

Encouraging the creation of smoke-free zones on the beaches of Las Canteras and Las Alcaravaneras

By CDM

Thu Aug 24 16:12:41 WEST 2017

Noticias



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria town hall promotes the establishment of smoke-free zones, where you can not smoke, on the beaches of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The proposal, as explained by the Councilor of Ciudad de Mar, José Eduardo Ramírez, will be discussed at the next meeting of the participation forum of the Ecotourism Micro-area of Las Canteras, scheduled for September, and will be asked citizens through the Internet.

According to Ramírez, the town hall will first press citizens' opinion "because we want to have the maximum consensus in a proposal that will help us to promote environmental awareness and protection of health among the population."

The council of Ciudad de Mar wants to start implementing this measure next fall on the beaches of Las Canteras and Las Alcaravaneras and then extend it to the rest of beaches in the capital. "We have three initial proposals that will serve as a pilot experience: in La Cícer, between California and Pizarro streets and in the space of Playa Grande, a section between the streets Hierro and Fuerteventura and another between La Palma and Gran Canaria.

The choice of these spaces has been agreed upon among the municipal technicians because these are places with a lot of families and children, and in La Cícer's case there is also a sporting space.

The councilman explained that Ciudad de Mar will bring the proposal to the next meeting of the Ecotourism Micro-area of Las Canteras in which are represented about 30 collectives, professionals and institutions, as well as beach users at a particular level. The City Council will then ask the citizens through the Internet for about 15 days before making a decision. "We are optimistic and we think they will support us. We want to seek the complicity of all," he said.

In any case, the measure will not have a levy. It will be accompanied by warnings for those who do not comply with the norm and will point out the places where smoking will not be allowed.

Ciudad de Mar has promoted different awareness campaigns to keep the beaches of the capital free of cigarette butts with explicit messages, videos on social networks and free distribution of reusable ashtrays.

Butts have become one of the residues that most affect the cleaning of the sand, as it accounts for over 30% of the total waste that the cleaning service operators of Ciudad de Mar collect every day from the sand, with Mechanical means (screen) and manual. In addition, its toxic effects are maintained over time as it can take more than 10 years to degrade. The cigarette butt filters are made of cellulose acetate, which retain some of the toxic substances in the cigarettes.

"We have to think that normal should not be able to smoke on the beaches. Our beaches are our natural spaces most used by the population and tourists and also unlike other areas of the coast in Europe, we use them 365 days a year, "said the councilman.