



PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

Sustainability & Resilience Commission

MEETING DATE

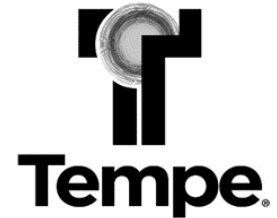
Monday, October 16, 2023
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

MEETING LOCATION

[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 225 486 248 85
Passcode: opUGKh
[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)
Or call in (audio only)
[+1 480-498-8745,8219046#](#) United States, Phoenix
Phone Conference ID: 821 904 6#

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER	ACTION or DISCUSSION
1. Welcome New Members and SRC Mission	Barbie Burke, Commission Vice Chair (4:30 – 4:35 pm)	
2. Public Appearances The Sustainability Commission welcomes public comment for items listed on this agenda. There is a <i>three-minute time limit</i> per citizen	Barbie Burke, Commission Vice Chair (4:33 – 4:35 pm)	
3. Review of Meeting Minutes The Commission will be asked to review meeting minutes from the September 18, 2023 meeting.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (4:35 – 4:37 pm)	Action
4. Rain to Roots Master Plan	Maddie Mercer, Neighborhood Resilience Coordinator Richard Adkins, Urban Forester (4:37 – 5:05 pm)	Discussion
5. Sustainability and Resilience Annual Report Review	Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (5:05 – 5:25 pm)	Discussion
6. Sustainability and Resilience Office Updates and Housekeeping Staff Updates Commission Composition Timeline City Budget Forecasting IgCC Adoption	Eric Iwersen, SRO Director (5:25 – 5:45 pm)	Discussion
7. Future Agenda Items - Commission may request future agenda items.	Barbie Burke, Commission Vice Chair (5:45 – 6:00 pm)	Action

According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Sustainability Commission may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance is available at public meetings for sight and/or hearing-impaired persons. Please call 350-2775 (voice) or 350-8400 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participate in a public meeting.



Minutes

City of Tempe Sustainability Commission September 18, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, September 18, 2023, 4:30 p.m. at a virtual meeting on MS Teams, through City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Chair)
Barbie Burke (Vice Chair)
Natalie Mendoza
Katja Brundiers
Ben Paulat

Morgan Winburn
Jake Swanson
Shawn Swisher
Erin Boyd
Taylor Conley
Joshua Randall

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present:

Eric Iwersen
Brienne Fisher
Andy Escobar
Maddie Mercer
Evelyn Brumfield
Carissa Fowler
Tom Duensing

Guests Present:

Henrietta Locklear – Raftelis
Sierra Ross
Quinton Olson
Mark Roseland

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Chair Kendon Jung called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chair welcomed new Commissioners Taylor Conley and Ben Paulat and asked them to introduce themselves to the other members of the Commission.

Chair outlined mission statement, objectives, and strategic priorities of the Commission.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Sierra Ross, a Tempe resident, made herself known to the Commission. She did not share any public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Barbie Burke called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2023.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Jake Swanson

Decision: Approved 10-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiers

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Absent:

Joshua Randall (arrived late to meeting)

Agenda Item 4 – Energy Equity Pilot Program and Energy Efficiency Proclamation

Before moving into the presentation, Chair motioned to go back to Agenda Item 2 to allow a member of the public to make a statement.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Jake Swanson

Decision: Approved 10-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung
Barbie Burke
Jake Swanson
Shawn Swisher
Erin Boyd
Morgan Winburn
Natalie Mendoza
Katja Brundiars
Ben Paulat
Taylor Conley

Absent:

Joshua Randall (arrived late to meeting)

Andy Escobar, Climate Justice and Energy Equity Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Energy Equity Program, which was funded by a one-time supplemental during the FY 2021-2022 budget cycle. Escobar initially presented on the program—which aims to educate residents on energy policy and how to make energy decisions in their homes--in May 2023 and returned to provide an update.

This program came out of the Climate Justice Agenda of the CAP Update, which outlined residents' challenges with cooling their homes, especially in frontline communities that are impacted first and worst by climate change and extreme heat. The Energy Equity Program focuses on the Alegre, Escalante, and Victory Acres neighborhoods, which were identified due to their low median income, high poverty rate, and high median land surface temperatures (which, together, result in a high level of heat vulnerability in these neighborhoods).

Phase 1 of the program involved a Home Energy Kit giveaway, in which 48 households received both energy utility stipends and items to increase the energy efficiency of their home. The kits were designed in partnership with the community, with RAIL CDC leading community outreach to identify items that households would find most helpful. Phase 2 of the program will involve developing an Energy Equity Roadmap that identifies policy, programs, and infrastructure needed to address home energy and neighborhood energy needs. The roadmap will be co-developed with a Climate Justice Advisory Group, which will take part in 8 community workshops and be comprised of residents from the Alegre, Escalante, and Victory Acres neighborhoods.

