

Sustainability Division

Month in Review: **October 2022**

HOT TOPICS:

- **Make A Difference Day Event:** On Saturday, October 22nd, the FSO, Open Space, and Stormwater hosted Make A Difference Day. Fifteen volunteers worked to remove woody debris and vegetation blocking stream flow and reshape a section of the Rio de Flag. This effort will improve water flow and mitigate potential impacts from future flooding. Volunteers provided 44 hours of service, reshaped and seeded 1/10th of an acre, and removed seven yards of vegetation and debris. The Arizona Daily Sun featured the [event on Sunday, October 23rd](#)



- The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released its latest gap report, titled: [The Closing Window: Climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies](#)
 - The report reiterates that climate action has not been rapid enough, and that the window is closing to hold warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
 - It specifies critical and urgent actions to accelerate transformations in electricity supply, industry, transportation and buildings.

Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- The Climate Resilience Project had its first “Work Session” to practice utilizing tools for understanding and identifying climate resilience in public spaces, workplaces, and more.

Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team engaged directly with 517 people in October, including presentations on climate action to 300 students at Coconino High School.
- FSO staff members are participating in a new Equity Foundations Training course offered by the Urban Sustainability Director’s network.
- Climate Advisory Groups:
 - This month the Business Climate Advisory Group learned about decreasing dependence on cars, and then provided input on the Active Transportation Master Plan.
 - The Youth Climate Advisory Group continued their presentations on the Carbon Neutrality Plan target areas; they developed a song to teach others about Electric Mobility and Clean Electricity Trivia. Next, they will review FUSD’s Climate Action Report.
 - Members have been selected for the Climate Equity Advisory Group. Meetings will begin in November.

Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:

- The Home Weatherization Rebate Program has distributed \$20,000 to residents to incentivize home weatherization and electrification. This amount represents 100% of the program’s ongoing funding, distributed in the first 3.5 months of the fiscal year. Supplemental funding is available this year due to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.
- Revisions to the 2014 Sustainable Building Resolution (SBR) were presented to Council for input. Recommendations were incorporated, and the revised SBR will return to Council on 11/1 for consideration for adoption.
- FSO staff hosted a site on the Sustainable Building Tour to demonstrate home electrification retrofits on a 30-year-old home. Staff welcomed over 30 residents and shared information, best practices, and resources to support retrofit home electrification.

Carbon Dioxide Removal:

- The 4 Corners Carbon Coalition (4CCC):
 - Officially welcomed Salt Lake City and Santa Fe to the coalition.
 - Opened the application period for its [campaign soliciting carbon removal and concrete projects](#) on October 17th. 4CCC will accept project proposals until December 19th.
 - Launched its website: <https://4cornerscarbon.org/>
- FSO staff met with an NAU research group and carbon removal XPRIZE semi-finalist, coordinated cross-departmental introductions, and scheduled site visits to explore opportunities to pilot a novel and replicable approach to integrating wastewater treatment/discharge and carbon removal.

Community Stewards and Litter Prevention

- October Litter Cleanup Data:

Number of clean ups hosted by community members	11
Bags of Recycling	21
Bags of Trash	48
Volunteers Involved	338
Service Hours	662



- Engage, Empower, Elevate:** The Engage, Empower Elevate program has provided the CATS team with grant funding to employ homeless and housing-insecure individuals. These individuals help keep Flagstaff Beautiful by removing litter throughout our community.

Number of Participants	112
Individual Participant Hours	48
Service Hours Combined	331
Bags of Recyclables Collected	83
Bags of Trash Collected	196

"Thanks, I noticed the area was much cleaner since we started", comment from resident near the Murdoch Center.

