



## Sustainability Section

Month in Review: **September, 2021.**

### HOT TOPICS:

- The Sustainability team has been busy, but we still make time to do our part! After the most recent team meeting, staff spent an hour picking up litter along the streets and trails around the Sustainability Office.
- The Carbon Neutrality Plan has been nominated as a finalist for the Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Award in Climate Action.

### CLIMATE ACTION:

- The Carbon Neutrality Plan webpage is now active at [www.flagstaff.az.gov/CNP](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/CNP).
- The Regional Plan Amendment 60-day review period has now closed. Staff are now moving into the Commission review period with the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Staff are working on a fleet electrification policy and guidance for internal use, as the City moves to electrify its fleet.
- The Climate team is working with a Climate Science and Solutions graduate class to create a resource document on resilience in Flagstaff during the fall semester.
  - The students will draw from several resource documents that the City has to develop one updated resource on vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience.
  - The class will speak with the community about vulnerability and resilience.
  - The class presented to the Sustainability Commission on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and to City Council on September 28<sup>th</sup>. They will be returning to present again in November.

### COMMUNITY STEWARDS/LITTER PREVENTION:

- Staff hosted their second Quarterly Litter Abatement Meeting for leaders in litter and graffiti abatement in Arizona. Communities represented included Flagstaff, Glendale, and Tempe. Items discussed included Glendale's Team Up to Clean Up Initiative, mapping and reporting system samples, and campaign success stories.
- September Litter Cleanup Data:

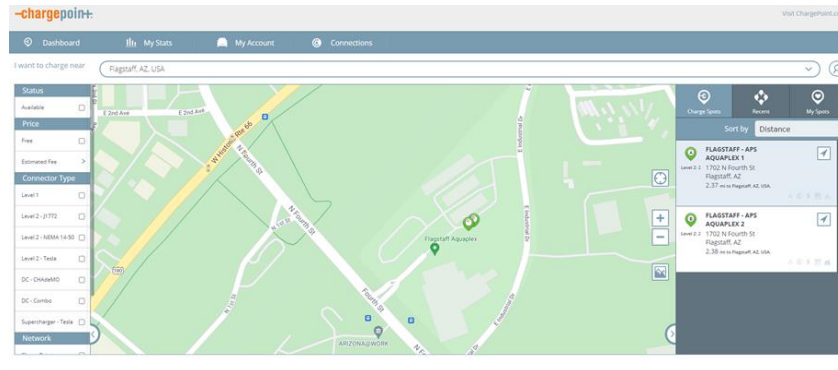
Date	# of Volunteers	Total Hours	Bags of Trash	Bags of Recycling
9/5/21	6	9	5	0
9/6/21	2	5	5	0
9/6/21	4	4	2	2
9/11/21	26	91	10	6
9/18/21	22	22	8	4
9/18/21	9	9	2	1
9/18/21	5	10	13	4
9/23/21	14	21	7	4
9/26/21	5	5	5	0
9/26/21	4	4	1	0
9/26/21	5	5	2	0
9/29/21	7	7	4	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>23</b>



**ENERGY:**

- The Residential Electrification Information Hub webpage is now live and can be viewed [here](#).

- The 4 new level-2 EV charging stalls at the Aquaplex are now complete and activated. For the time being, EV drivers can now plug in and charge for free during their visit to the Aquaplex, or they could walk to the 4th street businesses while their vehicle tops off. These ChargePoint units do require that EV drivers have the ChargePoint app to access.



## FOOD SYSTEMS:

- The Residential Food Scraps Drop Off has collected 1142 lbs. of food scraps and other compostable materials since July 24th.
  - There have been 173 total participants in the program since July 24th.
  - 36 compost pails have been given out to participants since August 15th.
  - The program will shift to a self-service drop-off at a different location after the end of the market season on October 17th.
- There are 83 total participants at all three of the community garden compost hub locations.
  - During the month of October there will be "Community Compost Hub 101" working sessions at each of the gardens to better guide participants and get the word out to potential new contributors. These will occur from 4:30-5:30 pm on the first 3 Wednesdays of the month (October 6th, 13th, and 20th)
- Community gardeners at all three of the city-sponsored community gardens were engaged in a photo contest to showcase the growth and beauty of the growing season. The theme was "what makes your garden unique" and submissions were judged by Sustainability Commissioners based on creativity, adherence and appropriateness to theme, and visual appeal.
  - Our 1st place winner, Samantha Meier, will receive a certificate to the Flagstaff Community Market.





- "Here is a photo of (some) of the edible flowers, namely borage, I planted to attract pollinators to my vegetables. I've been experimenting with companion planting this year."
- The September 25<sup>th</sup> Garden Workshop Event, Worm Composting for Kids, had 10 attendees including 4 youth participants.



