



LOCAL FIRST ARIZONA™



2026 Flagstaff Green Business Boot Camp Report

A Collaboration between Local First Arizona and City of Flagstaff

May 5, 2026

Executive Summary

Since Spring 2024, Local First Arizona and the City of Flagstaff have teamed up to deliver programming that brings economic vitality, local resilience, and climate action to the community in the form of the Green Business Boot Camp. To date, 27 Flagstaff businesses have graduated from the Local First Arizona program since the start of the collaboration. Most recently, eight (8) of those businesses graduated from the second in-person Flagstaff Green Business Boot Camp that ran from Jan 22, 2026 through March 5, 2026.

To support these businesses, Local First curated a roster of local industry experts in the areas of energy, water, waste, transportation, and financial incentives to guide businesses through the seven sessions and develop a **green project**. Criteria for a **green project**:

- Develop a plan to assess and reduce business emissions and costs related to energy, water, waste, and transportation by at least 20%
- Planning for long-term benefits to employees, the surrounding community, and environment.
- Future-proofing the business against disruption including supply chain and climate-related impacts

One of the biggest hurdles for businesses is getting the capital necessary to scale, grow, and implement projects that will help them save money. Through the City of Flagstaff, participating businesses were able to apply for up to \$10,000 in Innovate Green Grants to make their Boot Camp projects a reality. In addition, all businesses who are currently enrolled or have graduated from the Green Business Boot Camp were encouraged to apply for up to \$1,500 per business through the Intuit Green Business Rebate Program. In 2026, Flagstaff businesses were awarded \$20,500 in total funding for green projects.

Businesses that previously graduated from the Green Business Boot Camp continue to develop and implement their Boot Camp projects with continuing technical assistance and connections to resources from Local First Arizona. Updates on project progress and metrics are included in this report.



Green Business Boot Camp Graduates

Name	Sector	Year Graduated
Arizona Behavioral Health Assoc.	Healthcare	2024
Kickstand Cafe	Restaurant / Cafe	2024
Nackard Pepsi	Distribution / Logistics	2024
Shift Kitchen & Bar	Restaurant / Cafe	2024
Chocolita Chocolate	Food Processor	2024
Eat N Run	Restaurant / Cafe	2024
Forestdale Farms	Agriculture	2024
Historic Brewing	Brewery	2024
Rocking L3 Ranch	Agriculture	2025
Rooftop Solar	Solar	2025
1899 Bar & Grill	Restaurant / Cafe	2025
Culinary Concepts Southwest	Catering	2025
Diamond Auto Glass	Home & Auto Window Services	2025
Double K Breeding	Equine Training & Breeding	2025
Guida Wood Works	Wood Manufacturing	2025
Mountain Top Hops	Agriculture	2025
Quality Connections	Nonprofit / Social Services	2025
Restoration Soils	Compost / Landscape Products	2025
Tech Genie	Consumer Products Mfg	2025
4 Sons Landscaping	Landscaping Services	2026
All You Mead	Brewery	2026
Coco-op Maker Space	Nonprofit / Maker Space	2026
Elevated Camping Experience	Travel / Adventure	2026
Flagstaff CSA	CSA / Agriculture	2026
Kahtoola	Consumer Products Mfg	2026
Rising Mountain Academy	Education / School	2026
Theatrikos Theatre Company	Nonprofit / Arts	2026

