

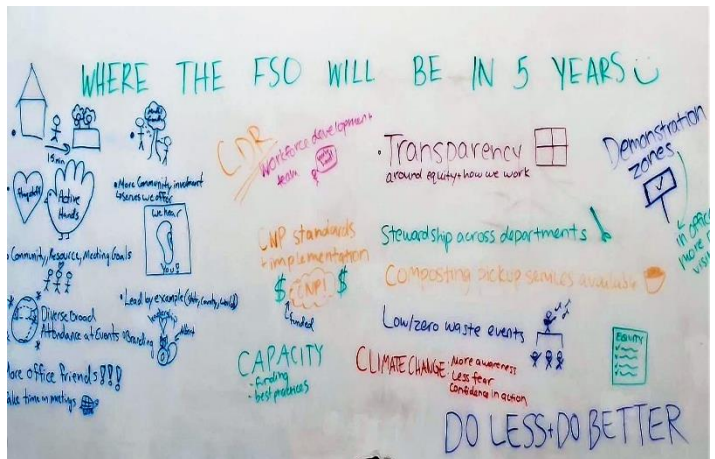


City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

July 2023 Monthly Report

HIGHLIGHTS:

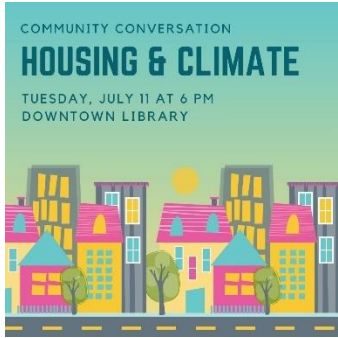
- The Sustainability Division attended a staff retreat where we evaluated programming, assessed areas of improvement, found internal and external collaboration opportunities, and engaged in teambuilding activities. *See the photos below.*
- The Flagstaff Recycles Campaign launched in early July. Learn more about our July campaign initiatives [here](#).
- The Sustainability Division will be leading efforts to implement the new [Employee Volunteerism Policy](#).
- In Fiscal Year 22-23, the Home Weatherization Rebate Program distributed **\$100,000** in rebates directly to residents, increasing home energy efficiency and electrification across our community.



Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- The Climate Resilience Project hosted a community conversation on housing. With guidance from COF Housing Planning Manager Jennifer Mikelson, we learned about housing concepts and explored density as a potential climate solution. Jennifer presented the many ways that the Carbon Neutrality Plan and the 10-year Housing Plan intersect and work towards the same goals. We engaged with 19 members during this community conversation.



- The Climate Team welcomed Gracie Rechkemmer as the new Vulnerability and Resilience AmeriCorps VISTA member. Gracie recently completed a term in the Sustainability Office as the Youth Leadership VISTA. She is the first person in this new VISTA position to focus on community resilience. Gracie will collaborate on creating neighborhood climate vulnerability and resilience maps, and jumpstart the Resilient Neighborhoods Network. Her work will help the Flagstaff Sustainability Office to identify and better meet the needs of Flagstaff's vulnerable neighborhoods.

Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with 21 people in July.
- Sustainable Workforce Development:

The climate team has conducted survey interviews with seven leaders and business owners in the sustainable workforce community, to gather data about sustainable workforce development actors and needs in Flagstaff and connections to climate-focused funding opportunities. One roadblock identified so far is a lack of access to the necessary training and education required for a career in the sustainable workforce.

Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:

- During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Home Weatherization Rebate Program distributed **\$100,000 in rebates** to support home energy efficiency and electrification. This \$100,000 included \$80,000 in supplementary funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (the base budget for these rebates is \$20,000 annually).
- The **2023-2024 Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program** has now launched. Rebates are available for upgrades such as attic insulation, energy-efficient water heaters, and electric panel upgrades to accommodate solar. Learn more about available rebates: www.flagstaff.az.gov/SaveEnergy. The Sustainability Office submitted a grant proposal for the [Building UP prize](#) by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, to assist with electrification and resilience building for City and community buildings.

Transportation:

- The climate team and APS began a Fleet Electrification Study for the City of Flagstaff. This Study will assess the City's existing and planned electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and create a strategic plan for adding EV infrastructure across City facilities.

- The climate team worked with Transportation Engineering staff to compile a list of potential changes to the transportation engineering standards. This preliminary list of changes is a key action item in the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP). It will be reviewed and adjusted internally and with stakeholders and then will be used to make code changes over time, supplementing and in coordination with the in-progress Land Availability and Assessment Study / Code Analysis Project.

Climate Reporting:

- The City of Flagstaff submitted its annual climate report to CDP, formerly known as the carbon disclosure project. This annual submission details the steps Flagstaff has taken this year to reduce emissions and increase resilience. The CDP submittal also supports compliance with the Global Covenant of Mayors commitments.

Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services

Community Stewards July Data:

Number of clean ups	5
Bags of Recycling	7
Bags of Trash	92
Number of People	52
Service Hours	572

Stream Stewards:

- On July 1st, we hosted our third Watershed Cleanup of the season in the Rio de Flag near Coconino Estates. Thirty-eight wonderful volunteers – including several Councilmembers and staff - cleared over six yards of debris from the channel. The group collected around 75 bags (30 gallons) of trash and debris. The next Watershed Cleanup begins at the [Bonito Community Garden on Saturday, August 5th, from 9 am-11 am.](#)



Photos above: (Top) The entire volunteer crew at the July 1st watershed cleanup in front of one of many truckloads of debris, (bottom left) volunteers working in the Rio de Flag channel, (bottom right) City Staff and Councilmembers including Jeremy DeGeyter, Paul Mood, Councilmember Lori Matthews, Mayor Becky Daggett, Greg Clifton, Councilmember Miranda Sweet, and Sharon Lopez.

