



City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

October 2025 Monthly Report

HIGHLIGHT:

Clean Energy Opportunities Ahead!!

City Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement to explore clean energy opportunities to advance carbon neutrality goals with a coalition of cities and universities across the state on October 7th.



Photo: City Council and staff receive certificate and check from APS for completing energy-saving upgrades.

Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- The Sustainability Office recently launched the **Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative (WRHI)**—a collaboration with the **Flagstaff Fire Department** to help residents reduce wildfire risk. The program offers **free home assessments, Wildfire Resilience Kits, and grants up to \$600** to support defensible space and home hardening. Open to **homeowners, renters, and property managers**, WRHI empowers residents to take simple, effective steps toward wildfire resilience. [Sign up for a free home assessment today!](#)
- In October, the Flood Prevention Assistance Program distributed 10 Dam Easy flood barriers to six flood-impacted households around Flagstaff. These barriers are a fast, simple way to keep water from entering your home through doorways. If you experience flooding, [apply for flood prevention assistance today!](#)
- The **Flagstaff Clean Air Program** completed another round of HEPA filter distribution.

Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with **335 people** in October.
- The **Equity Climate Advisory Group (ECAG)** provided feedback on the **Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative** pilot, emphasizing inclusive outreach through multilingual materials and flexible scheduling options, and recommended measurable outcomes to demonstrate impact and strengthen community participation.
- In celebration of **Indigenous Peoples Day**, staff joined community partners and colleagues in events centered on Indigenous strength, leadership, knowledge, and resilience, including *Voices Unheard: Breaking the Silence*, the *City's Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration*, and the *Harvest Festival* at the Indigenous Community Cultural Center.
- The Climate team welcomed our newest team member, **Diane Bridger, Engagement Specialist**.
- **Coconino High School** received a **Youth Climate Action Grant** to expand its new student-led recycling program. Piloted last year through the **Sustainability Officers** program in partnership



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with the City and **Nackard Pepsi**, the initiative supports student leadership in waste reduction by providing PPE, signage, and recycling bins for every classroom.

- Staff are partnering with external consultants and a community-based committee to strengthen how we communicate the City's climate goals and actions, ensuring our messaging and visuals reflect the values and priorities of the Flagstaff community.
- Community members provided input to inform the update to the Carbon Neutrality Plan through three Open House events in September and October. A community [survey on Connect Flagstaff](#) will collect feedback through November 14th.
- Staff are partnering with an external consultant to **better under the costs, benefits, and barriers to energy efficiency and beneficial building electrification** in new construction in Flagstaff. The consultant has interviewed more than a dozen local contractors, builders, and developers, and will share results with City Council on December 9th.

Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:

- Cold-climate heat pumps were installed at Fire Station 1 and the Fire Training Center in October. This project is fully funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, administered by the Department of Energy, and completed in collaboration with the Fire Department, Facilities, Grants and Contracts, Procurement, and Sustainability.



Photos: New cold-climate heat pumps installed at Fire Station 1 (left) and the Fire Training Center (right) and inspected by Facilities staff.

- Arizona Public Service (APS) recognized the City of Flagstaff for its energy-efficient lighting upgrades completed across 44 City facilities through the City-wide Energy and Water Conservation Project and presented the City Council with a **certificate and energy rebate check for \$64,189.25** at the October 21st Council Meeting.
- City Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement to **explore clean energy opportunities** to advance carbon neutrality goals with a coalition of cities and universities across the state on October 7th.
- The [Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program](#) provided nearly \$13,950 in assistance to community members who completed energy- and cost-saving home upgrades.
- The [Energy Upgrades for Healthy Homes Program](#) received three new applications and will look to begin home retrofits in November following council contract approval.



Transportation Electrification:

- City Council directed staff to move forward with allowing a micromobility share business to operate in Flagstaff. Staff will now develop a request for proposals that will result in selecting one vendor to provide shared mobility services in Flagstaff.
- Staff coordinated with Facilities and Water Services to provide EV charging for fleet vehicles at the Water Services Administrative Building and received quotes for adding EV chargers at Wheeler Park and the Sustainability Office.
- The [Employee e-Bike and Scooter Fleet](#) continued to expand its presence across City facilities, offering an opportunity for leadership and staff at Flagstaff Pulliam Airport to explore possible implementation options throughout their campus.



Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services

Engagement and Outreach Highlights

- In October, the NEVS Team engaged with **697 people** through signature events, volunteer opportunities, presentations, workshops, and school programs. This month's collaborations include Coconino Community College, Grant Writing USA, Friends of the Rio de Flag, Coconino County Health and Human Services, Hazardous Products Center (HPC), Flagstaff Police Department, DEA, The Hazardous Products Center, Ponderosa Medical, Westech Recylers, and Elevated Shredding.