Topic Areas

Topic	Expert(s)	Details
Water	Emily Melhorn, City of Flagstaff Water Services; Hayley Paul, Audubon Southwest	Water sources, infrastructure, and current state of water in Flagstaff and AZ, conservation, pricing, retrofitting, treatment and recycling, case studies of business successes and challenges in implementing water conservation solutions
Energy	Derek Turner, Rooftop Solar	Energy sources, infrastructure, and current state of energy in the APS service territory and AZ, carbon emissions, conservation, retrofitting, renewable energy, building performance, electrification, case studies of business successes and challenges in implementing energy conservation strategies
Waste & Circular Economy	Darren Bingham, Regen Consulting Services	Diversion and waste management in N AZ, waste hierarchy, circular economy, repair, maintenance, and prevention, recycling, composting, designing with reuse in mind, towards zero waste
Transportation & Local Sourcing	Brynn Katz and Brandon Hooten, Nackard Pepsi	Transportation infrastructure in AZ, Active and public modes of transportation, living streets, planning communities for sustainability, resilience, equity and safety, carbon emissions inventory and reduction strategies, fleets
Financing A Green Project	Nick Shivka, Local First Arizona	How to fund a sustainability project, project performance & ROI, loan readiness preparation, access to resources including Green Loan Fund, Innovate Green Grant & Intuit Rebate, incentives, and tax credits
Project Presentations	Lisa Page, Local First Arizona	Practice pitching a sustainability project to stakeholders that includes a project vision, project strategy, reduction goals, community and social benefit goals, prospective collaborators, budget, and next steps for implementation.
Orientation	Lisa Page & Nick Shivka, Local First Arizona; Danae Presler, City of Flagstaff Sustainability	Introduction to sustainability & resilience, benchmarking, environmental justice, and green project planning

Participant Profiles



Coco-op Maker Space

1155 W Kaibab Ln, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

<https://www.cocoop.org/>

Project Description: Install high-R-value polyiso insulation and industrial weather stripping on two large garage doors to improve indoor climate stability, reduce HVAC strain, and lower utility costs which will result in a 25% reduction in natural gas use.

Elevated Camping Experience

1823 N Center St Suite 202, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

<https://www.campingelevated.com/>

Project Description: Install a water-saving purification system for water returned by customers and transition from paper to digital documentation that will lead to a 100% reduction of water & paper waste.



Flagstaff CSA

116 W Cottage Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

<https://www.flagcsa.com/>

Project Description: Energy efficiency upgrades that include new refrigerators, insulated front door and window treatments, smart thermostats, and LED lighting

Rising Mountain Academy

311 W Cattle Drive Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005

<https://mountaincharterschool.com/>

Project Description: Energy efficiency retrofits that include converting a gas stove to electric, upgrading to Energy Star refrigeration, and LED lighting



Kahtoola

431 S River Run Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

<https://kahtoola.com/>

Project Description: Seeking to purchase a baler to eliminate plastic waste, diverting 2 tons of plastic waste while avoiding 3 metric tons CO2 and 10 cu yd of landfill space / year

Theatrikos Theatre Company

11 W Cherry Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

<https://theatrikos.com/>

Project Description: Seeking to install a reclaimed water irrigation system and climate adapted landscaping to reduce outdoor water use by ~30,000 gallons of water / year



All You Mead

2781 W Pico Del Monte Cir, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

<https://allyoumead.com/>

Project Description: Multi-faceted project that includes upgrading building envelope insulation, installing an on-demand electric water heater, clean-in-place sanitation practices, and sustainability advocacy

4 Sons Landscape Maintenance

3450 N. Pine Dr. 86004

<https://www.facebook.com/yardworkpineneedlescleanuplandscape/>

Project Description: Converting internal combustion powered equipment to battery electric equipment, resulting in a reduction in carbon emissions, fuel costs, and noise pollution

Access to Funding for Project Implementation

Participating businesses were eligible to apply for exclusive funding opportunities to implement their projects including:

- City of Flagstaff Innovate Green Grants: Up to \$10,000
- Intuit Green Business Rebates: Up to \$1,500
- Local First Arizona Green Loan Fund: Between \$2,500 - \$25,000 @ 3%

Innovate Green Grant Awards – Flagstaff GBBC Spring 2026 Cohort

Funding source: City of Flagstaff Economic Development Bed, Board, and Beverage (BBB) funds, Sustainability funds

Business	Award	Project Description
All You Mead	\$2,800	On demand water heater
4 Sons Landscape Maintenance	\$2,100	Electric backpack blower/battery
Flagstaff CSA	\$1,850	New Refrigerator
CoCo-Op Makerspace	\$1,550	Shop door insulation
Rising Mountain Academy	\$1,000	New Electric Stove
Elevated Camping	\$700	Paperless Technology (Ipad/program)
Award Total	\$10,000	

Intuit Energy Efficiency Rebate Awards – Flagstaff Based Businesses

Funding Source: Local First Arizona applied for pass-through funding for small local businesses from Intuit