Food Systems

- **Partners for Places Mini-grant:** Terra BIRDS, the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD), the Flagstaff Sustainability Office, Arizona Community Foundation, and Ita Hopi Lavayi received a \$20,000 Partners for Places mini-grant through the Funders Network & the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. This award will assist in planning, developing, and implementing a pilot assessment surveying green space and green schoolyard infrastructure and need across FUSD.
- FSO staff received funding to attend a **Regenerative Justice Workshop** hosted by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network in Montana focused on biomimicry practices and equity work.
- **Placemaking at the Southside Community Garden:** There are new functional artistic elements at the Southside Community Garden thanks to a collaboration between FSO Staff, BPAC, and local artist Sonja London-Hall. The new elements include a community garden sign, hanging flower baskets, and three benches. Additionally, the entrance to the garden is now defined by a gravel pathway and decorative boulders.



Materials Management

- FSO staff is working with NAU Public Health Capstone students to implement a **composting initiative at Flagstaff Junior Academy**, which will be complemented by a series of education sessions.
- FSO staff members are working with Flagstaff High School students and administrators to implement a **school-wide recycling and waste reduction program**.
- FSO staff and the Police Department hosted a **Drop-off Day** on Saturday, October 29th at the Flagstaff Police Department. Batteries, lightbulbs, medications, electronics, and sensitive documents for shredding were accepted.
- FSO, PROSE, and Solid Waste staff collected **residential leaves and pine needles** for composting at NAU's facility. This initiative was made possible by the recently renewed NAU Composting intergovernmental agreement.

Sustainability Commission

- In the October 27th Sustainability Commission meeting, the Commissioners heard presentations about the 2022 general obligation bonds, the USDA grant, and the revisions to the Carbon Neutrality Plan, and prepared for their review of Neighborhood Sustainability Grant applications.
- Next meeting: Thursday, November 17th, 2022, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Upcoming Events

- 11/5, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center: [Fix-it Clinic](#)
- 11/8, 6 pm, Downtown Library: [Climate Conversation: Food Systems](#)
- 12/3, 10 am, Downtown Library: [Community Science & Climate Observation](#)

Social Media

- In October, our Facebook posts reached **10,882 people**. Engagement on our page was 1219 reactions, comments, shares and clicks on posts. 31 new people started following our page.
- Our top post on Facebook for **reach** (*the number of people who saw the posts at least once*) was about Drop-off Day. This post reached 4,764 people.



- Our top post on Facebook for **engagement** (*the number of times people engaged with the post through reactions, comments, shares, views, and clicks*) was about efficient, all-electric, and AFFORDABLE housing through the Starter Home Project. This post reached 3,054 people, and received 44 likes, 2 comments, and 11 shares.

Have you heard about Habitat for Humanity's new Starter Home Program?



The pilot program consists of two 500-square-foot, net zero emissions, starter homes built on City of Flagstaff land. Habitat will provide qualifying low-to-moderate income Flagstaff residents a path to homeownership with:

- ✓ 0% Interest Loans
- ✓ \$1,000 Down Payment
- ✓ Affordable Monthly Payments

For more information or to apply before November 1, 2022, visit [habitatflagstaff.org/our-homes](https://www.habitatflagstaff.org/our-homes).




Flagstaff Sustainability Office
Published by Hootsuite
October 11 at 11:03 AM

We stopped by the Starter Home Project during the Sustainable Building Tour and continue to be so excited about this initiative.

Efficient, all-electric, and AFFORDABLE. A great example of a project that lives at the center of the Venn diagram: good for climate, good for housing, and good for people.

Learn more and apply:
<https://www.habitatflagstaff.org/our-homes>

Edit

6 likes 11 shares

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

- Our top post on Instagram was a post about our upcoming Fix-It Clinic showing volunteers fixing items. This post received 35 likes.



flgsustain 🛠️ Our volunteers can help you fix lamps, jewelry, bicycles, clothing for FREE at the Fix-it Clinic!

Join us on Saturday, November 5th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center (245 N Thorpe Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001).

Appointments are recommended. Walk-ins are welcome.

📍 Make an appointment: link in bio

1w

View insights

👍 🗨️ 📌

Liked by councilmemberadamshimoni and 34 others