



City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

August 2023 Monthly Report

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Floodproofing Grants: A review committee, made up of Commissioners, Equity Advisors, and community members, provided input to make the applications more accessible and inclusive, outreach strategies improve the diversity of people who use the programs, and how to support people throughout the process.
- On August 3rd, we hosted the final Watershed Cleanup of the season in the Rio de Flag near Francis Short Pond at Thorpe Park and the Bonito Community Garden. Twenty-three wonderful volunteers cleared over 600 gallons of debris and invasive vegetation from the channel.



Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- In August, the **Climate Resilience Project** supported an existing resilience initiative, the Watershed Cleanup Series. Twenty-three wonderful volunteers cleared over 600 gallons of debris and invasive vegetation from the Rio de Flag near Francis Short Pond.
- This semester, the climate team will be supporting an NAU Climate Science & Solutions class in a project to complete research and create building blocks for a Flagstaff Equity Atlas. Results will be presented to City Council in December.

Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with 85 people in August.
- The Climate Team welcomed Bella Bowman as the new Youth Climate Leadership AmeriCorps VISTA member.
- The **Equity Advisory Group** welcomed COF Senior Transportation Planner Martin Ince to be more informed on local transportation projects and how they relate to equity.
- Sustainable Workforce Development:

The climate team has conducted survey interviews with ten 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:

- The City launched the Energy and Water Conservation Project with contractor NORESKO to retrofit 6,000+ interior and exterior lights at City facilities to energy-efficient LEDs, weatherize 30 city buildings, install at least six (6) electric vehicle charging stations for City fleet vehicles, install five (5) heat pumps at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center to replace existing gas units, recommission irrigation controls at City parks, test a subset of water meters to analyze water leaks, and more. The project will run through August 2024, with a hiatus over the winter months. Work will begin with retrofits to City Hall lights on September 5th.
- 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** is in full swing. 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 section and APS continue progressing on the Fleet Electrification Study for the City of Flagstaff. This Study will assess the City's existing fleet and recommend suitable electric vehicle (EV) replacements over time, as well as the EV charging infrastructure needs at four (4) City facilities: Core Services, Police Department, Thorpe Park, and City Hall.
- The climate team worked with Transportation Engineering staff to compile a list of potential changes to the transportation engineering standards (City Code Title 13). This preliminary list of changes is a key action item in the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP). Proposed changes were presented to City staff in late July and are currently being reviewed and adjusted internally. The next step is to draft and vet suggested near-term code changes with City staff and stakeholders; longer-term changes will be evaluated further and supplemented/ coordinated with the in-progress Land Availability and Assessment Study / Code Analysis Project.

Housing

- The climate team, in collaboration with City staff from Housing, Planning, and Building, began drafting a survey for stakeholders, including Flagstaff residents, Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) designers, and contractors to better understand the barriers to constructing ADUs. The survey will identify processes and potential programs to make building an ADU easier, as well as to create more housing options in opportune locations already served by City services. City staff aim to have the survey go live on October 1, 2023.

Neighborhood Engagement Volunteer Services

Community Stewards August Data:

Number of clean ups	5
Bags of Recycling	19
Bags of Trash	54
Number of People	138
Service Hours	1,104



Photos Above: NAU students conducting a litter clean-up as part of the NAU EDGE Leadership program.

Stream Steward Events:

- On August 3rd, we hosted the final Watershed Cleanup of the season in the Rio de Flag near Francis Short Pond at Thorpe Park and the Bonito Community Garden. Twenty-three wonderful volunteers cleared over 600 gallons of debris and invasive vegetation from the channel.



Photo Above: Volunteers clear grass and woody debris from the Rio De Flag channel at the August 3rd watershed cleanup

Engage, Elevate, Empower (E3) Program:

	July 2023	Year Total
Bags of Recycling	32	N/A
Bags of Trash	99	N/A
Number of People	65	N/A
Service Hours	12,740	N/A

Employee Volunteerism Policy:

- 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:

- This table will be updated every month to track COF employee volunteerism. It reflects all hours submitted using the required form. Staff are responsible for submitting their hours for qualified City Volunteer Day events using the [Volunteer Tracking Form](#).

	August	Year Total
Number of Volunteers	6	11
Total Service Hours	10	28.50

Food Systems

The Food & Waste Team directly engaged with 90 people in August.

- Staff participated in a USDA grant kickoff meeting with consultants to start working on a comprehensive food systems assessment, set to take place over the next eight months.
- Staff conducted a kickoff meeting with consultants for northern Arizona food access and distribution research set to take place over the next eight months. The first step in the process is to create a steering committee and setting up interviews with key food stakeholders.
- The Bonito St Community Garden was featured during the Coconino Master Gardener Tour – a self-guided tour of Flagstaff's finest gardens from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, August 12th. The event had over 70 visitors.
- Staff partnered with Terra Birds to host a volunteer day at Southside Community Garden. Volunteers helped to re-mulch the garden pathways and add additional pollinator-friendly plants to the garden. Approximately 13 community members volunteered.



