zoom. During the event, members of the public gathered virtually to discuss a few of the major topics in sustainability today and to give input on what actions are most needed to make Long Beach a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient city. Discussions were facilitated by subject-matter experts including City staff and representatives from local organizations.

Input from this event will be used to support the development of the new Sustainability Strategic Plan for the City of Long Beach which will replace the Sustainable City Action Plan (SCAP). The SCAP was adopted by City Council in 2010 and guided the City of Long Beach's initiatives around environmental sustainability for 10 years. This plan was originally developed by staff to identify the most pressing sustainability issues of the time, set ambitious goals for new and existing programs and policies, and help track progress towards sustainability achievements.

The new Sustainability Strategic Plan will set priorities and measurable goals for the City's sustainability initiatives for the next 5 years and support the implementation of other City initiatives such as the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and the Framework for Reconciliation.

Additional opportunities for public input will include an online survey and an additional public event to receive feedback on the draft plan. Information on these opportunities can be found on the Sustainability Strategic Plan website or through [registering for our newsletter](#).

For any questions about this report or the Sustainability Strategic Plan, please email Sustainability@longbeach.gov.

Session: Climate Resilience

Facilitators:

Cris Sarabia, Conservation Director, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Hilda Gaytan, Vice Chair, Sustainable City Commission

Q1: What effects of climate change have you felt?

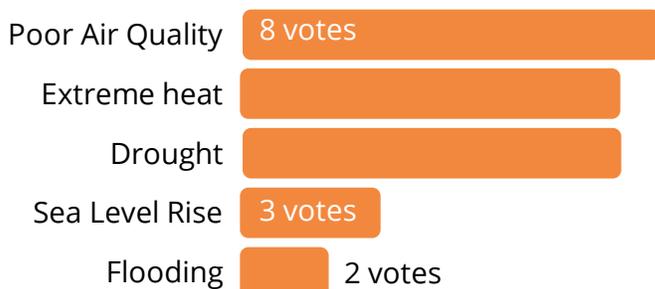
- ★ Temperature:
 - Not just high temperatures but seasons aren't set anymore, sometimes it's hot in the winter and seasons are not consistent
- ★ Air quality:
 - Poor air quality impacts people with asthma
 - I've seen the difference in air quality impacting my health when living in different parts of the city
 - Noticeable increase in dust living near freeways
 - Air quality affects our children and adults
 - Climate change and high heat also impacts air quality as well

Poll Questions:

1. Have you felt any of these effects of climate change?



2. What effects are you most worried about?



Session: Air Pollution

Facilitators:

Cris Sarabia, Conservation Director, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Hilda Gaytan, Vice Chair, Sustainable City Commission

Q1: What comes to mind when you hear the term “air pollution”?

- ★ A lot of dust and black particles inside the house despite constant cleaning, especially near windows even after upgrading windows to prevent dust
 - Heavy dust on plant leaves
- ★ Refineries and those living near them
- ★ Refineries affects air quality, but cars and trailers on freeway even more so
- ★ Air outside doesn't look or feel fresh
- ★ Air purifiers in the home are good but cost is a barrier
- ★ Smell chemicals in the air
- ★ Smaller particulate matter than can't necessarily be seen is more harmful
- ★ Difficulty breathing outside
- ★ Smoke generated from markets that cook meat outdoors

Q2: How does Long Beach's air quality impact you and your family?

- ★ Lowers quality of life and worsens existing medical and health problems
- ★ Can't go outside when air quality is bad because of asthma, even with a mask; limits ability to engage in outdoor activities
- ★ Planted a wall of trees to help capture and filter dust from the air near the home
- ★ Stress of constantly checking for current air quality

Q3: What can Long Beach do about air pollution, and what should the City prioritize?

- ★ Encourage recreation where air is cleaner: remove fees to have events/gatherings at parks
- ★ Plant more trees
 - Barrier: residents don't want to take on the additional maintenance of taking care of trees (cleaning up leaves/droppings, watering)
 - Suggestion: Water bill discounts to encourage tree plantings
- ★ Suggestion: Trees and air filters in schools
- ★ Increasing green space, especially in North LB
- ★ Money from covid grants to purchase air purifiers and filters for schools and the elderly
- ★ Increase budget for parks
- ★ City shouldn't rely on neighborhood associations and volunteers to maintain trees

Session: Active Transportation

Facilitators:

Carmen Quezada, Recycling Specialist, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau

Ricardo Light, Transportation Planner, Long Beach Transportation Mobility Bureau

Q1: What do you think about the state of active transportation in the City?

- ★ Not enough bike lanes
- ★ Need for increased safety
 - Safest routes with less cars are also less maintained and dirty
 - In North LB, streets are wider and more dangerous, cars drive faster
 - Suggestion: lower speed limit
 - Drivers are distracted
 - Feel safer on the sidewalk, but that is illegal
- ★ Problem with bicycle theft. Police don't resolve bike theft reports.
 - Need for accessible, secure public bike storage
- ★ Suggestions:
 - Incentives to encourage people to bike more
 - Plan routes according to most transited roads, need more connecting bike routes

Q2: How can sustainable transportation policies and programs meet the needs of your communities?

- ★ More bike routes
- ★ More bike routes in high traffic pollution areas to decrease cars and increase bikes
- ★ Painting a bike route sign on a narrow road doesn't make it safer for bikes to ride there
- ★ More lighting. When driving, can't see pedestrians and cyclists at night

Q3: What will you do to make Long Beach streets safer?

- ★ Advocate and get more involved in the City to make change
- ★ Drive slower to make streets safer, but something more structural is needed to make change
- ★ Suggestion: provide classes about bike safety

Session: Open Space

Facilitators: Carmen Quezada, Recycling Specialist, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau
Ricardo Light, Transportation Planner, Long Beach Transportation Mobility Bureau

Q1: What does open space mean to you?

- ★ Parks
- ★ A place to play
- ★ A place to see nature
- ★ Anywhere people can gather and get together

Q2: What barriers prevent you from visiting open spaces?

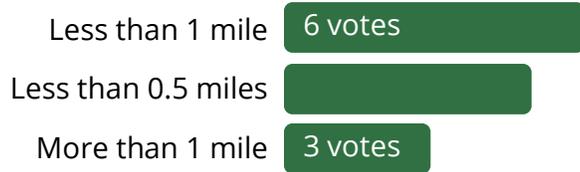
- ★ Not enough park space in some areas. Only 1 acre of park space per 1000 residents in North LB
- ★ Loitering and illegal activity makes parks feel unsafe
- ★ Parks too far to walk, having to drive to access green space
- ★ Walking to parks can feel dangerous due to criminal activity

Q3: What strategies could the City use to address these barriers?

- ★ Using parks for meetings, eliminating costs to hosting events
- ★ Create more open space
- ★ Hosting fitness events at no cost in the parks to activate them (like yoga on the bluff)
- ★ Reduce obstacles to host events at parks, like permit requirements and fees, no fees to close streets for events
- ★ More events like Beach Streets on a smaller scale. Make them smaller to allow them to be more frequent, more accessible
 - Close streets to give people opportunity to bike ride and play without a big event
 - Weekly closure of streets in Downtown like what is done in Mexico City
- ★ Vacant lots turned into pocket parks (like Craftsman Park at Orange and 10th)
- ★ Open the school's green areas to the public in areas with less open space and parks
- ★ More art to beautify areas and encourage people to go out; art exhibitions
- ★ Support small organizations
- ★ Plant more trees for shade

Poll Questions:

1. How far do you travel to visit open space?



2. How often do you visit open space?



3. How much time do you spend in open space each visit?

