



# City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

## September 2023 Monthly Report

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- The [Floodproofing Assistance Program](#) conducted targeted outreach to 500 residents in flood-prone areas, and closed its first application period. Learn more [here](#).
- The [2023 Neighborhood Sustainability Grant cycle](#) received 30 applications. Learn more about the grant, our outreach efforts, and the timeline to choose awardees [here](#).

### Climate Action

#### Community Resilience:

- The **Floodproofing Assistance Program** offers residents grants of up to \$2,500 to purchase dry floodproofing materials. Targeted outreach was conducted in our highest flood-prone areas, with 500 residents receiving information on how to apply. The first round of grant applications closed in September, with a second round scheduled to launch in October.

#### Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with 498 people in September.
- The **Business Climate Advisory Group** (BCAG) met in September after a summer break. BCAG members discussed and provided feedback on energy programs that the Sustainability Office offers, including rebates, the Energy and Water Conservation (ESCO) Project, and Solar United Neighbors. Recruitment for new BCAG members will open in October for a cohort to start in January 2024.
- The **Equity Climate Advisory Group** (ECAG) met in September and continued their previous conversation about equity in transportation and mobility, focusing on safety, access, and engagement opportunities.
- The Climate Team presented at the Flagstaff Festival of Science's *State of the Climate* Panel on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and organized the community Action Fair that followed, which highlighted energy and water savings opportunities.
- The climate team has conducted 11 stakeholder interviews to gather data about the **sustainable workforce development** landscape and needs in Flagstaff.

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

- Highlights and updates from the [Energy and Water Conservation Project](#) with NORESO include:
  - Weatherization: **Completed weatherization of 30 city facilities.**
  - Interior Lighting: **Retrofitted 994 interior lights** in City Hall to energy-efficient LEDs. The remaining 32 facilities will be completed by the end of this year.
  - Exterior Lighting: Project is in the permitting process to upgrade exterior lighting across 30 city buildings and 9 city parks, in accordance with Flagstaff's dark-sky standards.
  - Irrigation: Completed site assessments for city parks. Schedule pending for re-commissioning irrigation controls, adding flow sensors and master valves, and replacing inefficient heads and nozzles.
  - Water Meters: 179 water meters and encoder receiver transmitters (ERTs) have been ordered and will be delivered February - March 2024. This spring, existing water meters will be replaced and tested to evaluate water loss.

- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations: Contractors and staff are assessing EV charging improvements for the East Side Shop and sourcing materials to install six (6) EV charging ports at Core Services.
- Electric Rate Switch: Following analysis by Arizona Public Service (APS) and NORESKO, staff plans to test a different electric rate plan for Lake Mary Well #8 and monitor cost savings.
- The **2023-2024 Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program** has distributed \$18,850 in rebates to community members as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Rebates are available for upgrades such as attic insulation, energy-efficient water heaters, wood stove upgrades, and electric panel upgrades to accommodate solar. Learn more about available rebates: [www.flagstaff.az.gov/SaveEnergy](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/SaveEnergy).

**Transportation:**

- The COF E-bike and scooter fleet has launched! This program allows City staff to check out e-bikes or scooters for short trips during work hours, reducing fleet vehicle use and costs. E-bikes are currently available at City Hall, the Water Services Admin. Building and the Aquaplex. The bikes will rotate among City facilities in this pilot program, allowing Divisions to test the devices and evaluate whether they could support their operations.



**Climate and Community Development Collaboration**

- The community survey for **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** opened on September 26, 2023, and will remain open for three weeks at [www.flagstaff.az.gov/ADU](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/ADU). The purpose of this survey is to identify processes and potential programs that can make constructing an ADU more convenient and to create additional housing options in locations already served by City services. The survey will also gather feedback from local designers and contractors to better understand the barriers they face while constructing ADUs and how the city can help reduce those barriers. The results of the survey will be shared with the City Council.
- Climate team is working with colleagues in Planning and Development Services, Housing, and Engineering in the implementation of the Land Availability and Suitability Study/Code Analysis Project (LASS/CAP). Staff is meeting regularly with the project consultant, who will conduct a site visit and introduce the project to the City Council on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services**

Community Stewards September Data	
Number of clean-ups	9
Bags of Recycling	12
Bags of Trash	69
Number of Volunteers	98
Service Hours	1,201



*Photos: NAU Kappa Sigma posing for a group photo after their cleanup.*

Engage, Elevate, Empower (E3) Program		
	August 2023	Year To Date
Bags of Recycling	60	92
Bags of Trash	129	228
Number of People	62	127
Service Hours	220.6	417



- E3 Grant awardee, Community Action Teams (CATs) of Flagstaff, reports that participants in the program have said, “I haven’t had this many people thank me ever! We feel appreciated, and it keeps us energized and healthier. It’s nice to do something for Mother Earth, and it makes you feel good about yourself. It makes everybody feel happier.” Other participants with a history of mental health challenges have shared that this program helped them get back on their feet.

