

# Sustainability Division

## Month in Review: January 2023

### HOT TOPICS:

- The Climate Team will welcome two new staff members in February:
  - Genevieve Pearthree will start as the Resilience Analyst on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Genevieve is currently a planner in the Community Development Division, and so will bring a wealth of knowledge about planning, zoning, working with developers, and the development review process. Genevieve will lead our collaborations with the Planning Section, our business engagement work, and both internal and external resilience planning. We are positively thrilled about the ability to bring someone onto the team who has so much relevant, City planning experience.
  - Christian Hernandez will start as the Clean Jobs and Workforce Development AmeriCorps VISTA member in mid-February. This is a new VISTA position on the Climate Team that will focus on building partnerships and collaborative projects in clean job workforce development. Christian will focus specifically on jobs and skills related to building electrification and electric vehicles.
- HEPA Air Filtration Initiative receives an additional \$7,000 in grant funds. Thank you to the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and APS for the continued support of this important service.

### Climate Action

#### Community Resilience:

- The Climate Resilience Project:
  - Hosted a “**work session**” in December to explore how observing nature can be used as a tool for understanding climate change and finding meaning in our present moment. This workshop was led by Mark Hinline, author of *Ground Truth: A Guide to Tracking Climate Change at Home*.
  - Hosted a “**climate conversation**” in January to learn about the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere with expert Dr. Jennifer Wade. Small group dialogue focused on the promises, and challenges, of carbon dioxide removal and why this new technology is a critical part of climate action.
  - Is now offering a book club in partnership with *Coconino Community College*! Each month we will discuss a chapter from *The Community Resilience Reader*, which combines a look the essential tools of resilience with the wisdom of people working on the ground. The book club is now free and open to any member of the public regardless of CCC affiliation.

#### Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team engaged directly with 124 people in December and January.
- Climate Advisory Groups:
  - Business Climate Advisory Group (BCAG):
    - In December, BCAG welcomed representatives from APS’s Business Solutions Program to discuss commercial energy efficiency rebates.

- In January, BCAG defined its top priorities – business certification and resilience building – and began developing a workplan to assess potential business certification tools and partnerships.
  - The Youth Climate Advisory Group (YCAG)
    - In December YCAG welcomed new members, presented at City Council, and hosted a winter youth event, Cookies and Climate.
  - The Equity Climate Advisory group (ECAG):
    - ECAG had their second meeting in December. Staff provided Advisory members an overview of the programs and services the Sustainability Office offers. The ECAG brainstormed many ways for FSO to increase their presence and reach more diverse audiences. With this information, they are working on creating goals and outcomes for their term as a group.
    - In January, staff provided Advisory members with an overview of three Food programs and services the Sustainability Office offers. The group provide input and ideas to increase inclusion, diversity, accessibility on food programs and outreach strategies.
- Flagstaff has been named a leader in environmental action and transparency in 2022. The CDP listed the City of Flagstaff as one of 122 A-List cities across the globe demonstrating climate leadership through concerted and effective action.

#### **Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:**

- The Home Weatherization Rebate Program has distributed \$38,000 to residents to incentivize home weatherization and electrification. This amount represents 190% of the program's ongoing funding, distributed in the first 6 months of the fiscal year. Supplemental funding is available this year due to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.
- Home Energy Efficiency workshops:
  - 7 community members participated either virtually or in-person during the workshop hosted on 1/10/2023. Additionally, 2 people participated in the stand-alone course to receive their DIY kits.
  - We have planned multiple workshops this winter; next workshop is scheduled for 1/31/2023.
- Staff spoke at Brightside Bookshop as part of their Climate Solutions Series, on *Hope and Climate: Electrification & Neighborhood Resilience*.
- Staff have begun development of the Flagstaff Home Energy Retrofit Program, which will provide free or deeply subsidized home energy improvements to low-income and vulnerable households. This Program was funded by a \$750,000 Community Project Funding Grant, through federal Omnibus spending legislation. Staff are currently conducting an Environmental Review in accordance with federal requirements and working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### **Community Stewards and Litter Prevention**

- January Litter and Winter Snow Play Cleanup Data:  
On January 10<sup>th</sup> we hosted our first Winter Snow Play Clean-Up of 2023. A total of 6 people joined together for about an hour to pick up litter and broken sled pieces from a popular snow play area. The partnership between the City of Flagstaff, Coconino National Forest, and

Coconino County resulted in a successful event, where a pile of broken sleds were removed from the snowy grounds and properly disposed of. Another clean-up is scheduled for 1/31/2023.



<b>Number of clean ups</b>	1
<b>Bags of Recycling</b>	1
<b>Bags of Trash</b>	2
<b>Number of People</b>	6
<b>Service Hours</b>	6

**Engage, Empower, Elevate:** The Engage, Empower Elevate program has provided the CATS team with grant funding to employ unsheltered and housing-insecure individuals. These individuals help keep Flagstaff Beautiful by removing litter throughout our community. CATS has implemented the programming for which they received the initial \$30,000 grant.