Employee Volunteerism Policy:

- On July 1st, the new [Volunteerism Policy](#) went into effect. The City of Flagstaff encourages employees to become involved in the community, lending their voluntary support to programs that positively impact the quality of life in Flagstaff.

- The Sustainability Office established a [central webpage](#) for employees to discover volunteer opportunities, learn about updates to the evolving volunteerism policy, and access the tracking form to record eligible volunteer hours.

Employee Volunteer Data: July 2023

This table will be updated every month to track COF employee volunteerism.

Number of Volunteers	3
Total Service Hours	25.5

Food Systems

- Historic Southside Community Garden Volunteer Day
 - On July 1st, community volunteers, Terra BIRDS and Sustainability staff added three new raised beds to the Southside Community Garden! Two new raised Vego beds were built, filled, and given to community members on the community garden waitlist. The third bin was a donated cedar raised bed that another community member will steward to transform into a pollinator garden. 11 volunteers attended.



Photo Above: The two new raised garden beds and donated cedar box for the new pollinator garden space at Southside Community Garden.

- Mayor’s Monarch Pledge:
 - Full Moon Hike: Nocturnal Pollinators
 - In partnership with the Open Space team, Sustainability staff provided nocturnal pollinator education to community members during an Open Space Full Moon Hike on July 3rd. Eighty community members hiked Picture Canyon while learning about pollinators, pollinator flowers, and Picture Canyon history.



Photo Above: Community members hiking across the bridge at Picture Canyon at twilight in search of nocturnal pollinators.

- “Bug Out Safari” Event Tabling
 - On July 7th, Sustainability staff provided pollinator education to youth and their families at the Bug Out Safari next to Francis Short Pond. Youth made seed balls to distribute pollinator seeds around the community while also learning about pollinator conservation. Approximately 100 people visited the Sustainability Office table.
- Murdoch Butterfly Garden
 - On July 15th, volunteers from Girl Scout Troop 6520 and Sustainability staff installed a drip irrigation system in the Murdoch Butterfly Garden. 17 people volunteered.

Photo Below: Murdoch Butterfly Garden Drip Irrigation system installed by Girl Scout Troop 6520 volunteers and Sustainability staff on July 15th.



- On July 24th, volunteers from Girl Scout Troop 6520 and Sustainability staff planted the remaining pollinator plants in the Murdoch Butterfly Garden and distributed hay and

mulch throughout the garden to insulate the plants from the summer heat. 17 people volunteered.

Photo Above: Girl Scout Troop 6520 volunteers planting at Murdoch Butterfly Garden.

- Community Garden Earth Worm Workshop
 - On July 27th, Sustainability Staff partnered with Willow Bend Environmental Education Center to host a Family Science Earth Worm Workshop to teach youth and their families about worms and how they support the environment. 19 people attended.

Materials Management

- Expert Composter Certification
 - Vermicomposting Workshop
 - On July 25th, Sustainability Staff partnered with Willow Bend Environmental Education Center to host a free vermicomposting workshop and provide free DIY vermicomposting kits for guests to take home and compost their food scraps. This workshop is a part of the Expert Composter Series but was also open to the public. 20 people attended, and nine vermicomposting kits were distributed to help community members reduce food waste going to the landfill.



Photos Above Left: Community members filling vermicomposting bins. Right: A completed vermicomposting bin.

- Flagstaff Recycles Campaign
 - Staff conducted 210 residential recycling "bin checks" in the Railroad Springs and Boulder Point neighborhoods. Recycling bin checks help to decrease contamination.

- Staff announced the new “Flagstaff Recycles” campaign on the KAFF Country Radio talk show “Building a Better Flagstaff.” Staff discussed the importance of recycling and advertised for the Fix-it Clinic on July 29th.
- The Recycling Roadshow began this month, where our Recycling Education AmeriCorps member provides recycling education in public places. We hosted two tables this month – at Wheeler Park and the Downtown Library.
- The Sustainability Office engaged with 133 people at the downtown Wednesday Dinner Market in July about recycling in Flagstaff.
- Beginning in August, new recycling education banners will promote recycling on both the exterior of Mountain Line buses and within them.



Sustainability Commission

- On July 3rd, City Council appointed four new Sustainability Commissioners.
- Next meeting: Thursday, August 25th, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM.
- Meeting agendas can be viewed [here](#). The meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#).

Upcoming August Events

- Saturday, August 5, 9:00-11:00 AM: [Watershed Cleanup Series](#)

Social Media

- In July, our **Facebook** posts reached 4,180 people. Total engagement on our page was 536 reactions, comments, shares, and clicks on posts. 13 new people liked/followed our page.
- Our top post on **Facebook** was part of our Flagstaff Recycles Campaign about no bagging recyclables. This post reached a high number of 1,780 people and engaged 225 people. (See photo below.)
- In July, our **Instagram** posts reached 1,828 people. Thirty-six new people started following our page.
- Our top post on **Instagram** was also for Flagstaff Recycles Campaign, with a video post about what Flagstaff recycles. This post reached 1,036 accounts and received 42 likes.

**Please don't bag
your recyclables.**



The items will not be sorted,
and the whole bag will go to the landfill.

Learn more about recycling at: [flagstaff.az.gov/recycle](https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/recycle)



🚫 Keep your recyclables out of the landfill by not placing them in plastic bags!
Did you know that plastic bags, such as trash bags and grocery bags, are not recyclable in Flagstaff?

When your bag of recyclables arrives at the Material Recovery Facility, your bag is pulled out of the pile and thrown in the trash.

✚ Do your part by recycling items loosely in the bin without a bag.

Learn more [➡ https://www.recyclebycity.com/flagstaff](https://www.recyclebycity.com/flagstaff)

#flagstaffrecycles