



# City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

## March 2025 Monthly Report

### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Mexican Consulate Visits Flagstaff

City leadership and staff teamed up with the Consulate General of Mexico on Saturday, March 29th, at Coconino Community College to provide essential consular services and resources to Flagstaff residents. Flagstaff Mayor Becky Daggett and Councilmember Khara House were present to reinforce the City's support of our community members; City staff shared resources in English and Spanish about City services and programming from the Police Department, Sustainability, Housing, Economic Vitality, PROSE, and more.



**Photo:** Mayor Daggett and Sustainability staff present Spanish-language materials at the Mexican Consulate visit on March 29.

#### Neighborhood Sustainability Grant Discovery Stroll

Staff and the Sustainability Commission held the first-ever Neighborhood Sustainability Grant (NSG) recognition and networking event on March 27 at the Sunnyside Market of Dreams. Over 40 community members attended to hear from the 11 grant presenters. This event, the NSG Discovery Stroll: Pathways to Sustainability, replaced the traditional PowerPoint presentations that previously served as the final requirement of the Neighborhood Sustainability Grants.



**Photos: (Left)** Councilmember Anthony Garcia addresses Flagstaff community members and sustainability grant recipients at the March 27 NSG Discovery Stroll. **(Right)** Members of the Flagstaff Sustainability Commission and the Commission staff liaison show off a timeline of the grant program and a map of all grant projects.



## Climate Action

### Community Resilience

- The [Flagstaff Resilience Hubs](#) received notice from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the EPA had terminated the City of Flagstaff's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government grant. City staff are working on a response to the EPA. The grant funded three community resilience hubs, located at the Southside Community Association's Murdoch Community Center, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association's Market of Dreams, and the Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff Mobile Bus. The below activities occurred in March before grant termination.
  - The Resilience Hubs hosted fifteen events in March on topics ranging from gardening to dance to emergency preparedness.
  - The Clean Energy Group and American Microgrid Solutions completed their feasibility analysis of battery storage backup power upgrades at the Murdoch Center Resilience Hub.
  - In collaboration with the City and County Emergency Management Teams, the Resilience Hubs assembled 100 Ready-Set-Go emergency evacuation kits for distribution to community members in need.
  - The USDN's Emergent Learning Fund created opportunities for a Resilience in Storytelling workshop at the Market of Dreams, a Hügélkultur Gardening workshop at the Murdoch Center, and Bike Repair Days for the unsheltered community at CATs.
- The [Climate Resilience Project](#) hosted a community conversation on wildland fire management, featuring guest speaker Noah Baker, Wildfire & Climate Specialist. Noah provided insights into how climate change is influencing wildfire patterns in Northern Arizona, the challenges and benefits of fire in our region, and practical actions individuals can take to build a more fire-resilient community. Key takeaways shared by participants were the importance of community education, engaging with neighbors, and supporting collaboration with land managers and wildland firefighters.

### Equity and Engagement

- The climate team directly engaged with **211 people** in March.
- The **Equity Climate Advisory Group** (ECAG) focused on Zoning Code Public Engagement, joined by special guest Tiffany Antol from the Planning Section. Key recommendations included leveraging video content, enhancing clarity and transparency in messaging, and utilizing community leaders to broaden engagement. Members also suggested incorporating educational opportunities through short videos, town halls, and collaborations with NAU and local media to promote more inclusive and accessible participation.
- Economic Development, Local First Arizona, and Sustainability began outreach for the next **Green Business Boot Camp**, which will be held in person on Thursdays from 5:00 – 6:00 pm, from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>. Flagstaff businesses and non-profits who participate will develop projects to save costs while conserving energy, water, and waste, or reducing transportation emissions.
- Economic Development and Sustainability continued to prepare for the 2025 [Innovate Green Business Pitch Competition](#), scheduled for April 11 – 12 at Moonshot. The application deadline is April 7, 2025.



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### Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use

- The [Energy Upgrades for Healthy Homes Program](#) released a solicitation requesting qualifications from plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and energy efficiency firms. Selected contractors will provide no-cost home retrofits to qualified households.
- The [Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program](#) provided nearly \$14,500 in assistance to community members who completed energy- and cost-saving home upgrades.
- Sustainability hosted two **Home Energy Efficiency workshops** at the [Resilience Hubs](#), demonstrating how to use DIY-friendly materials to keep homes more comfortable and save money on utility bills by conserving energy. All attendees received free energy efficiency kits.



**Photo:** A Home Energy Efficiency workshop at the Murdoch Center.

### Transportation Electrification

- A group of City, MetroPlan and Mountain Line staff members, led by Sustainability staff, have begun community engagement related to micromobility share. In February, City Council directed staff to restart a community conversation about bringing micromobility share (shared e-bikes or e-scooters) back to Flagstaff. Staff presented to numerous Commissions in March to gather feedback, and will be at Earth Day and other events in April and May.
- Danae Presler, Climate Program Manager, presented on the City's efforts to electrify the fleet at the **Association for Energy Service Professionals (AESP) Annual Conference**. While in Phoenix, she also attended the **Arizona Electric Fleet Day** event.
- Staff is coordinating an **EV Ride and Drive** event with Fleet Services and Drive Electric Arizona on May 30-31<sup>st</sup>.



