

Sustainability Section

Month in Review: June 2021.

HOT TOPICS:

- On June 15th, the Carbon Neutrality Plan was adopted by City Council. Staff is continuing to work towards the realization of the goals of this plan.
- The City of Flagstaff Sustainability Section and the Flagstaff Fire Department partnered to launch a new public health program called the Flagstaff HEPA Filter Program (FHFP), which provides free HEPA air purifiers to at-risk community members.
 - FHFP collaborated with key stakeholders to identify target audiences for the program.
 - Community partners included Coconino County Public Health Services, Coconino County Health and Human Service's Senior Services Program, Coconino County's Healthy Families Program, Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center and the Hal Jensen Recreation Center.
 - The program was funded through a combination of grants and private donations.
 - In total, 86 HEPA air purifiers were purchased for the program, 81 which were distributed to selected households, and five which were kept by the Sustainability Section to loan out to community members and organizations in the future. The Sustainability Section also purchased five additional HEPA air purifiers for loan. 260 applications were submitted for only 81 air purifiers.

CLIMATE ACTION:

- Staff has advanced conversations with Elevate Consulting Group to begin development of financial investment scenarios, financial impact assessments, and cost-avoidance estimates associated with the Carbon Neutrality Plan.
- The Climate Team has brought on 9 interns to help advance projects this summer:
 - Greenhouse Gas Inventory Intern
 - Building Electrification Intern
 - RentLab Outreach and Engagement Intern
 - Climate and Business Intern
 - Accessibility Intern
 - Transportation and Climate Interns (x2)
 - Community Equity Interns (x2)

COMMUNITY STEWARDS/LITTER PREVENTION:

- The Summer Watershed Clean Up Series is under way. The first event was on Saturday, June 12, 2021 in the wash along Bushmaster Park's east side and behind the Santa Fe Shopping Center. The cleanup yielded 9 bags of trash and recycling. The event on Sunday, June 27, 2021 was in the Sunnyside Museum Fire flood mitigation path. Volunteer collected 11 bags of trash and 2 bags of recycling collected and removed from the area.



- On June 14th, Staff hosted the first quarterly meeting for a Litter Abatement Network for Arizona agencies, organizations and other professionals looking to combat litter and graffiti in their communities. 15 people attended, discussing topics such as litter reporting applications and programs employing persons experiencing homelessness.
- June Litter Cleanup Data:

Date	# of Volunteers	Total Hours	Bags of Trash	Bags of Recycling
06/05/2021	15	30	48	0
06/09/2021	1	1	1	0
06/12/2021	7	11	3	2
06/12/2021	2	4	7	1
06/17/2021	10	10	4	1
06/20/2021	4	4	1	0
06/26/2021	8	16	11	2
Totals	47	76	75	6

ENERGY:

- The Electric Vehicle Charging Station project at the Aquaplex is the most advanced in terms of timeline. The first pre-construction meeting was held on 6/21, and construction could begin within weeks.
 - The Airport project is advancing, with a pre-construction meeting tentatively scheduled for mid-July.

- The Library project is in a temporary holding pattern while APS is conducting internal discussions about how to approach the project, knowing that the Rio de Flag project will be coming through in the next 2-7 years.

FOOD SYSTEMS:

- Staff hosted a DIY Container gardening workshop on June 12th at the Izabel St garden. Materials for the workshop were donated by the Flagstaff Seed Library and HomCo. There were 13 attendees.



- Staff is working on an application for the 2021 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grant for a Food Systems Assessment.
- Staff is leading an NAU Public Health Capstone group to launch a food waste minimization campaign.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT:

- Kaeli Wells was recently hired as the new Materials Management Coordinator for the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Section. Kaeli is originally from Flagstaff, Arizona and received her B.A. in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development from Western Washington University. She has worked closely with the Sustainability Section since 2018, when she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member for the Flagstaff Open Space Program. Kaeli looks forward to learning more and educating others about recycling and waste diversion.
- Dylan Lenzen, Sustainability Specialist, is moving on to another opportunity. The Sustainability Section is grateful for the time and excellent work Dylan has given to his position with the City of Flagstaff and wishes him the best in his new position. The recruitment process for the Community Sustainability Specialist position is currently underway.
- Staff selected a contractor to provide a weekly food scraps drop-off service at the Sunday farmer's market. Collection is tentatively scheduled to begin the second weekend of July.
- Staff completed a recycling audit of the Ponderosa Trails neighborhood that showed a 19% contamination rate. This will serve as a baseline measure as the Pay-as-you-throw pilot begins in August.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

- In the meeting on June 24th, the Commissioners heard and discussed presentations on NAU's Climate Action Plan and Northern Arizona Healthcare's proposed Fort Tuthill Campus, reviewed and approved changes to the Neighborhood Sustainability and Water Conservation Research Grants, discussed how they would like to meet when the City enters Phase 4 of re-entry, and approved a letter of recommendation for the City of Flagstaff's RAISE grant application for the Downtown Mile Project.
- Next meeting: Thursday July 22nd, 2021, 4:30pm-6:30pm

UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- The next Fix It Clinic will be Saturday, July 10th, 2021 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center. Staff has partnered with Tynkertopia to host some fix it style activities and they will be accepting donations for their day-to-day operations. The Hazardous Products Center will also be hosting a mini drop off day at this event where they will be collecting batteries, CFLs and aerosol cans.
- The Summer Watershed Clean Up Series has two litter clean up events scheduled for July:
 - July 8th at 3:00 pm at the empty lot on Soliere, west of Country Club Dr.
 - July 27th at 3:00 pm behind the Huntington Walmart (2601 E Huntington Dr.)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our top post on both Facebook and Instagram was a post focused on reducing waste. It received 50 likes on Instagram, and 38 reactions and 14 shares on Facebook.