Chocolita Chocolate	\$1,500	Energy Star Dishwasher
4 Sons Landscape Maintenance	\$1,500	Battery operated chainsaw and extra battery
CoCo-Op	\$1,500	Insulating garage doors
Elevated Camping	\$1,500	Powerstation and battery to replace a generator
Laura Chamberlain Professional Chef	\$1,000	Walk In Envelope: replace door strips in walk in cooler, fluorescent lights with LED

Theatrikos Theatre	\$1,000	LED light upgrades
All You Mead	\$1,000	Electric on demand water heater
Flag SCA & Local Market	\$1,000	Replace older fridge
Forestdale Farms	\$500	Replace older refrigerator
Award Total	\$10,500	

TOTAL FLAGSTAFF AWARDS: \$20,500

Past Participant Project Highlights

Chocolita - Chocolita utilized the 2025 Intuit Grant to swap out their old and inefficient cooler for a high-efficiency display case which will also create more working space for the business. They were recently awarded another Intuit grant to purchase a high-efficiency dishwasher to reduce water (10,000 gallons / year) and energy usage at the business.

Forestdale Farms - Forestdale was recently approved for a \$25,000 Green Loan Fund to help jumpstart their solar project. Local First supported Forestdale in applying for additional funding through the Rural Energy for America Program and will be able to take advantage of the Investment Tax Credit. Together, both sources will reimburse Forestdale for approximately 65% of the project cost!

Culinary Concepts Southwest – Recently, Culinary Concepts was awarded \$1,000 to assist the business in updating their walk-in cooler’s structural envelope to increase efficiency. Additionally, they were approved for a Green Loan Fund totalling \$25,000 to assist with upgrading their compressor for the walk-in to increase efficiency by approximately 20%. The new compressor is so efficient and quiet that employees now refer to the walk-in as “the library”.

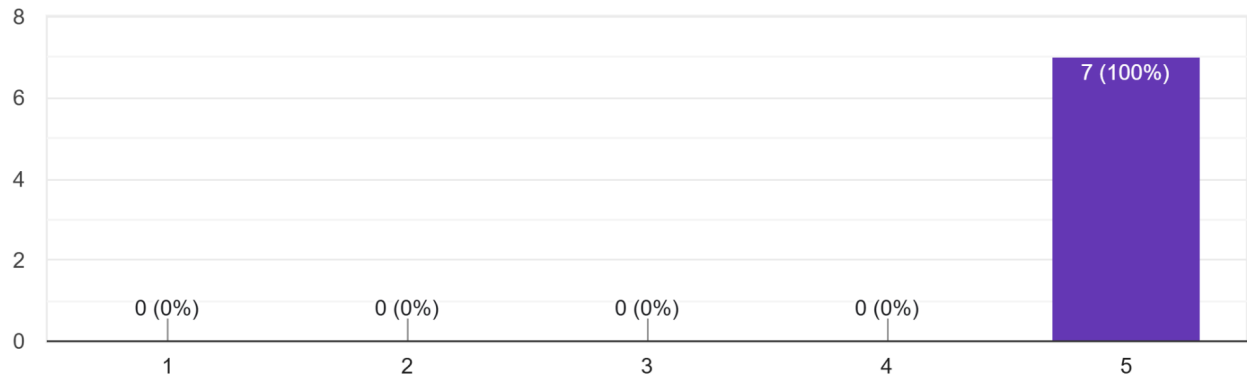
Double K Breeding- Has completed both an energy and water efficiency project. Double K Breeding won an Intuit grant to swap out 120 fluorescent lights and ballasts in the arena to LED light fixtures, reducing lighting costs by over \$500/year. Double K also installed a new water efficient sprinkler system that has reduced water use by 300 gallons / month.

Arizona Behavioral Health Associates - AZBHA was connected to an energy audit from CozyHome to determine energy saving opportunities related to the building envelope, heating, cooling, and lighting. Upon close inspection, the energy audit showed that previous energy efficiency work in the attic did not provide benefits as advertised. CozyHome worked with AZBHA to insulate and seal the attic, resulting in 46% improved efficiency, projected yearly energy savings of \$1,145, and a 5 ton GHG CO₂e- reduction.

Survey Results

How likely are you to implement your project idea after the conclusion of the Green Business Boot Camp?

7 responses



How likely are you to recommend the Green Business Boot Camp to another business owner?

7 responses

