



City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division February 2024 Monthly Report

HIGHLIGHT:

The [Snow Hero Program](#) was in full swing in February due to snow storms! The program assists community members with snow and ice removal from sidewalks, improving mobility in our communities, and encouraging a “neighbors helping neighbors” approach.

- The program now has 45 Snow Hero volunteers, serving 26 residents.
- Multiple news media platforms, including AZ Family TV, KJZZ Radio, and the AZ Daily Sun, highlighted the program in February.



Photos: (Left Above) Members of the NAU football team assist a resident by cleaning their sidewalk of snow through the Snow Heroes program. (Right) The AZ Daily Sun highlighted the program both in print and online in February.





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Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- In February, the **Climate Resilience Project** facilitated a community conversation on the **transition to electric homes and buildings**. The discussion included challenges, incentives, and the benefits of electrification on health and well-being.
- Brady Henderson joined the team in February as our Public Health & Climate Resilience Coordinator through the Climate Resilience Corps. He will work to strengthen community resilience here in Flagstaff, primarily coordinating the HEPA Air Filter and Floodproofing Assistance programs.

Photo: Brady Henderson, our Public Health & Climate Resilience Corps member.



Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with 118 people in February.
- The **Equity Climate Advisory Group (ECAG)** discussed Sustainability's efforts in home electrification. Advisory members offered feedback on the Flagstaff Home Energy Retrofit Program's implementation plans.

Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:

- The City received the finalized grant agreement with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the [Flagstaff Home Energy Retrofit Program](#). Sustainability staff continue to meet with local stakeholders to begin resident engagement and plan for implementation.
- The **city-wide energy and water conservation project** with NORESO prepared for Phase II construction. **We are grateful to the Code Compliance team for reviewing and approving applications to upgrade exterior lighting for 44 city facilities!** Additionally, the City received 179 encoders to test water meters this spring, and staff ordered six dual-port electric vehicle chargers for the Core Services campus. Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROSE), Public Works, Water Services, and Sustainability continued to meet to coordinate upcoming efficiency projects.
- As part of the [Northern Arizona Solar Co-op](#), Icon Power completed 45 satellite reviews, scheduled 15 site visits, submitted seven proposals, and is under contract with 17 residents to install residential solar systems.



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- Flagstaff residents submitted seven applications worth \$6,800 in February for energy efficiency projects through the **Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program**.
- Katie Bednar joined the team on February 19th as the **Energy and Resilience Outreach** Coordinator through the Climate Corps (AmeriCorps) Program. She will be serving in this role until the end of August. Katie is helping to develop and implement targeted outreach and engagement strategies to increase access to energy efficiency and resilience resources.



Photo: Katie Bednar, our new Energy and Resilience Outreach Climate Corps member.

Transportation Electrification:

- Staff from Public Works, Management Services, the Police Department, and Sustainability met with Arizona Public Service (APS) and consultant DNV to discuss the **Fleet Electrification Assessment** draft report and data deliverable and review staff feedback. The consultants are updating and preparing the final report and deliverable, which City staff will present to City Council this spring.

Youth:

- Staff are thrilled to welcome two new **high school AmeriCorps Sustainability Officers**, Katherine Lee and Nickolas Garcia! Katherine and Nick are both students at Flagstaff High School. They will be focusing on sustainability education at Flag High and working on expanding resilience throughout the school district.

Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services

Community Stewards

Community Stewards Data - February 2024	
Number of cleanups	3
Bags of Recycling	5
Bags of Trash	7
Gallons of Invasive Species Removed	0
Number of Volunteers	40
Service Hours	40



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Stream Stewards:

As of February, the [Stream Steward program](#) has:

- 27 Stream Stewards volunteers.
- 30 adopted stream sections.

Photo: The NAU Disney Club at their February Adopt-an-Avenue cleanup.



Employee Volunteer Policy

- Since the beginning of 2024, city employees have contributed over 100 hours of volunteer service throughout the community. Volunteer efforts have included preparing food for the Flagstaff Family Food Center, the Point in Time Count, Donating Blood, Downtown Special Events, caring for animals at the Humane Society, fixing items at the Fix-It Clinic, and helping with snow removal. Sustainability staff manages this program.
- Learn more about the Employee Volunteer policy [here](#).

Employee Volunteer Data	Year to Date
Number of Volunteers	25
Number of Events	20
Total Service Hours	101.75

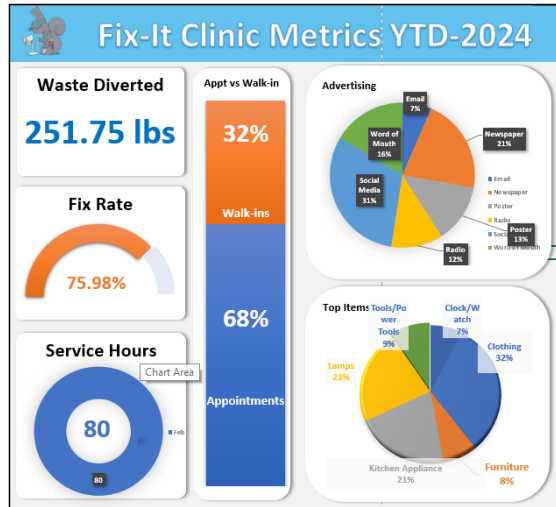


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Fix-It Clinic

- On Saturday, February 24th, the Sustainability Office hosted the first [Fix-It Clinic](#) event of 2024. This quarterly signature event promotes community sustainability and resilience through volunteerism, encourages community members to discover ways to repair household items, and reduces waste.

