



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

City Manager's Office, Office of Sustainability

Board of Public Utilities

June 28, 2021

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BACKGROUND

March 10, 2020 City Council action:

1. **Conceptually approved creation of an Office of Sustainability** within the City Manager's Office to act as a catalyst for the full development and implementation of sustainability and resiliency policies and actions and the repurpose of two existing vacant positions as the Sustainability Officer and a support position
2. **Requested staff to:**
 - a. **Develop further detail** on the position levels and pay scale;
 - b. **Present the proposal to the Budget Engagement Commission** for a recommendation; and
 - c. **Return to the City Council** for a final determination.



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BACKGROUND

April 27, 2021 City Council action:

1. **Reconfirmed City Council's direction on March 10, 2020**
2. **Supported a new full-time Chief Sustainability Officer position** by directing staff to bring back a job scope and duties and recommended salary range for a new full-time Chief Sustainability Officer position for the purpose of:
 - a. **Fully implementing the Office of Sustainability; and**
 - b. **Shepherding organization-wide sustainability efforts in support of the City Council's more recently adopted Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan.**



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RIVERSIDE 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



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SUSTAINABLE RIVERSIDE

Office of Sustainability will function as a **catalyst** for:

- 1. Organizational alignment:** Alignment of resources and structure around sustainability;
- 2. Bake into our DNA:** Integration of sustainability across departments and divisions with respect to policies, plans, metrics, and actions;
- 3. Silo-busting:** Collaboration among the city team and stakeholders;
- 4. Connecting the dots & achieving outcomes:** Facilitation of sustainability and resiliency priorities and goals across the city organization;
- 5. Partnerships & collaboration**


How we move forward and hold ourselves accountable.



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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE...



- Launched Office of Sustainability in August 2020
- Limited impacts by utilizing existing staff
- Formed interdepartmental teams under each TBL area
- Home departments continue funding

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS



1. Renewable Electricity
 - a. Utility portfolio
 - b. Supporting customer renewables
2. Energy Efficiency
3. Transportation & Building Electrification
 - a. Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program
 - b. Clean Fuel Reward Program
 - c. Supporting Building Decarbonization Ordinance
4. Habitat Conservation Planning
5. Water Conservation
6. Education Programming

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EFFORTS



1. Learning Communities
 - Choosing Civility Riverside Reads
 - City Diversity Training
2. DEI Third Party Assessment



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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EFFORTS



**RPU ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**

RiversidePublicUtilities.com/Assistance



ERAP
**EMERGENCY
RECOVERY**
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



"I really appreciate the RPU for working with people regarding their utility bills and having a heart during these crazy times. Thank you!"

~from Social Media



1. High customer satisfaction
2. High quality customer service
3. Ensure fair and equitable electric and water rates
4. Education programming and events
5. Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Rebates
6. Casa Blanca Customer Resource Center
7. Low-Income Assistance
 - ERAP – COVID-19 emergency assistance
 - SHARE – Monthly and emergency bill assistance program
 - Energy Savings Assistance Program



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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY EFFORTS



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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY EFFORTS



**SMALL BUSINESS
DEPOSIT CREDIT PROGRAM**

The Small Business Deposit Credit Program is providing relief to the local small business community by returning utility account deposits in the form of a utility bill credit.

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"I look forward to working with you and the city of Riverside. Super appreciate the responsiveness and the positive attitude. Believe me when I tell you, that's not universal working with the other cities and counties out there."



**RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES
ENERGY TIPS**

BUSINESS EDITION

1. High customer satisfaction
5. Commercial customer support
2. High quality customer service
6. Streamlined permitting
3. Ensure fair and equitable electric and water rates
7. Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Rebates
4. Economic Development Rate


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ONE-STOP SHOP SUSTAINABILITY



	INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS	ALL PROJECTS (CUMULATIVE)
 <div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CUSTOMER</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 drive miles saved per Plan Review 1.5 driving hours saved per Plan Review 3 gal. (\$11.55) of gas savings per Plan Review \$792 cost of paper saved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150,000 drive miles saved 3,750 driving hours saved 6,716 gal. (\$25,856) of gas savings \$1,980,000 cost of paper saved
<div style="background-color: #FFD700; color: #002060; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CITY TEAM</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 hours of savings per Plan Review \$120 of savings per Plan Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,688 hours of savings in Plan Review \$300,000 of savings in Plan Review
<div style="background-color: #6B8E23; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ENVIRONMENT</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.024 saved of carbon dioxide release per plan review 6 less car trips to OSS per Plan Review 0.10 trees saved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59.7 metric tons saved of carbon dioxide release per year 15,000 less car trips to OSS per year 256 trees saved


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NEXT STEPS

Part 1: Develop staff plan, budget, and implement the framework for the OOS roles and responsibilities.

- 1. Work across the City organization** to foster a strong culture around cross-department teams for greater impact in sustainability work;
- 2. Lead triple bottom line work groups** to increase coordination and standardization among service areas around sustainability goals;
- 3. Participate regionally** in efforts related to sustainability;
- 4. Join organizations specializing in sustainability** best practices and peer-to-peer learnings;
- 5. Initiate conversations** about alternative approaches to addressing sustainability including, but not limited to, city organizational structure change, establishment of a sustainability commission, and the creation of new positions (e.g. Chief Sustainability Officer);
- 6. Coordinate** legislative platform and regulatory compliance; and
- 7. Develop and initiate a stakeholder communications and education strategy.**

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NEXT STEPS

Part 2: Triple Bottom Line Teams

(funded or included in upcoming budget)

1. **All Working Groups** –Municipal Sustainability Plan to implement Council's Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan and the General Plan Update to ensure long-range sustainability efforts are integrated throughout the:
 - a. Environmental Justice Element / Climate Adaptation / Housing Element
 - b. Phase 2 of General Plan Update
2. **Economic Prosperity Work Group** – key efforts including Economic Prosperity Action Plan development, Northside Specific Plan, Innovation District, One Stop Shop, infrastructure investment, Santa Ana River economic opportunities, others
3. **Social Responsibility Work Group** - Diversity/Equity/Inclusivity Plan, diversity training, Equity Officer recruitment, support Community Engagement Policy
4. **Environmental Stewardship Work Group** - CEQA certified Climate Action Plan, regional environmental collaborations, key efforts to reduce GHG emissions



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REALIZING ENVISION RIVERSIDE 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



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RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Receive an update on citywide sustainability efforts, including activities of the Office of Sustainability and Riverside Public Utilities; and
2. Share thoughts and ideas for RPU's involvement in citywide sustainability efforts.



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