Questions:

- Chair Jung asked how many of the Home Energy kits were in use now.
 - o Escobar responded that RAIL CDC is in the process of creating a survey to ask residents who received the kits if they found them helpful and if they are currently using them. Escobar added that RAIL CDC helped to deliver and install some of the items from the kits directly in residents' homes.
- Swanson mentioned the impact and damage that extreme heat has had on the local business community, and he asked if the scope of this project addresses the impact of extreme heat on vehicles or if there's any initiatives that support businesses.
 - o Escobar emphasized that the Climate Justice Advisory Group workshops will be shaped around community needs, so if participants express the need for support relating to vehicles or businesses, then those are things that could be addressed within the workshop.
 - o Fisher added that Escobar is also working with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce to hold some listening sessions for local businesses and their needs relating to energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Paulat asked what considerations were being taken for renters to qualify for this work.
 - o Escobar added that the conversations will be driven by the residents, and there are a significant number of renters in the project area. Escobar shared that these residents will have an opportunity to discuss their experience with getting assistance with energy efficiency programs. Additionally, part of developing the roadmap will involve learning from other cities' and their programs and initiatives that they've developed to serve renters' energy efficiency and weatherization needs.
- Randall asked how involved the City of Tempe is in discussions on rate increases with utilities.
 - o Fisher shared that the Sustainability and Resilience Office (SRO) has supported Mayor and Council in providing comments to policymakers in these conversations, and she shared that SRO is in the process of hiring a Grants and Policy Coordinator who will be tasked with this policy and advocacy work.
- Paulat asked if there is a business partnership to cover any of the remaining costs that utility energy retrofit programs don't address.
 - o Escobar responded that funding from the EECBG proposal may be used to cover residents' portion of utility rebate programs, helping to make them more accessible for residents who may not have the upfront

funding available. SRO is still in conversation with utility partners about this format and will provide an update when available.

- Chair Jung mentioned the upcoming Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation, and he asked what the Commission can do to help remove any barriers that the program is facing.
 - o Escobar responded that the Commission can support this work by being advocates for the Energy Equity Roadmap to Council and other stakeholders. Escobar added that the Commission could participate in the upcoming workshops for the Climate Justice Advisory Group.
 - o Fisher added asked that the Commission review the Energy Efficiency Day proclamation and to confirm their approval of the language. Fisher also invited Commissioners to participate in the Council meeting where the Mayor will read the proclamation.

Chair made a motion to approve the Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation language as written.

Motion: Barbie Burke

Second: Shawn Swisher

Decision: Approved 11-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiers

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Joshua Randall

Agenda Item 5- Designing Resilient Desert City Competition Update

Commissioner Shawn Swisher provided an update on the Designing Resilient Desert City Competition, which sought to raise awareness of the strategies outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update and how they can shape the built environment. The competition aimed to help people to understand how the CAP Update could be implemented and how it

would affect the look and feel of Tempe. The competition was held in partnership with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Arizona and Phoenix Metro Chapter—which has held previous design competitions-- as well as the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Arizona Chapter, with additional sponsorship from SRP.

The design competition required participants to create a design for the EnVision Center/Apache Central site on Apache Blvd/Dorsey Ln. Participants were tasked to incorporate design elements relating to resilience hubs, green stormwater infrastructure, and the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The design competition jury consisted of the following members:

- Elizabeth McLean, AIA
- Brain Farling, AIA
- Selina Martinez, ASU Indigenous Design Collaborative
- Dr. Diane Pataki, ASU School of Sustainability
- Duke Reiter, FAIA
- Josh Rutherford, City of Tempe Economic Development
- Byron Sampson, ASLA

Swisher then outlined the student and professional design winners, sharing how their designs aligned with the brief and demonstrated the strategies outlined in the CAP Update. The two student team winners are from a studio at the Kazan State University in Kazan, Russia. Architekton received the professional honorable mention, and the professional category award went to a firm called 180 Degrees. All winning designs emphasized the provision of shaded public space and the flexible use of space during the everyday and emergency modes of activation. These designs will be useful tools in educating about the strategies from the CAP Update, especially in helping both designers and developers to visualize how these strategies can shape the built environment. Future competitions could identify other sites within Tempe or within the region to continue addressing designs to address extreme heat. In this competition, there were 22 entries overall.

Questions/Comments:

- Swanson commented about emergent leadership (which is a concept designed to help address emergent problems), which involves envisioning futures and conceptualizing them. Swanson noted that design competitions like this one help policy makers, designers, developers, and the general public to envision what a sustainable, cool future could look like in Tempe.
 - o Swisher added that the intent of an ideas competition is to inspire people to think big about what the future could look like without being too confined by the current state.

