

February Sustainability Newsletter



What's New?



Welcome, Steve!

Steve Thompson is our new Volunteer and Event Coordinator. He comes to Flagstaff from a career that has carried him across seven states, five national parks, multiple education non-profits, nature reserves, and state parks.

Throughout this time Steve has been fortunate to work with communities to enhance educational opportunities, increase the number of public lands stewardship events, and promote equitable

access to shared resources. He is excited to join the City of Flagstaff Team and is looking forward to discovering how to best serve this community and the amazing people who call this place home.

In his new role, Steve works primarily with the Community Stewards Program (Adopt an Ave/Flagstaff Urban Trail System), Anti-litter, and Community Events Initiatives. In addition, He coordinates the Sustainability Office's signature community events including Earth Day, Lights Out Flagstaff, Make a Difference Day, Fix-it Clinics, Drop Off Days, Home Energy Efficiency workshops, and assist with any sustainability related events!



Welcome, Jake!

Jake Raatz is the new Sustainable Food Systems VISTA for the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office. Originally, he is from Minneapolis, Minnesota and attended school at Iowa State University where he graduated with a degree in Global Resource Systems.

Through his work for the Sustainability Office, he is thrilled to start contributing new ideas towards our amazing community gardens, compost hubs, and social media campaigns! When Jake's not working, he enjoys hiking, biking, making pancakes, and singing “born to fly” by Sara Evans at the top of his lungs while driving down a dirt road.



Seeking local Flagstaff business representatives, from CEOs to employees!

A newly launched **Business** Climate Advisory Group will work to bring voices from Flagstaff's business community into climate planning.

With guidance from the Advisory Group, the Sustainability Office hopes to support businesses across Flagstaff, helping them reduce their climate impacts, offering resources, and encouraging innovation.

Deadline to apply: **March, 20th at 11:59 PM**

- Learn more and apply [here](#).
- Do you know someone from the business community who would be a standout advisory member? Nominate them [here!](#)

The Daily Sun covered this opportunity – see the article [here](#).



Exciting Changes at the Community Gardens

The City of Flagstaff's community garden program began in 2009 with the creation of the Bonito St. garden. Over the past twelve years, the

program has gained tremendous support from key partners, gardeners, and volunteers.

We are excited to announce that the community garden program will be expanding in 2022! Summer White, our Waste Reduction & Food Systems Coordinator, will now manage garden plot registration and communication for the gardens.

The Sustainability Office is grateful to our long-time project partner, [Terra BIRDS](#), who has managed the program since 2015. Terra BIRDS will continue to be a part of our gardens through maintenance projects, volunteer days, and the increased educational opportunities at the community garden sites.

"I've really enjoyed helping out with gardener sign-ups over the past few years, but am looking forward to interacting with the gardens in a more programmatic way with other Terra BIRDS staff, volunteers, and program participants. We will continue to be in and around the gardens throughout the growing season and there will be many opportunities for Terra BIRDS to interact with gardeners throughout the growing season." - Andrea Hartley, Terra BIRDS

Plot applications for all three of our community gardens will open in March 2022 in the Sunnyside, Southside, and Townsite neighborhoods. Please visit our [website](#) for more information and how to become involved.



Updates to the Residential Sustainable Building Incentive

The City of Flagstaff is updating the Residential Sustainable Building Incentive. This incentive encourages builders to create homes that are more climate-friendly, in return for density bonuses. The incentive will be discussed at the following public meetings, where we welcome community feedback:

[Planning and Zoning Commission](#)

Wednesday, February 9th

4:00 pm

Join the online meeting via [Teams](#)

[Flagstaff City Council](#)

Tuesday, February 15th

3:00 pm – agenda starts

Join the online meeting via [Teams](#)

[Flagstaff City Council](#)

Tuesday, March 1st

3:00 pm – agenda starts

Join the online meeting via [Teams](#)

Contact Jenny Niemann, Climate Program Manager, at jniemann@flagstaffaz.gov with any questions.



Learn about the BIG SHIFT in Transportation

The Carbon Neutrality Plan talks about the need for a BIG SHIFT, to move from car-centric planning and a spread-out City, to a safer, healthier community that includes connected and complete neighborhoods, and easier ways to get around.

In January, the Sustainability Office presented to City Council on the transportation aspects of the Big Shift. In this presentation, we talked about new concepts in transportation planning that can help us have a healthier, more equitable and lower-carbon transportation system.

We'll need your help to make this big shift - please take a listen to this important discussion.

