



City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

January 2026 Monthly Report

HIGHLIGHTS:

The **Flagstaff Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Model Plans Library** officially launched on January 9, 2026, at www.flagstaff.az.gov/ADUs. The Library contains 10 pre-approved plans for ADUs, also known as backyard homes or casitas, to make it easier and less costly to build an ADU than a custom plan. ADUs can offer many benefits, including increasing Flagstaff's housing supply, providing flexible housing options, generating supplemental rental income, and potentially lowering rent and utility costs. The library features publicly viewable previews of each design and an extensive *frequently asked questions* section.



Photo: Green Gables ADU Model Plan by Allison O'Bryant

Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- The **Wildfire Resilient Homes Initiative**, a collaboration with the **Flagstaff Fire Department**, supported 8 households this month with free home wildfire-risk assessments. \$1,200 in grant support was distributed to help residents complete the recommended risk-reduction actions from their home assessments in support of neighborhood safety and preparedness.
- The **Climate Resilience Project** hosted a community conversation on the water–energy nexus featuring Emily Melhorn, the City's Water Conservation Specialist. The discussion highlighted how everyday water use is directly connected to energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions, reframing water conservation as an immediate climate action. Participants explored practical ways to save water and energy while supporting community resilience.

Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with **137 people**.
- The **Equity Climate Advisory Group (ECAG)** provided input on clarifying Carbon Neutrality Plan target area names and content, strengthening examples and baselines, and developing more concrete, tiered equity and adaptation impact metrics to improve accountability and community-wide impact.

Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:

- Staff presented potential **energy code update options** to City Council on January 6th. Council provided direction to explore advancing energy efficiency beyond the base 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Council also highlighted the need for substantial community engagement on this topic and to remain flexible to adjust course based on community feedback as the building and fire code update process moves forward.
- The **Home Weatherization and Energy Rebate Program** provided nearly \$16,445 in assistance to community members who completed energy- and cost-saving home upgrades.



- [The Energy Upgrades for Healthy Homes Program](#) continues to accept applications and interest forms from interested and eligible households. During the month of January, two additional energy audits were completed, helping to inform any future energy efficiency improvements that can be made.

Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services

Engagement and Outreach Highlights

- In January, the **NEVS Team engaged with 655 people** through signature events, volunteer opportunities, workshops, guided walks, presentations, and school programs. This month's collaborations included Friends of the Rio de Flag, Downtown Business Alliance, MIX Coffee, and Discover Flagstaff.

Community Stewards Program

- Monthly [Community Stewards program](#) statistics include volunteer activities for the Adopt-A-FUTS, Adopt-A-Stream, and Adopt-An-Ave programs, one-time cleanups and signature events.
- Over 30 volunteers came together for the Great Pinecone Drop Cleanup to start the year off right by removing 50 pounds of litter from downtown Flagstaff following the New Year's Eve festivities!
- The Flagstaff Sustainability Office presented at the Friends of the Rio De Flag's annual partner meeting to provide updates on the Stream Stewards program – last year, 104 Stream Stewards volunteered 270 hours and removed 245 bags of channel-blocking debris from our streams!

| Stewards Data | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Number of clean-ups | 3 |
| Bags of Recycling | 3 |
| Bags of Trash/Invasive Species | 10 |
| Number of People | 49 |
| Service Hours | 67 |

Waste Prevention

- In December, the [Residential Food Scraps Drop-off program](#) diverted **2,838 lbs of food waste** from the landfill. This means 2,029 net pounds of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂e) were kept out of the atmosphere, which is equivalent to 86 gallons of gasoline used in a passenger vehicle!
- Staff presented waste prevention information to a scout group of 8 people as part of a recurring series of educational lessons for a Sustainability Merit Badge.
- In July, the [Recycle by City](#) website reached **1,696 new users**, received 2,022 schedule searches, 40 calendar downloads, and 1,423 unique visits.



Photo: Pinecone Drop Cleanup Group Photo



Food Systems

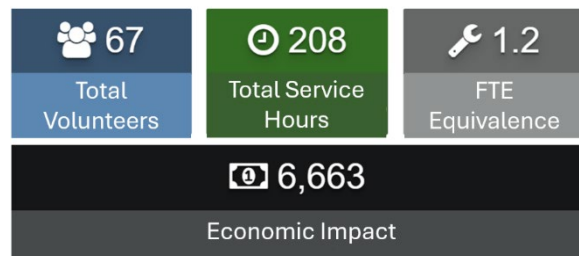
- Maintenance of the growing spaces at the Bonito, Southside, and Hal Jensen community gardens is underway – gardening plots are on track for the 2026 growing season.
- The annual report for the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge has been submitted through the National Wildlife Federation. For 2026, a total of 304 community members participated in the city-hosted workshops and events focused on pollinator conservation and education! This includes Pollinator Fest, the Pollinator Art Contest, the Bugout workshop, and the Native Plant workshop.
- Pre-Application Meeting for the Urban Farm Incubator at McCallister Ranch was held January 16th, with attendance from Water Services, Planning and Development, PROSE, and transportation. Next steps were identified in order to implement and install the features of the design.

City Volunteer Program

- City employees have logged **73 hours of volunteer service** so far this calendar year through the [Employee Volunteer Program!](#) The top activities for January included the Great Pinecone Drop Clean Up, preparing food at the Flagstaff Family Food Center, and donating blood.
- The City’s centralized community volunteer platform, [Volunteer Flagstaff](#), is now used by 1,328 volunteers. 67 volunteers contributed 208 hours of service in January, which is equivalent value of \$6,663.

| Employee Volunteer Data | Year to Date |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Number of Volunteers | 26 |
| Number of Events | 9 |
| Total Service Hours | 73 |

VOLUNTEER FLAGSTAFF ANALYTICS



Sustainability Commission

- The January [Sustainability Commission](#) meeting was on Thursday, January 22nd. The agenda included a presentation from the Water Resources Section Director, Erin Young, on the progress and status of the Red Gap Ranch project securing Flagstaff’s future water security. The agenda also included a presentation from Sustainability Office staff member Geneveive Pearthree on the results of the Energy Efficiency and Electrification Study. The last presentation was from Jamie Larson and Geneveive Pearthree on the newly launched ADU Library.
- Commission [agendas can be found here](#) and Commission [minutes can be found here](#).



Social Media

- In January, our Facebook posts reached over **37,187 people**. We have **7,775 followers**. Our top Facebook post was about our upcoming Fix-It Clinic (17,768 views). *See the photo to the right.*
- In January, our Instagram reached **9,850 people**, and **343 people interacted** with our content. We have **2,921 followers**, an increase of 27 followers since last month. Our top Instagram post was about the launch of the new ADU Library (1,500 views and 36 interactions).



Photo: Fix-It Clinic Facebook Post