Photo: NAU Disney Club Cleanup Group Photo

Community Stewards Program

- Monthly [Community Stewards program](#) statistics include volunteer activities for the Adopt-A-FUTS, Adopt-A-Stream, and Adopt-An-Ave programs.
- Engage, Empower, Elevate (E3) could not operate in September due to delays in funding disbursement.

| October Stewards Data | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Number of clean-ups | 8 |
| Bags of Recycling | 2 |
| Bags of Trash/Invasive Species | 8 |
| Number of People | 70 |
| Service Hours | 75 |

Centralized Volunteer Program

- City employees have logged **1,452 hours of volunteer service** so far this calendar year through the [Employee Volunteer Program](#)! The top activities for October include Indigenous People’s Day Celebration, Making Water Conservation Efficiency Kits, and Drop-off Day.
- The City’s centralized volunteer platform, [Volunteer Flagstaff](#), is being used by **1,134 users**.
- Staff presented to more than 45 city and county professionals at the ICMA 2025 annual conference about the City Employee Volunteer Program. The “Unlocking Potential” education session provide a model for other municipalities to develop or enhance existing employee volunteer program initiatives.

| Employee Volunteer Data | Year to Date |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Number of Volunteers | 634 |
| Number of Events | 310 |
| Total Service Hours | 1,452 |

Waste Prevention

- In September and October, the [Residential Food Scraps Drop-off program](#) diverted **7,156lbs of food waste** from the landfill. This is equivalent to 5,117 pounds of CO₂ saved from going into the atmosphere, which is equivalent to 218 gallons of gasoline used in a passenger vehicle!



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- During the Drop-Off Day event staff, partners, and volunteers helped **432 households** put their waste in the right place. This included items like light bulbs, batteries, e-waste, paper for shredding, expired medications, medical sharps and more.
- In September, the [Recycle by City](#) website reached **646 new users**, received **959 schedule searches**, **30 calendar downloads**, and **1,081 unique visits**.



Photo: Volunteer Group photo after the Drop-off Day Event.

Food Systems

- The growing season is coming to an end at the city-managed community gardens, including Bonito, Southside, and Hal Jensen. Gardeners have closed out their production at their respective plots while still contributing their scraps to the compost bins.
- This month the Food Systems Team held two Food Action Plan Open Houses, with an attendance of 18 people, and an online survey, with 25 responses, on Connect Flagstaff to collect community feedback on their priorities for this plan. The Food Action Plan will act as a roadmap for addressing the challenges within the Flagstaff food system.



Photo: Community members giving feedback at the October 8th Food Action Plan Open House

Sustainability Commission

- The [Sustainability Commission](#) meeting was on Thursday, October 23rd. The agenda included an update on the City's E3 (Engage, Empower, Elevate) Program, an update on the 2045 Flagstaff Regional Plan Update, a review of the Flagstaff Sustainability Grant process, as well as a training in grant scoring and avoiding bias in grant review.
- Commission [agendas can be found here](#) and Commission [minutes can be found here](#).

Social Media

Facebook

- In October, our Flagstaff Sustainability Office account attracted **55,660 views** and reached **13,430 people**.
- The top post was our Flood Watch post that reached **2,614 people**. See photo to the right.

Instagram

- In October, posts on the @flgsustain account drew **30,698 views** and reached **5,244 people**. The month saw an increase of **50 new** followers.
- The top post was our spooky Halloween invasive species post, highlighting and educating about 4 of Flagstaff's top invasive species. [View the post here](#).

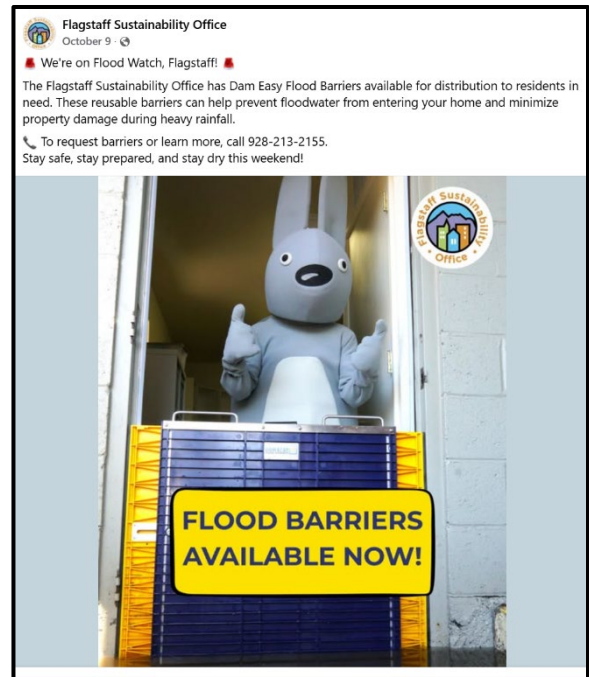


Photo: Snapshot of the “We’re on Flood Watch” Facebook post from October 9, 2025.