

## Month in Review: March, 2021.

### HOT TOPICS:

- Earth Day 2021! Due to Covid 19, Earth Day will be celebrated through virtual engagement. We will host a social media blast featuring short video clips submitted by each Council Member with their call to action! Also, look for Mayor Deasy's statewide Earth Day call to action, in collaboration with other Mayors around Arizona!
- In partnership with Water Conservation, we will be providing articles to the Daily Sun to incorporate into a weekly Earth Day Section in the Sunday paper throughout April.
- The City of Flagstaff has partnered with APS to install a solar carport at the Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (NACET). The solar carport installed at NACET will have a generation capacity of 125 kilowatts of AC power (kWac). In addition, APS will provide the City with monthly bill credits for the next 20 years for participating in the program. The project is part of APS's Solar Communities program, an initiative designed to expand access to solar for residential customers and organizations serving the limited-income population, including Title I schools, nonprofits, rural governments and municipalities. Participation in the program is free and qualified non-residential customers receive a solar-covered parking structure and a monthly bill credit on their energy bill. While the program is now closed to new non-residential applicants, APS is on track to install nearly 40 solar parking structures as part of the program.

### CLIMATE ACTION:

- Staff will be continuing our Climate Emergency Open House, focused on the draft Carbon Neutrality Plan that will go before Council on May 18th. The Open House website is available here: <https://flgsustain.learnworlds.com/course/open-house>. We will also be hosting 4 live events via Zoom to answer questions about the Carbon Neutrality Plan:
  - Wednesday, April 7th, 6:00-7:00 pm
  - Friday, April 9th, 12:00-1:00 pm
  - Thursday, April 15th, 6:00-7:00 pm
  - Saturday, April 17th, 10:00-11:00 am
- The Take Charge AZ program with APS to install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) has continued to develop for all three sites. Recent developments offered for each site:
  - Airport: Preliminary design has been expanded from 4 stalls to 6 stalls. Airport staff and project managers have been working with Peak Engineering, a civil firm, to develop plans for the new parking area. Staff met with Peak Engineering, APS and C2 representatives to coordinate parallel efforts. C2 is currently updating the design sketch for the EVCS to align with the Peak Engineering files.
  - Library: Staff continues to work with WLB, the engineering firm responsible for designing the library entrance update, and APS/C2. WLB has incorporated the EVCS design into their preliminary design, which will be going to council on May 11th. Staff has provided this design to C2 so that they can update the design sketch for the EVCS to align with the WLB files.

- Aquaplex: The preliminary design for the EVCS at the Aquaplex has been approved by staff. As such the Customer Acceptance Package has been signed by the City Manager, and APS/C2 is currently working on the detailed engineering.

**COMMUNITY STEWARDS/LITTER PREVENTION:**

- We will be hosting an Earth Day neighborhood clean-up event. We will meet at several parks around the community and head out into the surrounding neighborhoods to clean up litter. Each park will have a volunteer clean up leader. Pre-Registration and masks are required, and we will be limiting the number of people at each location, per Covid.

- March Litter Cleanup Data:

<b>Date</b>	<b># of Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Bags of Trash</b>	<b>Bags of Recycling</b>
3/6/2021	15	15	1	0
3/6/2021	10	20	5	0
3/8/2021	1	1	1	0
3/9/2021	1	1	1	1
3/20/2021	7	25	5	0
3/20/2021	3	9	6	3
3/22/2021	4	4	2	0
3/22/2021	5	10	2	1
3/27/2021	3	6	1	1

**ENERGY:**

- The final live (virtual) HEE Workshop was run on March 11th. In total we ran 6 live (virtual) workshops this winter season and had 30 resident attendees. In addition, we have had 6 residents complete the HEE online course.
- The Solar United Neighbors Northern Arizona Co-Op continues to grow beyond expectations! As of 3/29, there are 208 members of the co-op. The original goal was for 75 members. The NAZ co-op is now the largest co-op SUN has facilitated in Arizona, eclipsing the 168 members that signed up for the Tucson co-op. The Co-op closes to new members after 3/31. In addition to attending (and presenting at) the informational webinars, staff have also:
  - Developed and posted dozens of social media posts across multiple platforms
  - Given interviews to traditional media outlets
  - Joined Council Members for live social media discussions
- Staff was also excited to learn that the co-op selection committee chose a local Flagstaff solar company, Rooftop Solar, to be the chosen co-op installer. Rooftop Solar will also be working with Prometheus to deliver all installations in a timely fashion.

**FOOD SYSTEMS:**

- Sustainability and Beautification staff finalized a process for the O'Leary St Garden Placemaking Project. Staff will release a call to artists. The Southside Community Association will act as the selection committee. Targeting July to select the artist and implement as part of a community work day in the fall.
- Community Garden sign-ups have begun.

- In partnership with the Cooperative Extension, staff has developed a Garden Mentor program to help inexperienced community gardeners grow food in Flagstaff's challenging climate.

#### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT:

- In partnership with the Cooperative Extension, staff has developed a Garden Mentor program to help inexperienced community gardeners grow food in Flagstaff's challenging climate. After discussions with potential participants and NAU (where food scraps would be composted), NAU's composting operation is not ready to accept compostable food scrap bin liners, which would be necessary to aggregate food scraps and dispose of in outdoor dumpsters. Staff will be working with NAU to pilot compostable bin liners with their own food scraps diversion efforts on-campus before revisiting a City collection service.
- Staff presented a Zero Waste Event Guide to the monthly Event Partner Meeting. Staff will be working with Recreation staff to update the event permit application to gather more detailed information on event producers' waste prevention and diversion plans. Sustainability Staff will also now be included in the event permit routing system for large events, providing us an opportunity to help event producers achieve waste prevention and diversion goals.

#### SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

- In the meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioners discussed the future of the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant, worked on a Mission and Vision exercise, and heard presentations from Sustainability Staff and Beautification and Public Art Staff.
- Next meeting: Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 4:30pm-6:30pm

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our top post was on the greenhouse being built outside our office to support the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, with 101 reactions and 19 shares on Facebook, and 145 likes on Instagram.



