



# City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

## September 2025 Monthly Report

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Community Engages in the Carbon Neutrality Plan Update

Staff kicked off community engagement for the [Carbon Neutrality Plan \(CNP\) update](#) this month, hosting three open houses at the Murdoch Center, the East Flagstaff Community Library, and a virtual session. Participants learned about Flagstaff's climate goals, asked questions, and shared feedback on the strategies that matter most to them.



**Photos:** Community members interact with staff and educational displays at the Carbon Neutrality Plan Open House.

### Climate Action

#### Community Resilience:

- The [Flood Prevention Grant Program](#) distributed flood barriers and expanded community outreach through a “Stronger Together” clinic at the Market of Dreams. In September, \$5,375 worth of flood prevention resources were distributed.
- In September, the [Climate Resilience Project](#) partnered with NEVS to host a Watershed Cleanup Series event in the Cheshire Neighborhood.
- As part of the **Reimagine Community Project**, staff attended an educational conference where keynote speakers combined storytelling, science, spoken word, and systems change to inspire trauma-informed practices and resilience policies at the city level.

#### Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged **115 people** in September.
- The [Flagstaff Sustainability Grant](#) Program received **30 applications**. Staff and Sustainability Commissioners hosted seven grant support sessions to promote the program and assist community members and organizations in applying.



- The **Equity Climate Advisory Group (ECAG)** continued to help shape the update to the Carbon Neutrality Plan, bringing forward inspiring ideas for inclusive engagement and creative storytelling to ensure Flagstaff’s climate action reflects and celebrates our community.
- Sustainability recruited team members from Management Services, Wildland Fire, and IT to form the nearly unbeatable Albert Aces for this year’s Employee Kickball Tournament.



*Photo:* Albert Aces compete at the Employee Kickball Tournament.

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

- In September, the [Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program](#) provided **\$9,054** in assistance to community members who completed energy- and cost-saving home upgrades.
- An inaugural energy audit was completed through the [Energy Upgrades for Healthy Homes](#) program, marking the first step in providing energy efficiency upgrades to an eligible Flagstaff household. This audit helps determine which energy efficiency upgrades to complete to reduce utility bills, improve safety and comfort, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Staff researched heat pump technology and training opportunities with Facilities team members and industry representatives from Trane and Mitsubishi.
- Staff submitted the City’s annual report to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a global environmental reporting platform that cities, companies, and organizations use to report on climate and resilience goals and progress.

**Transportation Electrification:**

- To support future electric vehicles (EVs) for Water Services and Housing, staff worked with the Facilities Section to prepare to install EV charging plugs at the Water Services Administration Building on Walgreens Street.

**Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services**

**Engagement and Outreach Highlights**

- In September, the NEVS Team engaged **737 people** through signature events, volunteer opportunities, conference presentations, responding to community member inquiries, and the Harvest Festival event.

**Community Stewards Program**

- Monthly [Community Stewards program](#) statistics include special events, one-time litter or invasive plant species removals, neighborhood clean-ups, and recurring Adopt-A (FUTS/AVE/Stream) clean-ups.

September Stewards Data	
Number of clean-ups	11
Bags of Recycling	18
Bags of Trash/Invasive Plants	75
Number of People	197
Service Hours	444



## City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division September 2025 Monthly Report

- Staff partnered with Dark Sky Brewing, the Climate Resilience Project, and the City of Flagstaff Stormwater Section for the September **Watershed Cleanup Series**. The event drew 65 volunteers who removed **1,050 pounds** of channel-blocking vegetation, litter, and invasive plants from the Rio de Flag in the Cheshire neighborhood.
- Discover Flagstaff and the Stewards Team partnered for the fall **Tourism Service Day**. Participants met at the Milligan house and cleaned up around the Townsite Neighborhood. In this cleanup, 34 participants removed **73 pounds** of litter.
- Engage, Empower, Elevate (E3) could not operate in August due to delays in funding disbursement.



**Photo:** Volunteers at the Watershed Cleanup event.

### Waste Prevention

- The [Residential Food Scraps Drop-off program](#) diverted **4,469 pounds of food waste** from the landfill in August.
- Staff presented at the annual [Circular Economy Symposium](#) on September 18<sup>th</sup> as part of a panel on Edible and Inedible Organics Diversion.
- In August, the [Recycle by City](#) website received **2,063 unique visits, 1,150 schedule searches, 32 calendar downloads, and 1,394 new users**.

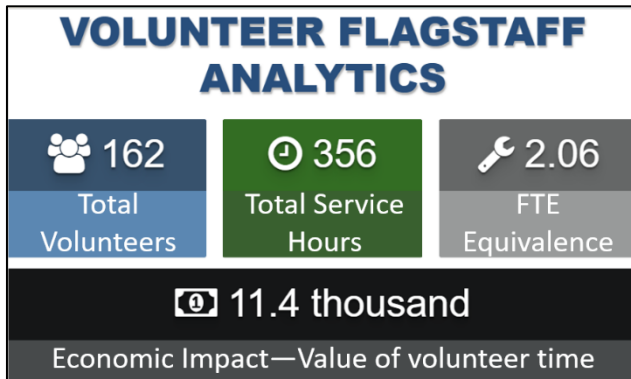
### Food Systems

- On Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, staff partnered with Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) to host a Harvest Festival event at the Hal Jensen Community Garden, engaging 25 people. Activities included compost, seed, and pollinator education, hands-on seed saving, seed ball creation, and food made with ingredients harvested from the garden.
- Staff developed and launched the [Food Action Plan website](#). This site describes how the Food Action Plan was developed and invites the community to take a survey to provide input and help prioritize actions within the plan.

### City Volunteer Program

- City employees have logged **1,251 hours of volunteer service** so far this calendar year through the [Employee Volunteer Program](#)! The top activities for August include blood donation, litter clean-up, and invasive plant species removal.
- The City’s centralized community volunteer platform, [Volunteer Flagstaff](#), is being utilized by **1,039 users**.

Employee Volunteer Data	Year to Date
Number of Volunteers	500
Number of Events	240
Total Service Hours	1,251



**Photo:** In September, 162 volunteers provided a combined 356 service hours, worth an estimated value of \$11,400.

### Sustainability Commission

- The month the [Sustainability Commission](#) meeting was on Thursday, September 25th. The agenda included an update on the City’s Food Action Plan and a discussion and approval of updates to the Sustainability Commission ordinance.
- Commission [agendas and meeting minutes can be found here](#).

### Social Media

#### Facebook

- In September, posts on the Flagstaff Sustainability Office account attracted **21,218** views, reached **9,558** people, and gained **14** new followers.
- The top post was “FSG Highlight” featuring Flagstaff Community Fridges. This post reached **1,673** people.



#### Instagram

- In September, posts on the @flgsustain account drew **17,810** views and reached **2,545** people. This month saw an increase of **39** new followers.
- The top post was a series of photos celebrating the end of the gardening season and the beginning of harvest season, promoting the Harvest Festival on September 29. This post reached **513** people with **75** interactions. [View the post here](#).