[Agenda Item: 13.A. Transformative Transportation Solutions](#)

Looking for a summary? The DailySun covered this Council update [here](#).

[Watch the Update](#)

Take Action

HOMES FOR ALL FLAGSTAFF RESIDENTS



10-YEAR
HOUSING PLAN
CREATE. CONNECT. PRESERVE. PROTECT.



City of Flagstaff | Housing Section | flagstaff.az.gov

Flagstaff's 10-Year Housing Plan

The Flagstaff's 10-Year Housing Plan will be presented to Flagstaff City Council for consideration of adoption on **February 15**. If you are an affordable housing advocate or are passionate about affordable housing in Flagstaff, please attend this meeting.

The Flagstaff community faces urgent challenges from housing and climate change. The City of Flagstaff recognizes that the Housing Emergency and the Climate Emergency share many common solutions and that advancing housing and advancing climate action are not in conflict with each other. Indeed, implementing shared solutions to both challenges can lead to a stronger, healthier, and more connected Flagstaff.

Flagstaff residents' responses to the Housing survey illustrated that the Housing Emergency is causing residents to leave our community. A little over 58% of Flagstaff resident stated that they were either "nearly certain" to "somewhat likely" going to relocate due to housing costs. The question we must ask ourselves is what would Flagstaff become if 58% of our population moved? The intent of this Plan is to help individuals and families achieve housing affordability for those who want to continue to call Flagstaff their home.

Flagstaff's 10-Year Housing Plan is a single, comprehensive, community-facing document to summarize the City's immediate and long-term needs and strategies for improving housing affordability. This Plan defines the Housing Emergency, provides one overarching

goal to substantially increase housing subsidies for our neighbors that are unable to afford housing in Flagstaff and to increase the number of available and affordable housing options for Flagstaff residents at all income levels.

[Learn More](#)



Call for artists for Historic Southside Community Garden placemaking project

Local creatives and artists are invited to apply for a \$15,000 placemaking project at the Historic Southside Community Garden (formerly the O'Leary Street Community Garden)!

Potential elements could include a decorative entryway, sculptures, artistic benches, flowers and/or landscaping, creative signage, and more.

Click the link below to learn more about this opportunity. Applications will be accepted through March 4th, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

[Apply Today](#)



Apply for Arizona Urban Agriculture Initiative Funding

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a variety of programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers

to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage resources sustainably.

NRCS provides assistance with:

- Soil health
- Irrigation and water conservation
- Wildlife habitat
- High tunnels

Explore this funding opportunity by clicking on the links below. **All applications are due by Friday, February 18th.** Please contact azurbanag.nrcs@usda.gov with any questions.

- Learn more about NRCS [here](#).
- Apply for urban agriculture funding [here](#).



**Upcoming
Events**



**Home Energy
Efficiency**

Workshop

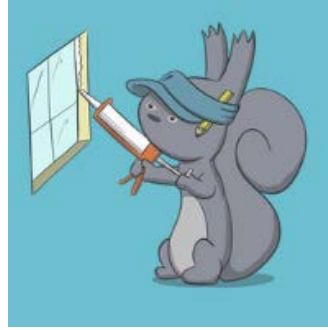
February 9

6:00 - 7:00 pm

zoom

[learn more>>](#)

[register >>](#)



**Home Energy
Efficiency**

Workshop

March 8

6:00 - 7:00 pm

location (TBD)

[learn more>>](#)

In the News



Volunteers continue to battle snowplay waste

"Half a dozen volunteers coordinated Tuesday, January 4th under the leadership of the Flagstaff Sustainability Program to remove waste from popular snowplay areas. Equipped with gloves, buckets, pickers and bags, volunteers scoured the ice to dig out frozen litter left by inconsiderate visitors of the Peakview and Lone Tree snowplay areas.

Scenes of snowplay trash are a familiar sight to Flagstaff locals. After any decent snowfall, coffee cups, fast food bags and shattered plastic sleds pile up seemingly overnight, as if fallen with the snow itself. The reality is that this trash accumulates when public users fail to take responsibility for their waste."

Read the article [here](#).

Learn more about our next winter snowplay clean-up [here](#).

Carbon Neutrality Plan Quarterly Update

to City Council

Tuesday, January 11, 3:00 PM



Carbon Neutrality Plan (CNP) Quarterly Update to Council

Sustainability Staff presented the Carbon Neutrality Plan Quarterly Update at the January 11th City Council meeting. This informational update was provided to City Council and the Flagstaff community to highlight efforts over the last quarter to advance the Carbon Neutrality Plan and outline upcoming actions.



Our mailing address is:

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