

Sustainability Section

Month in Review: March 2022.

HOT TOPICS:

- Flagstaff's Carbon Neutrality Plan was awarded the AWARD OF DISTINCTION in Climate Action Solutions by Arizona Forward. More than 500 business leaders, elected officials, and their guests gathered on Saturday, March 19, 2022, for the Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards.
- Earth Day 2022 Celebrations are scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd at Bushmaster Park, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. There will be a community litter clean up before the event from 8:45am-11:00am in the neighborhoods around the park. Following the clean-up there will be live music and free workshops from our many community partners.
 - To help you "move another way," Mountain Line is offering free bus transportation services on April 23, 2022, in celebration of Earth Day. FSO will be encouraging all attendees to walk, bike or take the bus.

CLIMATE ACTION:

- The Youth Climate Advisory Group (YCAG) had their first two meetings in March.
 - The group consists of youth members, grades 8th-12th, representing schools in Flagstaff, and is full of great energy and creative ideas.
- As part of the Flagstaff Regional Plan Snapshot Series, Sustainability Staff offered two webinars in March in partnership with COF Community Development and Coconino County.
 - The topics discussed included climate mitigation and climate resiliency, to help inform the public about topics that will be addressed in the Regional Plan, current conditions in the region, and to prompt questions that can guide future conversations and plan development.
 - Regional Plan Snapshot Series webinars highlight current conditions in the region and prompt questions that can help guide future conversations and plan development.
- The Flagstaff Climate Ambassadors Program has been a model for a proposed Climate Change/Community Ambassador program in the City of Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
- Staff have joined the NAU Transportation Action Team, to increase collaboration between the City and NAU on transportation activities.
- After the Council adoption of the Residential Sustainability Incentive in early March, staff began processing the first building permit application that took advantage of the Residential Sustainable Building Incentive, Aura Flagstaff.
 - Aura reduced natural gas usage to approximately 1.5% of total energy usage, is located within a 5-minute walk of a transit line and will be 15% more energy efficient than the City's current code requires. As a result of the incentive, the development will be able to increase the number of housing units it provides.
- Staff is working with the Northern Arizona Healthcare team to discuss how the proposed NAH campus can align with the Flagstaff Carbon Neutrality Plan.

COMMUNITY STEWARDS/LITTER PREVENTION:

- March Litter Cleanup Data:

Date	# of Volunteers	Total Hours	Bags of Trash	Bags of Recycling
3/3	1	2	3	1
3/5	12	18	4	0
3/10	1	1	1	0
3/10	1	1	1	0
3/13	2	3	2	0
3/16	1	2	3	0
3/16	1	2	3	0
3/19	4	7	5	4
3/26	12	24	5	5
3/26	1	6	8	0
3/26	11	17	5	4
3/26	85	170	150	0
3/27	7	11	4	1
Totals	139	264	194	15

ENERGY:

- The Investment Grade Audit (IGA) for the municipal Energy Savings Contract (ESCO) continues to progress on schedule.
 - This month the ESCO provider, Noresco, delivered their 30% IGA update and identified several exciting opportunities for deploying energy conservation measures at numerous facilities that would result in energy savings and yield a return on investment that could be rolled into the ESCO framework.
- The Sustainability Office partnered with the Electric League of Arizona to offer a 1-hour educational webinar on Cold Weather Heat Pumps on March 31st.
 - 160 people registered for this first webinar on home electrification and heat pumps. Heat pumps can be cost-effective, efficient, and comfortable tools for heating your home in Flagstaff. This webinar covered advances in technology and the benefits of this heating tool.

FOOD SYSTEMS:

- Members of the Waste and Food team, Kaeli, Jake, and Summer, attended the AZ Food Summit on March 23rd-24th hosted at Arizona State University
- Applications for plots at each of the three community gardens opened March 1st. Staff have received over 55 applications for the 2022 season, 41 of which are from new gardeners.
 - Plots are rented from May-October for \$65 each.
 - Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from March-April.
- At-home chicken keeping and composting methods work together to provide healthy soils while keeping food waste out of the landfill. To promote these activities, the Sustainability

Office is piloting a rebate program to help reduce the cost of purchasing prefabricated chicken coops and composters.