<b>Number of clean ups *weather disruptions</b>	8
<b>Bags of Recycling</b>	28
<b>Bags of Trash</b>	124
<b>Number of People</b>	41
<b>Service Hours</b>	21

**Stream Stewards:** The Sustainability Office, The Friends of the Rio, and Water Services collaborated on a 5-year plan for the Stream Stewards Program.

## Food Systems

- Staff are currently in the procurement process for selecting vendors to carry out work outlined in the newly awarded USDA grant, Assessing and Growing a Sustainable Community Food System which is set to begin in January of 2023.
- Staff have participated in several strategic planning sessions for the Green Schoolyards Initiative which includes surveying of 15 FUSD school sites in 2023 to better understand opportunities moving forward.
- Sustainability is partnering with Flagstaff Foodlink and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to provide an info session and application workshop for the AZ Agricultural Workforce Development Program that supports beginning farmers and ranchers through apprenticeships. The event will take place on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 PM at the Downtown Community Library.
- The Sustainability Office is excited to welcome Natalie Pierson as the 2023 – 2024 Sustainable Food Systems VISTA. Her term of service started on January 17th, 2023.
- Jacob Raatz completed his Sustainable Food Systems VISTA AmeriCorps term in mid-January. We are deeply thankful to Jake for his year-long volunteer service. Jake will continue to support FSO programming by assisting the energy program.

## Materials Management

- Staff is currently applying for an EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant for approximately \$2.5 million. Funding would be used to support and industrial composting facility and commercial composting pilot program.
- The TreeCycling curbside pick-up program diverted over 14,800 lbs. of Christmas trees from the landfill throughout January. Waste diversion statistics from the three drop-off locations are still being calculated. Trees will be chipped and used as mulch for Parks projects throughout Flagstaff. Thank you to our partners in Solid Waste and PROSE for making this program possible!
- Staff launched a waste consultation program this month. The current focus is to ensure that all municipal buildings have recycling services and infrastructure (indoor bins/signage/new employee education) to support recycling for staff. The Downtown Library, Public Works, and the Hal Jensen Recreation Center have received consultation services this month.
- Staff are working with several schools to improve their recycling and waste reduction programming through the creation of waste plans and increased receptacles in classrooms. An NAU public health capstone group just completed their intervention at Flagstaff Junior Academy which included composting behavior change.

## Sustainability Commission

- The Sustainability Commission did not meet in the month of December.
- Next meeting: Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
- The Sustainability Commission selected recipients for the FY22-23 Neighborhood Sustainability Grants, totaling \$50,000 in grant awards for community members. Grant awardees have been contacted by staff and payments to recipients have begun.

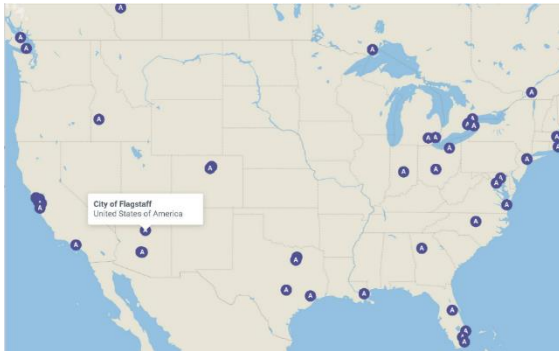
## Upcoming Events

- 2/15, 4:30 pm, Downtown Library: [AZ Ag Apprentice: Info Session & Application Workshop](#)

- 2/16, 6 pm, Sustainability Office: [Home Energy Efficiency 101 Workshop](#)
- 2/23, 5:30 pm, Downtown Library: [Growing Resilient Neighborhoods](#)
- 2/28, 4 pm, Downtown Library: [Youth Climate Circle](#)

## Social Media

- In January, our Facebook posts reached **4,417 people**.
- Our top January top **Facebook** post was about Flagstaff being named a global leader in climate action. This post reached 1,910 people.



Flagstaff has been named a leader in environmental action and transparency in 2022 🌟

🌐 The CDP listed 122 A-List cities across the globe demonstrating their climate leadership through concerted and effective action and are taking 3 times as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A-List cities.

Learn more about what it takes to be an A-List City here: <https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/cities-scores>

- January's top **Instagram** post was a video about our Christmas tree recycling service. The educational video demonstrated how, when, and where to drop off trees. This post received 169 likes!



We want your trees!! 🌲 🌲

The City of Flagstaff is proud to provide a Christmas tree recycling service throughout January! Trees collected through the program will be chipped for mulch projects throughout city parks. ♻️

Bring trees to the following locations:

- Thorpe Park Annex - 419 N. Mogollon St.
- Jay Lively Activity Center - 5700 E. Old Walnut Canyon Rd.
- Continental Sports Park - 1650 N Turquoise Dr

\*\*Please do not climb into or on top of the bins! Trees can be placed next to the bins if you are unable to load them safely.

Drop-off locations will remain until January 23rd.