

Climate Action at the City of Flagstaff

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Section



The Flagstaff Sustainability Program

5 program areas:

- Climate
- Energy
- Materials Management
- Food Systems
- Community Stewards



Climate Change in Flagstaff

Compared to today, by 2050 we can expect to have, on average...



- Hotter temperatures.
- Increased risk of illness from mosquitoes and other pests.



- Less snowpack.
- More precipitation as rainfall instead of snowfall.



- Increased wildfire risk.
- Increased damage from forest pests due to drought-stressed trees.



- More severe drought conditions as temperatures rise.
- Lower water quality of reservoirs.

Climate Change in Flagstaff

Vulnerabilities: What's at Risk?

Tourism & Economy



Water



Land Use & Housing



Health



Climate change poses risks to everything from our health and infrastructure to local ecosystems.

Climate Change in Flagstaff

Equity: Not all people face the same threats



Climate change threats can vary based on...

- Age
- Health
- Income
- Gender identity
- Race
- Physical ability
- Physical location

Three core elements of climate action

AKA
Mitigation, or
reducing our
greenhouse gas
emissions, which
are how we
contribute to
climate change



AKA
Adaptation, or
building
resilience to
long-term
changes and
short-term
shocks

AKA
Equity, or ensuring
fair distribution of
resources, access and
opportunities

Vision for a Sustainable Flagstaff



- Zero waste
- An inclusive community
- Healthy forests
- Thriving economy
- Renewable energy
- Secure water resources
- Resilience for all communities
- Accessible, multimodal transportation
- Neighbors helping neighbors

Climate Action History



January, 2017

Flagstaff started work on the first Climate Plan for Flagstaff

November, 2018

Flagstaff City Council passed the first Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

January 28, 2020

Hundreds of well-organized community members spoke at City Council, making the case for the climate emergency declaration

June 23, 2020

The Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution 2020-09 was adopted unanimously by City Council

The Climate Emergency Declaration

1. Dramatic increase in **ambition**
2. City-wide **mobilization**
3. **Educating** residents and **engaging** youth
4. Full **community** participation
5. Prioritize **vulnerable communities**
6. Nationwide call for **mobilization**
7. Sets a goal of **carbon neutrality by 2030**
8. Calls on **all governments** to act

Flagstaff's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

#1

Powering
Buildings



#2

Transportation
Emissions



#3

Consumption
& Landfill



The Flagstaff Carbon Neutrality Plan

- Cleaner **Electricity**
- Reducing Building **Energy** Use
- Building **Fuel** Switching
- **Materials** Management
- **Transportation** Shift
- **Electric** Mobility
- Carbon **Sequestration**

Carbon Neutrality Plan Draft Review

Vision

The Flagstaff community takes ambitious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build community resilience, resulting in a higher quality of life for all residents.

This transformation involves the entire community, is supported by collaborations with regional and tribal partners, and centers vulnerable communities in an equitable transition towards carbon neutrality.

Plan goals

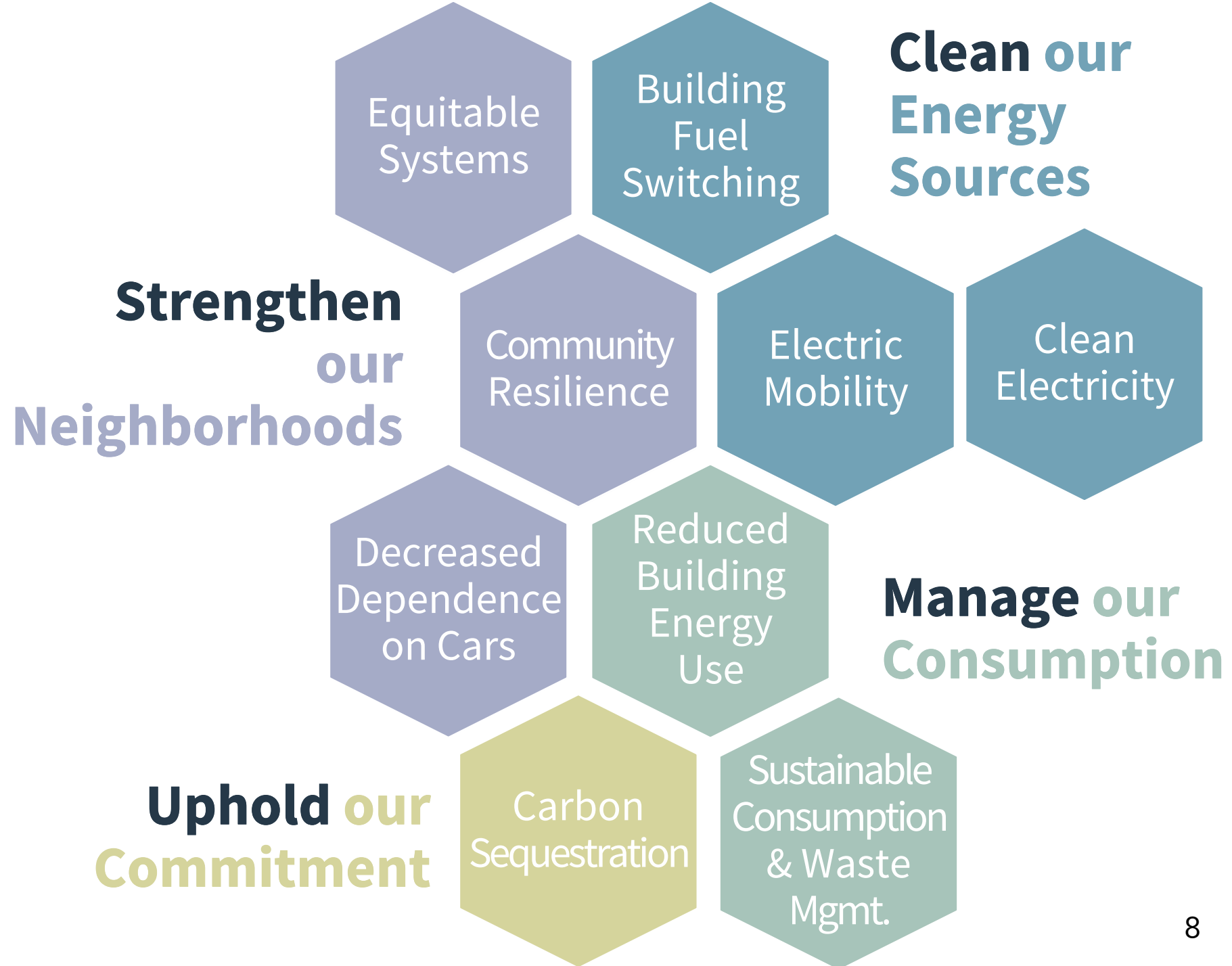
Mitigation goal:

- Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030

Adaptation and equity goals – from the 2018 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan:

- Prepare the city's communities, systems, and resources to be more resilient to climate change impacts.
- 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.

To achieve carbon neutrality, we will...



Community Resilience

What it means

Preparing for change, increased volatility, and long-term shifts. Improving our ability to bounce forward after events and challenges.

How we get there

- Resilient Neighborhood Network
- Increasing connections between neighbors and groups
- Looking at our systems for weaknesses and vulnerabilities
- Helping families and businesses to build resilience



Equitable Systems

What it means

Ensuring fair distribution of resources, access and opportunities. Ensuring we do not cause harm – and ensuring climate action benefits all.

How we get there

- Equity review of projects
 - Internal *and* external review
- Increasing partnership and collaboration
- Targeting programs at vulnerable communities



Cleaner Electricity

What it means

As close to 100% of our electricity will come from sources that do not emit greenhouse gasses.

How we get there

- SOLAR!
 - Now the cheapest energy source in history.
 - Solar United Neighbors
 - Potential Red Gap Ranch solar project.
- Considerations: financing, equity.



Reduced Building Energy Use

What it means

Reducing emissions from heating, cooling and powering buildings by 80% by 2030.

How we get there

- More efficient buildings
- More aggressive building codes: eventually requiring net zero energy buildings.
- Retrofitting 12,500 homes by 2030.



Fuel Switching

What it means

Shifting from fossil fuels to electricity for water heaters, furnaces, stoves, industrial processes.

How we get there

- Electrify everything.
 - Retrofit 12,500 homes by 2030.
 - Electrify City-owned buildings.
- State legislation.



Materials Management

What it means

- Reducing consumption
- Diverting more materials from the landfill

How we get there

- Composting drop-off sites.
- Landfill gas collection and flare system.
- Large-scale digestion and solar installations at the landfill.



Transportation: The Big Shift

What it means

- Depending far less on cars.
- Taking many more trips by walking, biking and the bus.
- Accepting appropriate density.

How we get there

- Commitment to transformation, bold action and difficult decisions.
- 15-minute neighborhoods.
- Investment in active transportation infrastructure.



Electric Mobility

What it means

- New electric mobility: e-bikes, e-bike share, hoverboards, scooters.
- Electric busses (Mountain Line)
- Electric vehicles.

How we get there

- Electrification is not a silver bullet: priority must be reducing car usage.
- Welcoming new technologies and modes of travel.
- Prioritizing the vehicles driving the most miles.



Carbon Sequestration

What it means

The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide, removing it from the atmosphere.

How we get there

- The amount of sequestration needed depends on the amount of emission reductions we achieve through climate action.
- Exploring regenerative agriculture, meadows, and forests.
- Red Gap Ranch is a possible site for an innovative sequestration project.



What's next

How to get involved

Now: Review of the Draft **Climate Neutrality Plan**

May - City Council Meeting to review and adopt the **Final Climate Neutrality Plan**

- **Follow us: social media & newsletter**
- **Climate Actions site**
- **Engage with local climate partners**
- **Take the Community Forum Survey**

visit the
**Open
House
Site**

take the
**Carbon
Neutrality
Survey**

Flagstaff.az.gov/climate

Opportunities for Collaboration

Review and feedback on our work

Incorporating indigenous perspectives on climate change and the environment

Increased collaboration and communication

Thank you!

Contact me any time:

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Climate Change in Flagstaff

Average annual temperatures in Coconino County have increased.

Trend largely driven by increasing low temperatures.