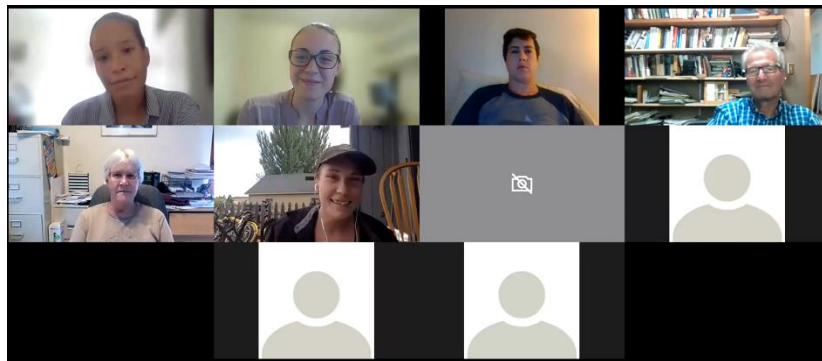
#### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT:

- City Staff are sponsoring an NAU public health capstone cohort, focusing on behavior change through a waste minimization lens
- Registration for the fall 2021 Flagstaff Sustainability Leaders course closed on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - The 8-week course began on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, and take place from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the Sustainability Garage.
  - This course will feature many local presenters, including Grand Canyon Trust, TERRA Birds, and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals.
- Over 200 households have signed up to participate in the "Trash Less, Save More!" pilot program in Ponderosa Trails.
  - The second recycling audit at the MRF is scheduled for late October. Recycling audits monitor recycling contamination rates.

- Residential recycling bin checks are taking place every Monday to encourage less recycling contamination.

#### SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

- In the meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Commissioners heard presentations on and discussed the NAU Climate Science and Solutions Resilience and Adaptation Document, the Active Transportation Master Plan, and the Pay As You Throw Pilot program, awarded the winner of the Garden Photo Contest a certificate to the Flagstaff Community Market, voted to approve extensions and new budgets to Killip Elementary and Terra BIRDS' Neighborhood Sustainability Grant projects, and brainstormed on potential future collaborations with BPAC on climate-crisis related art projects. Commissioners also voted to reschedule the holiday Commission meetings to November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm.
- Sustainability Staff and Commissioners partnered with Beautification, Arts, and Sciences Staff to host a Grant Workshop on September 18<sup>th</sup> over Zoom.
  - 8 people attended.
  - Staff reviewed requirements for the Beautification in Action, Neighborhood Sustainability, and Water Conservation Research Grants, and then went into a brainstorming session with applicants.



- Applications for the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant and Water Conservation Research Grant closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Sustainability Commissioners will be reviewing applications throughout October, applicants will present in the October 28<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup> meetings, and final decisions will be made in the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- There are currently 3 openings for the Sustainability Commission. Please spread the word. Those interested can apply [here](#).
- Next meeting: Thursday October 28th, 2021, 4:30pm-6:30pm

#### UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- Make a Difference Day, October 16, 7:30 am – 2:30 pm.
  - We will meet at the Coconino County Health and Human Services Building (2625 N. King Street). The registration table will be open for the duration of the event.
  - This year we are assisting residents affected by monsoon flooding resulting from the Museum Fire in 2019. Volunteers will work on removing flood debris from properties and will need closed-toe shoes, sun protection, long pants, and gloves.

- Volunteers should pre-register online at [www.uwna.volunteerhub.com](http://www.uwna.volunteerhub.com). This will help work crew leads to determine how many sites they can manage that day.
- The Flagstaff 15 Minute Makeover, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 am
  - Take 15 minutes at 10:15 am on 10/15 to clean up litter at your home, work, or school. Post a photo of your clean-up on our Facebook or on Instagram with #Flag15 to be entered to win a prize.
- Drop-off Day on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am – 2 pm
  - Just like previous events, Drop-off Day will take place at the Flagstaff Police Department (911 E Sawmill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001).
  - It will be a drive thru style event, where community members have the opportunity to drop off their medical waste, hazardous products, and shredding at various booths around the parking lot.
  - Staff will also be offering education on recycling, anti-idling, and landfill hours.
- Garden Workshops: High Altitude Gardening, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 11 am
  - The last event in our Garden Workshop Series will take place at the Bonito St Garden (537 W Elm Ave).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our top post on Instagram was a post about the NAU Climate Science and Solutions Program’s presentation to City Council about their semester-long project to create an updated resilience resource document for Flagstaff.
- Our top post on Facebook was a post celebrating and highlighting photos sent in from our Community Gardens and their harvest this year.