Photos: Volunteer fixers at the February 24th Fix-It Clinic.



Food Systems

Total Food & Waste Engagement in February: 53 people

Urban Farm Incubator

- Sustainability staff are actively working with an NAU Environmental Senior Capstone student group to facilitate community engagement around activating the McAllister Ranch [Urban Farm Incubator](#).
- Staff are working with Procurement and other internal staff to finalize an Invitation for Applications to license the space for urban agriculture.



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Mayors Monarch Pledge

- Mayor Becky Daggett committed the City of Flagstaff to its fifth year of the [Mayors Monarch Pledge](#)! Past projects and 2024 commitments can be found on the [City of Flagstaff Mayors Monarch Pledge Community Page](#). This work would not be possible without our partners in PROSE, the libraries, local non-profits, and local growers.

Community Gardens

- Throughout February, staff promoted the March 1 opening of the Community Garden plot application. The link to apply for a Community Garden plot can be found [here](#). Applications are due at the end of April, but we encourage submitting an application in early March as our plots fill up fast!
- Sydney Rittershaus joined Sustainability's Food & Waste team as the Community Garden Coordinator Climate Resilience Corps member on February 26th. She will handle the City's community garden plot registration, educational programming, and community partnerships.



Photo: Sydney Rittershaus, our new Community Garden Climate Corps member.

Waste Prevention

Composting

- **3,377.9 pounds of food waste** were diverted from the landfill in February through the [Residential Food Scraps Drop-off](#) program, which includes 5 locations across Flagstaff: the Flagstaff Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Store, the Hal Jensen Recreation Center, the Aquaplex, Bow & Arrow Park, and the Flagstaff Family Food Center. Local contractors, [Restoration Soils](#) and [Compost Crowd](#), service these drop-offs.
- Sustainability and Solid Waste staff toured the Restoration Soils industrial composting facility located at 2661 N El Paso Flagstaff Rd. on Friday, February 23rd. Food scraps from three of the City's Residential Food Scraps Drop-off Program sites are processed at this facility and converted into usable finished compost.



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Photos: City staff touring the Restoration Soils composting facility on February 23rd.

Waste Reduction

- Sustainability and Solid Waste staff attended the [Circular Arizona](#) Annual Meeting in Phoenix and toured the [Friedman Recycling](#) Facility on February 15th.
 - The City of Flagstaff was recognized and given the Small Municipality Award by Circular Arizona for our ability to bring recycling services back to the City after a brief halt in service due to the untimely end of the Norton Environmental contract at our local MRF. Currently, all recycling from the city goes to the Friedman Recycling Facility in Phoenix, where material is sorted by material type and sold to markets worldwide.

Commented [JN1]: @Summer White can you add the name of the award, please? Thank you.



Photos: (Left) Evan Tyrell, Brian Sutter, and Summer White at the Circular Arizona Annual meeting accept an award. (Right) Staff in front of a sorting machinery at the Friedman Recycling Facility in Phoenix.



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Recycling

- **February KAFF Radio Ad:** *"The City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office reminds you to embrace snow play that benefits our community and the environment! We can all contribute to keeping Flagstaff's unique natural areas beautiful while recreating. Make it a point to properly dispose of broken sleds in trash dumpsters found onsite at designated snow play areas or consider purchasing a wooden sled that will last a lifetime! Have fun, stay warm, and don't forget to follow the leave no trace principles of pack in, pack out!"*
 - This month we focused on responsible snow play and cleanup for messaging through the above KAFF Radio ad, the Discover Flagstaff newsletter section, and one of our social media reels (link below).
- In February, Public Affairs and Sustainability created the following content for **social media** to promote proper recycling in the community (the links provided are to the Instagram posts, but these were also posted on Facebook):
 - One reel:
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/C3BXiX8yWrl/>
 - Four posts:
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/C3q8oszpfy8/>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/C3Wly25Phus/>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/C3Qb8KwvYJK/>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/C2oOcWOvh8j/>

Sustainability Commission

- The February [Sustainability Commission](#) meeting was on Thursday, February 22nd. The agenda included an appreciation for long-time Commission member Kevin White, final project presentations by FY22-23 Neighborhood Sustainability Grant recipients, and a discussion and vote on a recommendation letter to the City Council regarding the Petition to Revise the Carbon Neutrality Plan.
- Commission [agendas can be found here](#) and Commission [minutes can be found here](#).





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Photos: (Top) The Sustainability Commission and Sustainability staff pose with Chair Kevin White (center left) during his final Commission meeting after serving two full terms. (Bottom) Gayle Gratop of the University of Arizona Extension Services presents the outcomes of their Sustainability Grant project: Horticultural Therapy at Killip Elementary.



Social Media

- In February, our Facebook reached **4,283** people and engaged with **540** people. We have gained **11 new followers** this month, making our total follower count **7412**.
- In February, our Instagram reached **2,300** people and **580** people engaged with our content. We gained **39 new followers**, leading to our current total following of **2,282** followers.

Photo: Our top Instagram and Facebook post in February about "Stressing about what is and isn't recyclable?" The Instagram post received 92 likes and engaged 117 users, and the Facebook post received 26 reactions and engaged 93 users.

