

# Carbon Neutrality Major Plan Amendment

City of Flagstaff 2021

PZ-21-00124





# Major Plan Amendment



## Category

9) Text Amendments -  
Add or delete a goal or  
policy in any chapter of  
the Plan

## Additional Procedures

- 60 public review
- Notification of specific agencies and utilities
- A citizen review session
- 2 hearings with Planning and Zoning in different locations
- A 2/3 majority of Council must approve the amendment



# Plan Amendment Proposal

The proposed changes to pages IV-11 and IV-12 include:

- Changes to the narrative,
- Revisions to goals E&C.2 and E&C.3,
- Revisions to policies E&C.2.1, E&C.2.2, E&C.3.2, and E&C4.1,
- Addition of three policies: E&C.2.3, E&C.3.5, and E&C.3.6,  
and
- a wording revision to policy T.8.1, in the Transportation chapter (located on page X-19)



# Plan Amendment Proposal

## Revised and new E&C.2

Goal E&C.2. ~~Reduce greenhouse gas emissions~~ Achieve carbon neutrality for the Flagstaff community by 2030.

Policy E&C.2.1. Encourage the reduction of ~~all energy~~ and material consumption, ~~especially fossil fuel generated energy, in public, commercial, industrial, and residential sectors.~~

Policy E&C.2.2. Promote investments that create a more connected and efficient community, decrease emissions from transportation and building energy, and strengthen climate resiliency.

Policy E&C.2.3. Review and revise existing regulations, standards, and plans (codes, ordinances, etc.) to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy E&C 2.4. Promote developments that help the community achieve carbon neutrality through strategies that reduce the project's emissions from transportation, energy, and consumption.



# Plan Amendment Proposal

## Revised E&C.3

Goal E&C.3. Prepare Flagstaff's ~~Strengthen~~ community systems and resources to be more resilient to climate change impacts ~~natural environment resiliency through climate adaptation efforts~~ and address climate change in a manner that prioritizes those most impacted and ensures the costs and benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation are equitably distributed.

Policy E&C.3.1. Develop and implement a comprehensive and proactive approach to prepare the community for and to minimize the impacts of climate change induced hazards.

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Policy E&C.3.2. Review and revise existing regulations, standards, and plans (codes, ordinances, etc.) to reduce the community's vulnerability to climate change impacts and reduce the disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities.

Policy E&C.3.3. Invest in forest health and watershed protection measures.

Policy E&C.3.4. Increase the region's preparedness for extreme climate events.



# Plan Amendment Proposal

## New Policies under E&C.3

Policy E&C.3.5. Improve the ability of vulnerable community members to adapt and thrive amidst the pressures of climate change.

Policy E&C.3.6. Attempt to equitably distribute the burdens and benefits of climate action policies and investments to all segments of the community.



# Plan Amendment Proposal

## Revised E&C.4

Goal E&C. 4. Integrate available science into policies governing the use and conservation of Flagstaff's natural resources.

Policy E&C. 4.1. Assess vulnerabilities and risks of Flagstaff's natural resources in the context of anticipated climate changes and resulting changes to Flagstaff's systems.

Policy E&C. 4.2. Develop water use policies that attempt to integrate current best projections of climate change effects on the Colorado Plateau's water resources and emphasize conservation.



# Plan Amendment Proposal

## Wording revision to policy T.8.1

Policy T.8.1. Promote efficient ~~transportation~~network connectivity to and within major trade corridors, employment centers, and special districts that enhances the region's standing as a major economic hub.



# Why is a plan amendment necessary?



The climate action work of the City has evolved rapidly since the 2014 adoption of the Regional Plan, creating a gap between the guidance provided in the Regional Plan and the City's declared climate goals and the ambition of its climate actions.

This will reduce confusion, increase transparency, and provide decision-makers with support when making decisions based on the City's climate action goals.



# Required Public Process and Notice

## Prepare Application

- Preapplication Meeting
- Review with Commissions
- Prepare draft amendment language and impact analyses
- Inter Division Staff review application
- Application deemed complete



## 60 day public review

- Transmit application to other government agencies, utility companies, and the public
- Hold a neighborhood meetings
- Application deemed substantively complete



## P&Z and Council Hearings

- 2 Planning and Zoning Commission Hearings in 2 locations
- Council Hearing



# Impact Analysis Summary

- No impact on Regional Plan area-place types or supply of zoning
- Water and Wastewater Impact Analyses, Cultural Resource Studies, and School Impact Analysis were waived by the Planning Director
- Transportation – promotes transportation options and active transportation, impacts to vehicle traffic in line with overall Regional Plan goals
- Housing – Prepare for impacts of climate change critical to maintaining affordable housing in the face of climate migration.



# Impact Analysis Summary

- Public Services and Facilities – Increase resiliency and preparedness. Reduced energy costs after initial investment
- Economic Development – Implementing carbon neutrality will have a variety of costs and benefits. Action now is less expensive than waiting for future impacts. Collaborative coordination with businesses and service providers will be important in ensuring a positive economic outcome.
- Police and Fire – No impact

# Plan Conformance

## Finding #1

Most goals and policies  
support the amendment  
Substantial conformance

- Improved alignment on carbon neutrality
- Quality of open space can be maintained
- Water resources and energy use will be more sustainable



# Plan Conformance

## Finding #1

Potentially conflicting policies and recommendations for mitigations



- The protections of dark skies should be maintained even if it is a challenge for carbon neutrality (E&C.5)
- Increasing densities may lead to some loss in views which are an element of community character. Viewshed management and identification of priority viewsheds could be a mitigation (CC.1)
- T.8.4 and T.8.5 can be mitigated by consideration of emissions in transportation improvement design

# Community Benefits

## Finding #2

- Increased understanding and policy alignment with community priorities
- Increased transparency
- Improved resilience and preparation for climate change
- Additional acknowledgement of equity considerations and disparate vulnerability of community members
- Strong basis for action on climate issues.





# Plan Amendment Proposal

## Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendation

Recommend that the City Council approve the Carbon Neutrality Major Plan amendment, case PZ-21-00124 with the condition of changing the words “Attempt to” from E&C.3.6 to “Commit to...”

### P&Z rewording

Policy E&C.3.6. Commit to equitably distribute the burdens and benefits of climate action policies and investments to all segments of the community.