Agenda Item 6- International Green Construction Code Update & Letter of Support

Chair Jung outlined the letter of support for the International Green Construction Code (IgCC), which the Commission has been supporting throughout its development and now implementation. Chair noted that the first phase of the code will be voluntary to allow for developers to pilot the new code and promote a necessary culture shift before exploring a mandatory code. The IgCC was identified in the CAP Update as a highlight action that the Commission selected to advance.

Eric Iwersen added that the dates for the formal council hearings when IgCC will be discussed are October 12th and November 30th, with the voluntary code on track to be adopted before the end of 2023. Iwersen highlighted the on-going support from Brianne Fisher and the partnership with Community Development that has been integral in moving the IgCC towards its adoption. Partnership with Community Development will especially be important in the implementation of the code.

Chair made a motion to approve the letter of support for the IgCC.

Motion: Ben Paulat

Second: Morgan Winburn

Decision: Approved 11-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiars

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Joshua Randall

Agenda Item 7 – Housekeeping

Sustainability and Resilience Director Eric Iwersen provided several staff updates for the Sustainability and Resilience Office. Iwersen shared that the SRO is nearing the end of the hiring process for the Policy and Grants Coordinator, who is set to start in the middle of October. This position will be a shared position with another department. Iwersen also shared that the SRO has a new contract employee Carissa Fowler, who will be working on extreme heat mitigation and resilience. Iwersen shared that SRO will also be hiring a shared

Management Assistant position, with interviews for this role happening within the next 4-6 weeks. Finally, Iwersen mentioned that there are some on-going conversations with other departments about some other coordinator positions that could shift over to become part of SRO.

Iwersen provided an update on the Commission composition timeline, a process for changing the requirements to become part of the SRC. To make changes to the commission requirements, two Council hearings are required. These changes will be presented at the October 26th and November 30th council meetings, which will be adopted by the new year.

Chair Jung shared that his term as Chair is ending, and that there will be elections for the position of Chair in December 2023. Commissioners interested in running for Chair or Vice Chair will make their intentions known, and the new Chair and Vice Chair will be selected via majority vote.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Chair Jung asked Commissioners to send ideas for future meetings via email.

Commissioner Swanson motions to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Motion: Jake Swanson

Second: Taylor Conley

Decision: Approved 11-0

Voted to Approve:

Kendon Jung

Barbie Burke

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

Erin Boyd

Morgan Winburn

Natalie Mendoza

Katja Brundiars

Ben Paulat

Taylor Conley

Joshua Randall

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Prepared by: Maddie Mercer
Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher

Addendum:

[9/18 5:06 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

So would a non-single-family home owner refer to whoever owns the property and is renting it out to different individuals? Or would it refer to the people who are renting the apartments?

[9/18 5:06 PM] Morgan Winburn

aye

[9/18 5:07 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Natalie - we categorize types of housing by the type of zoning. Single family residential is describing the type of zoning (think homes on a culdesac). The other type of housing is "multi-family" think of condos, apartments.

[9/18 5:09 PM] Fisher, Brianne

It usually refers to the property owner. Typically we need permission from the property owner when we want to do any kind of improvements

like 1

[9/18 5:10 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

Thank you, Brianne. That was what I wasn't understanding. I didn't realize that we'd shifted from talking about the people living in those areas to the property owners who own property in those areas.

[9/18 5:14 PM] Fisher, Brianne

For the energy kits, all the items would be totally fine for a renter to use so we absolutely did not count them out! It does get more difficult and complex when we think about serious upgrades to AC or insulation. The issue is that property owners often then raise rates for renters because we have improved their homes/units.

[9/18 5:19 PM] Fisher, Brianne

All of the designs also really captured the emergency response needs for a resilience hub which was very cool to see!

heart 4

[9/18 5:23 PM] Barbie Burke (Guest)

Sustainability Commission, September 18, 2023

Thanks Shawn as it was a great competition and event!

[9/18 5:23 PM] Fisher, Brianne

HUGE lift from Shawn and major kudos to his work on this competition!

clappinghands 2 like 2

[9/18 5:26 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Well said Jake!

like 1

[9/18 5:27 PM] Jake Swanson (Guest)

For sure, thanks for building that space to explore.

[9/18 5:30 PM] Barbie Burke (Guest)

Getting this to this point for IGCC is a good first step.

[9/18 5:30 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

I notice that it says that there is an assurance of advancing towards a mandatory adoption in 2025. If the point of starting with a voluntary adoption is to allow for a culture shift, will a year to two years be enough time for a culture shift to occur? I think that when people aren't actively on a commission or aware of different city policies, it takes longer for people to realize that the world is changing.

