

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 9, 2024

PREPARED BY: Amy Lawrence, Deputy Director of Economic Development

REQUEST: APPROVE RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT  
COMMITTEE 2024/2025 WORK PLAN

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Resource Preservation and Enhancement Committee's 2024/2025 Work Plan.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

In advance of the February 26, 2024, Resource Preservation and Enhancement Committee (RPEC) meeting, members were asked to submit up to three (3) priorities that they would like to have considered for inclusion in their 2024/2025 Work Plan. Relevant priorities submitted included water conservation, sustainable landscaping, energy conservation, active transportation, air quality, electrification of the City's fleet, recycling education, and adoption of a LEED certification policy. Of the individual priorities submitted, the Committee's consensus was to prioritize water conservation, sustainable landscaping, and energy conservation for the 2024/2025 workplan.

At its April 15, 2024, RPEC meeting, staff worked with the Committee to outline specific projects related to the three (3) priorities chosen. Below is the Resource Preservation and Enhancement Committee's draft 2024/2025 workplan for City Council consideration.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Time/Process</b>
Develop a Climate Action Plan	Hire a consultant to develop a formal climate action plan.	Staff time and est. *\$118K in grant funds - <i>*amount included in proposed FY 24/25 budget</i>	Estimated 12 months including City Council approval to proceed, posting RFP, award of contract, community engagement, RPEC review throughout process, to City Council approval of plan.
Adoption of Ordinances and/or Policies	Propose at least one ordinance/policy related to water and/or energy conservation.	Staff time	Staff will work with RPEC to develop new ordinances and/or policies for City Council consideration. The first one estimated to be taken forward by the end of Q4 2024.
Education and Outreach	Conduct education and outreach for water and energy conservation and sustainable landscaping.	Staff time	Staff will draft a comprehensive education and outreach plan for RPEC to adopt including promotion of utility rebates, community partnerships, useful tips, etc. via the City's website, BrightSide newsletter, social media, and other means. Staff will also continue participating in the Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation, Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and look at other relevant initiatives.

Because RPEC meets bimonthly and proposes initiatives that often require coordination between various departments and partner agencies, staff proposed that the work plan extend through December 31, 2025, with the intent that the next two-year plan be adopted prior to the end of 2025.

**Legal Review:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no cost associated with adopting the work plan. There may be costs associated with proposed projects which will require subsequent City Council approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

List of Individual Priorities Submitted by RPEC Members for Consideration