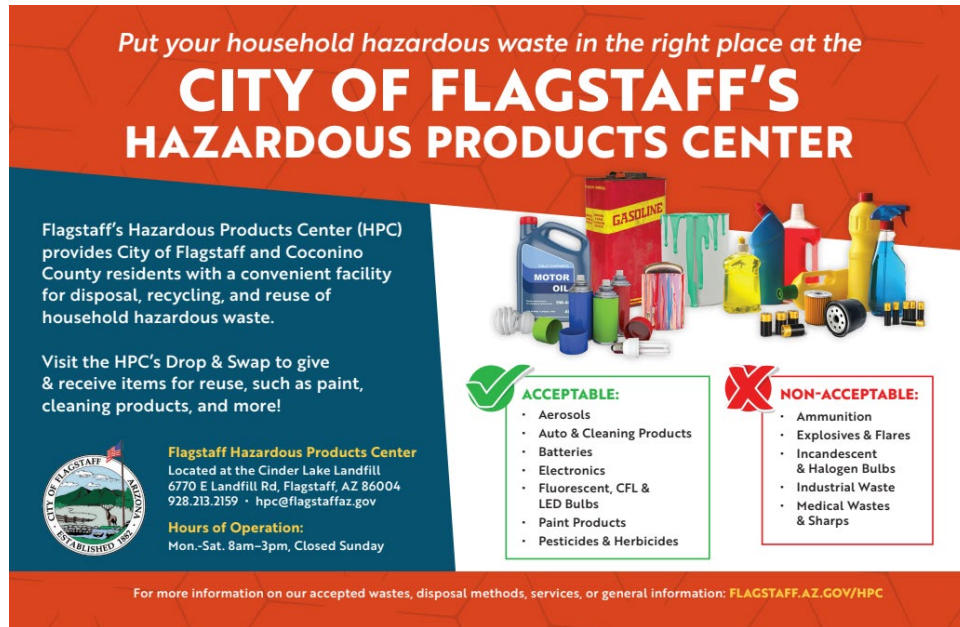
Above Photos: Volunteers re-mulch pathways and plant pollinator-friendly plants at the Southside Community Garden on August 26th.

Materials Management

- The Residential Food Scraps Drop-off, a partnership with the local small business Compost Crowd, collected 2844 lbs. of food waste in August.
- Two compost steward sessions were hosted at the Bonito and Southside Community Gardens. Volunteers processed food scraps from two three-bin compost systems.
- The Sustainability Office and the City continued partnering to publish videos on social media for the Flagstaff Recycles Campaign that focused on reducing contamination rates, commonly

mis-recycled items, and alternatives to single-use items. Additionally, for the Campaign, our office ran recycling Ads on KAFF Country Radio about what can and can't be recycled.

- Staff created Hazardous Products Center magnets to promote acceptable items and the Drop & Swap program that supports reuse in our community.
- Staff worked with Coconino County to create a waste reduction/ recycling plan for the Coconino County Fair.



Put your household hazardous waste in the right place at the

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF'S HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS CENTER

Flagstaff's Hazardous Products Center (HPC) provides City of Flagstaff and Coconino County residents with a convenient facility for disposal, recycling, and reuse of household hazardous waste.

Visit the HPC's Drop & Swap to give & receive items for reuse, such as paint, cleaning products, and more!

Flagstaff Hazardous Products Center
Located at the Cinder Lake Landfill
6770 E Landfill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928.213.2159 · hpc@flagstaffaz.gov

Hours of Operation:
Mon.-Sat. 8am-3pm, Closed Sunday

ACCEPTABLE:

- Aerosols
- Auto & Cleaning Products
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Fluorescent, CFL & LED Bulbs
- Paint Products
- Pesticides & Herbicides

NON-ACCEPTABLE:

- Ammunition
- Explosives & Flares
- Incandescent & Halogen Bulbs
- Industrial Waste
- Medical Wastes & Sharps

For more information on our accepted wastes, disposal methods, services, or general information: FLAGSTAFF.AZ.GOV/HPC

Sustainability Commission on

- In August, the Commission heard from Coconino Forest Ranger District Silviculturist Mark Nabel about post-fire revegetation efforts and volunteer opportunities.
- Next meeting: Thursday, September 28, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM.
- Meeting agendas can be viewed [here](#). The meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#).

Upcoming September Events

- **Neighborhood Sustainability Grant Workshop:** Thursday, September 7th, 5:30-7:00 pm. Register [here](#).
- **Community Garden Volunteer Day:** Saturday, September 16, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Register to volunteer [here](#).
- **Community Garden Workshop with Native Americans for Community Action (NACA):** Tuesday, September 26, 5:30-6:30 pm. Email gardens@flagstaffaz.gov to register.

Social Media

- In August, our **Facebook** posts reached 12,433 people. Total engagement on our page was 1,265 reactions, comments, shares, and clicks on posts. 37 new people liked/ followed our page.
- Our top post on **Facebook** was part of a video for the Flagstaff Recycles Campaign about what items to keep out of the recycling bin. This post reached a high number of 4,924 accounts and engaged 44 people.

- In August, our **Instagram** posts reached 3,867 people. 44 new people started following our page.
- Our top post on **Instagram** was also the video for the Flagstaff Recycles Campaign. This post reached 829 accounts and received 35 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