- Rebates up to a maximum of \$100 are available to those who purchase prefabricated chicken coops, composters, or both after March 1st, 2022.
- Members of BPAC and the Southside Community Association voted on an artist to carry out the Beautification project planned for the Southside Community Garden (previously O'Leary). The artist will work alongside the community over the next few months to finalize artistic and historical elements to be included in archways, seating, and pathways.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT:

- The Residential Food Scraps Drop-off continues to have two self-service drop-off sites which have collected over 5,000 lbs. of food scraps since November of 2021. Staff plan to have an additional two staffed booths during the summer months again to provide onsite education.
- The 6-month "Trash Less, Save More!" pilot program concluded on March 10th, 2022. Through the program, Ponderosa Trails residents had the opportunity to sign up for a reduced size trash cart (48-gallon or 64-gallon) in exchange for a rebate on their City Services Bill. The goal of the pilot program was to incentive waste reduction and provide recycling outreach to residents
 - During the "Trash Less, Save More!" pilot program, City staff monitored recycling contamination rates by conducting recycling bin checks in Ponderosa Trails. Each recycling cart was checked three times, and "oops" tags and "looking good!" tags were administered based upon the contents of the cart.
 - The most commonly mis-recycled items in the neighborhood were:
 - Plastic spinach/ berry containers
 - Plastic to-go containers
 - Paper coffee cups and lids
 - Plastic bubble wrap/ packaging
 - Styrofoam
 - Plastic bags (including recyclables thrown away in plastic trash bags)
 - Staff is developing a plan for city-wide implementation of volumetric pricing. The goal is to offer reduced size trash cart options to all Flagstaff residents by 2024.
- On Saturday, March 26th, the Sustainability Office hosted a Fix-it Clinic from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center.
 - Volunteers helped fix small household appliances, clothing, electronics, jewelry, and bicycles. In total, 74 items were brought in by community members, and 50 items (68%) were fixed.

- The Hazardous Products Center also hosted a mini Drop-off Day, where they collected 25 lbs. of alkaline batteries, 8 lbs. of lithium batteries, 17 CFLs, 3 4'-fluorescent tubes and 3 aerosol cans.
- This event diverted 260 lbs. of waste from the landfill.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

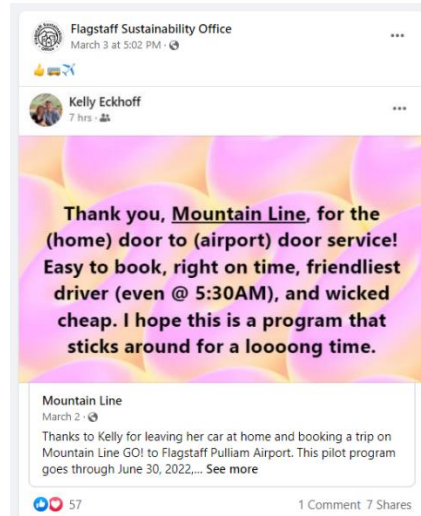
- In the meeting on March 24th, the Housing and Sustainability Commissions met jointly to begin discussing areas of collaboration and shared goals. The Commissions will begin regular communication about how to achieve the goals of the Carbon Neutrality Plan and the 10-year Housing Plan. The Sustainability Commission also received part two of three of their Climate Ambassador Training.
- Next meeting: Thursday, April 28th, 2022, 4:30pm-6:30pm

UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- The Sustainability Office is teaming up with Coconino County and the Forest Service to host to finish collecting any leftover snow play trash now that the snow has melted.
 - There will be three clean up opportunities with fun activities afterwards. They will take place on April 20th, 21st, and 22nd from 10:00am - 1:00pm.
- There will be a Drop-off Day on Saturday, April 30th from 10:00am-2:00pm at the Flagstaff Police Department.
 - Items accepted include:
 - Prescription Drugs
 - Medical Syringes
 - CFLs
 - Batteries
 - Aerosol Cans
 - Electronics
 - Documents for Shredding (2 Boxes/person max)
 - TVs, Liquids, and Commercial Waste will not be accepted.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our top post on Facebook was a post about Mountain Line’s new service to the airport. This post received 57 reactions, seven shares and one comment.



- Our top post on Instagram was a post about our chicken coop and composting rebate program. This post received 38 likes and one comment.