**Photo:** Danae Presler presents on a panel, "From Gas to Grid" with APS and NAU.

### Youth Climate Action:

- The [Youth Climate Leadership Academy's Climate Teach-In](#) will take place at the Murdoch Community Center on Saturday, April 26th, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. This event will feature a diverse group of speakers with expertise in various environmental topics, providing attendees with valuable insights and education on key climate issues. [Please RSVP here!](#)
- The [Climate Action Challenge](#) has three registered teams, all dedicated to making a positive impact and empowering Flagstaff's youth.
- [Sustainability Officer](#) projects continue to thrive at Coconino High School, Ponderosa High School, and Star School, where students are leading efforts to reduce waste, conserve energy, and promote climate action on their campuses. Some projects have even caught the attention of local organizations eager to support students in expanding their projects even further.



**Housing and Land Use:**

- A Selection Committee comprised of City Planning, Housing, Building Safety, and Sustainability staff, representatives from City Commissions, and design and construction professionals selected the approximately 20 winning designs and runners up for the [ADU Model Plans Library](#). The Flagstaff community is invited to [choose their favorite design](#) among the 10 winning plans; voting was extended until Friday April 18. City Staff will now work with all selected designers to move the designs through the City’s Building Plan Review process to be pre-approved as model plans and displayed in the ADU Model Plans Library when it launches in July 2025.

**Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services**

**Engagement and Outreach Highlights**

- The Neighborhood Engagement and Volunteer Services team engaged directly with **476 people** through workshops, signature events, capacity-building partner meetings, and outreach activities at local markets.

**Community Stewards Program**

- Monthly [Community Stewards program](#) statistics include volunteer activities for the Adopt-A-FUTS, Adopt-A-Stream, and Adopt-An-Ave programs.
- Staff engaged with the community through neighborhood association meetings and meeting with local groups. Specifically staff is working to organize a community cleanup with the Mobile Haven neighborhood.

March Stewards Data	
Number of clean-ups	7
Bags of Recycling	1
Bags of Trash/Invasive Species	9
Number of People	25
Service Hours	38

**Volunteer Program**

- City staff participated in rain barrel making, packing emergency preparedness kits, litter clean ups, and at blood donations throughout March.
- The new [Volunteer Flagstaff](#) software has 255 registered volunteers so far. The platform currently includes has PROSE and Sustainability volunteer and workshop opportunities.

Employee Volunteer Data	Year to Date
Number of Volunteers	86
Number of Events	26
Total Service Hours	204

**Waste Prevention**

- In February, the [Residential Food Scraps Drop-off program](#) diverted **2,534lbs of food waste** from the landfill.
- The [Recycle by City-Flagstaff](#) website recorded 1,404 new users, 31 calendar downloads, and 222 recycling quizzes completed.
- Staff tabled at the Open Air and Mountain Town Markets to talk about our office offerings and teach about recycling in Flagstaff.
- Staff presented the “3R’s” educational lesson to local Flagstaff Businesses at the monthly Coffee Klatch Meeting and to Aspire Transitional Care, reaching 28 people.



### Food Systems

- The [Community Gardens](#) started their **Full Circle Garden Workshop Series** and had over 50 participants so far at two events. This event series runs through July 2025.
- Over **100 community members submitted applications for a garden plot** at the three city-run gardens for the 2025 season. The application deadline was March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- On March 7<sup>th</sup>, staff collaborated with partners Flagstaff Family Food Center and Foodlink to host the annual **Farm & Rancher Resource Fair**. This event connected more than 40 local growers with resources and keynote presentations from United States Department of Agriculture representatives, addressing existing government program concerns.



*Photos: (Left) Staff tabling at the NAU Open Air Market. (Right) Staff volunteering at the Flagstaff Family Food Center.*

### Sustainability Commission

- The March [Sustainability Commission](#) meeting was on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The agenda included a brief update on the next steps for LASS/CAP and the Regional Plan and a continued discussion on the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant program.
- Commission [agendas can be found here](#) and Commission [minutes can be found here](#).

### Social Media

- In March, our Facebook posts reached over **12,300 people**. We have **7,474 followers**. Our top Facebook post (to the right) was an announcement that community garden applications are open (19 likes and 918 reached).
- In March, our Instagram reached **7,396 people**, and **483 people interacted** with our content. We have **2,600 followers**, an increase of 21 followers since last month. Our top Instagram post was an informational announcement post regarding the opening of the community garden applications (59 likes, 892 reached, and 17 shares).