### Employee Volunteerism Policy:

- On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.
- The IT Division has adopted a section of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System and conducted its first trail clean-up!

Employee Volunteer Data	Year to Date
Number of Volunteers	35
Number of Events	21
Total Service Hours	1,665

### Neighborhood Sustainability Grant

- The annual Neighborhood Sustainability Grant was open from September 1 – 30, 2023. Awards up to \$7,500 are available for community sustainability projects in food, waste, climate action, transportation, resilience, building energy, and public health. This year, the grant program has a total of \$75,000 available for grant funding.
- Staff conducted outreach through two radio interviews, KAFF Country Radio Ads, a presentation to the City Council, a video, social media posts, multiple email blasts, word of mouth, a workshop, a press release, and partner shares.
- Staff and the Sustainability Commission Chair hosted a Grant Workshop with Beautification, Arts, & Sciences on September 7<sup>th</sup>. 13 people attended in total, including 5 in-person attendees and 8 virtual attendees.
- Sustainability Commissioners and sustainability staff hosted 4 virtual drop-in “grant office hours,” and 5 interested applicants called in or joined to ask questions.
- We received 30 grant applications. The Sustainability Commission will review them in October, ask follow-up questions in early November, and make final award decisions during the November/December commission meeting.

## Food Systems

Total in-person engagement this month: 52 people



*Photos above:* Community members learn from NACA how to plant garlic/onion and winterize gardens. Community members also learned about indigenous cultural traditions in growing, cooking, and seed saving.

### **US Department of Agriculture Food Systems Grant**

- Primary and secondary research for the first phase of the food systems grant- project has commenced. Staff are working to build a steering committee to help guide our research consultants on how data will be collected and distributed to the community. So far, the committee includes partners from NAU, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, the Equity Advisory Committee, and other food stakeholders.

### **Flagstaff [Urban Farm Incubator](#)**

- Ruby Earth Gardens hosted two volunteer and farm tour events in September. Volunteers harvested potatoes and learned about the City's Urban Farm Incubator program.

### **Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) Community Garden Workshop**

- NACA hosted a garden winterization and late-season planting workshop at the Hal Jensen Community Garden on September 26<sup>th</sup>. All guests (approximately 5 youth and 15 adults) learned how to prep their gardens for the winter, plant garlic/onion, and hear indigenous stories/cultural lessons.

## Materials Management

### Composting

- 1,903 lbs of food waste was diverted in September through the Residential Food Scraps Drop-off program.
- A NEW Residential Food Scraps Drop off at Flagstaff Family Food Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. will launch in the beginning of October in partnership with Restoration Soils. This partnership will also include a pilot commercial pick-up for the kitchen onsite at FFFC.

### Recycling

- Flagstaff Recycles Campaign:
  - September KAFF Radio ad: *"Its that time of year, Pumpkin Spice Latte Season. Did you know that both single-use paper AND plastic coffee cups are not recyclable in Flagstaff? Let's all do our part by keeping coffee cups out of the recycling bin this fall! As an alternative, consider bringing your own reusable mug to your favorite coffee shop or try making a special fall drink at home. Learn more about what is and isn't recyclable here in Flagstaff at recycle by city dot com slash flagstaff."*
  - Social Media
    - Reach: 1,528
    - Likes: 194
    - Comments: 32



## Sustainability Commission

- September Meeting: Thursday, September 28th, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM.
  - September presentations to the Commission included the Butler + Fourth Transportation Project and the Downtown Vision Plan
  - Meeting agendas can be viewed [here](#). The meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#).
- Next Meeting: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM.

## Upcoming October Events

- Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: [Garden Harvest Party](#)
- October 1<sup>st</sup>–November 16<sup>th</sup>, anytime: [Leaf Drop-off](#)
- Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 pm: [Northern Arizona Solar 101 Webinar](#)
- Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: [Drop Off Day](#)

## Social Media

- In September, our **Facebook** posts reached 5,505 people. 22 new people liked or followed our page. We have a total of 7,395 followers.
  - Our top post on Facebook was about the Community Garden Art Volunteer Day, reaching 1,341 people (*see photo below*).
- In September, our **Instagram** posts reached 1,728 people. 31 new people started following our page. Our Instagram account has 2,192 followers.
  - Our top post on Instagram was about climate migration, reaching 844 accounts and receiving 44 likes.



### Community Garden Art Volunteer Day!

Hal Jensen Community Garden (2403 N Izabel St)

**Saturday, September 16th | 9 am to 12 pm**

Garden  
Harvest  
Potluck  
12 to 1 pm

Join us for painting rocks to  
label garden plots and a  
garden harvest potluck!



Join us to paint rocks and pavers for plot identification and signage at the Hal Jensen Community Garden! Stick around after painting for a community garden potluck from 12pm to 1pm! If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up using the link below.

Register here: [City of Flagstaff Community Gardens: September Community Garden Volunteer Day \(signupgenius.com\)](#)