[9/18 5:30 PM] Jake Swanson (Guest)

Tempe's success should not solely look at policies on the book, but consider the social and cultural shifts being made that will impact our built environment. < solid sentence, Kendon and Barbie!

like 1

[9/18 5:32 PM] Barbie Burke (Guest)

Thanks to Brianne for helping on this IgCC to get us to this point!

heart 1

[9/18 5:32 PM] Jake Swanson (Guest)

Natalie, I believe that Scottsdale had it voluntary from 2021 to 2023 and mandatory in 2023 as of July.

like 2

[9/18 5:33 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

Sustainability Commission, September 18, 2023

Jake: Thanks for the info. Its good to know that people are able to move and adapt quicker than my perceptions would have me believe.

[9/18 5:34 PM] Fisher, Brianne

We will be emailing you all when it is in front of Council for your awareness

[9/18 5:35 PM]

Sierra Ross (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:40 PM] Katja Brundiers

Thank you for your long-term committed tenure as chair, Kendon!

heart 2

[9/18 5:41 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Meeting adjourned at 5:41

[9/18 5:41 PM] Natalie Mendoza (Guest)

Thank you. I hope everyone enjoys their evening.

[9/18 5:41 PM] Mercer, Madeline

Thanks, all!

[9/18 5:42 PM] Ben Paulat (Guest)

Thanks all!

[9/18 5:42 PM] Brumfield, Evelyn

thank you!

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Morgan Winburn left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Quinton Olson (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM] Ben Paulat (Guest)

looking forward to working with you all

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Shawn Swisher (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM] Katja Brundiers

Thanks all!

Sustainability Commission, September 18, 2023

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Natalie Mendoza (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:42 PM] Katja Brundiers

Thank you, Maddy!

[9/18 5:42 PM]

Jake Swanson (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:45 PM] Fisher, Brianne

Please take some time to check our 2022 Climate Action Plan Update that is driving our work

like 1

[9/18 5:45 PM]

Barbie Burke (Guest) left the chat.

[9/18 5:45 PM] Fisher, Brianne

<https://www.tempe.gov/home/showdocument?id=101145&t=638144662252390363>

Rain to Roots Master Plan

Sustainability & Resilience Commission

October 16, 2023



Related Tempe Performance Measures

- **1.27 City Infrastructure & Assets**

Achieve 100% compliance with industry standards related to the replacement or rehabilitation of infrastructure and assets.

- **4.03 – Water Conservation & Efficiency**

Achieve or exceed water conservation and efficiency targets for Single Family, Multifamily and Landscape customer class water use by Fiscal Year 2025/2026

- **4.11 – Tree Coverage**

Achieve a citywide (City and private property) 25% tree and shade canopy by 2040.

Tempe Climate Action Plan Update

- Adopted by Tempe City Council in **March 2022**.
- Identifies **strategies** to address:
 - Extreme Heat
 - Drought & Water Use
 - Need for Climate-Ready Vegetation

Highlight Actions Update

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission identified immediate highlight actions in the first plan that still need policy adoption and investment:



Green Codes and Standards (Green Stormwater Infrastructure and International Green Construction Code adoption):
To establish resilience to extreme heat in new construction 16



Transportation Demand Management and Mobility Hubs:
To increase convenience of low carbon transportations options 19



Resilient Energy Hubs and Resilience Hubs:
To increase community connections and the ability to support survival during disasters 21

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

Benefits of GSI:

- Supports tree canopy
- Reduces temperatures
- Reduces potable water use
- Mitigates flooding
- Promotes cleaner waterways
- Creates wildlife habitat

Learn more about GSI and its benefits at Sustainable Tempe – [Green Stormwater Infrastructure](#).

Rio Salado Pkwy. & Hardy Dr.



Lemon St. & Dorsey Ln.

Rain to Roots Master Plan

- **Project Purpose**

- Expand green infrastructure & urban cooling initiatives.
- Promote cross-departmental coordination & planning.
- Identify opportunities for long-term funding.

- **Areas of Opportunity**

- Streetscapes – Public ROW, traffic calming
- Multi-Use Paths
- Parks
- Neighborhoods
- Private Development



Project Partners

Internal Partners

- **Sustainability and Resilience Office**
- **Municipal Utilities Department**
 - Water Conservation
 - Environmental Services
- **Community Services Department**
 - Parks & Recreation
- **Engineering and Transportation Department**
 - Transportation Planning
 - Streets Maintenance
 - Engineering
- **Community Development Department**
- **Economic Development Department**

External Partners

- **Consultants** – Greeley & Hansen, WERK | urban design, & Raftelis
- **Rain to Roots Ambassadors**
- **Tempe Residents**
- **Private Businesses**
- ...And More!

Major Goal =
Better Coordination!

Project Overview



**Assessing the
Current State**

**Codes &
Standards**

**Urban Forestry
Master Plan
Update**

**Future
Funding
Strategy**

**Pilot
Projects**

**Public
Outreach**

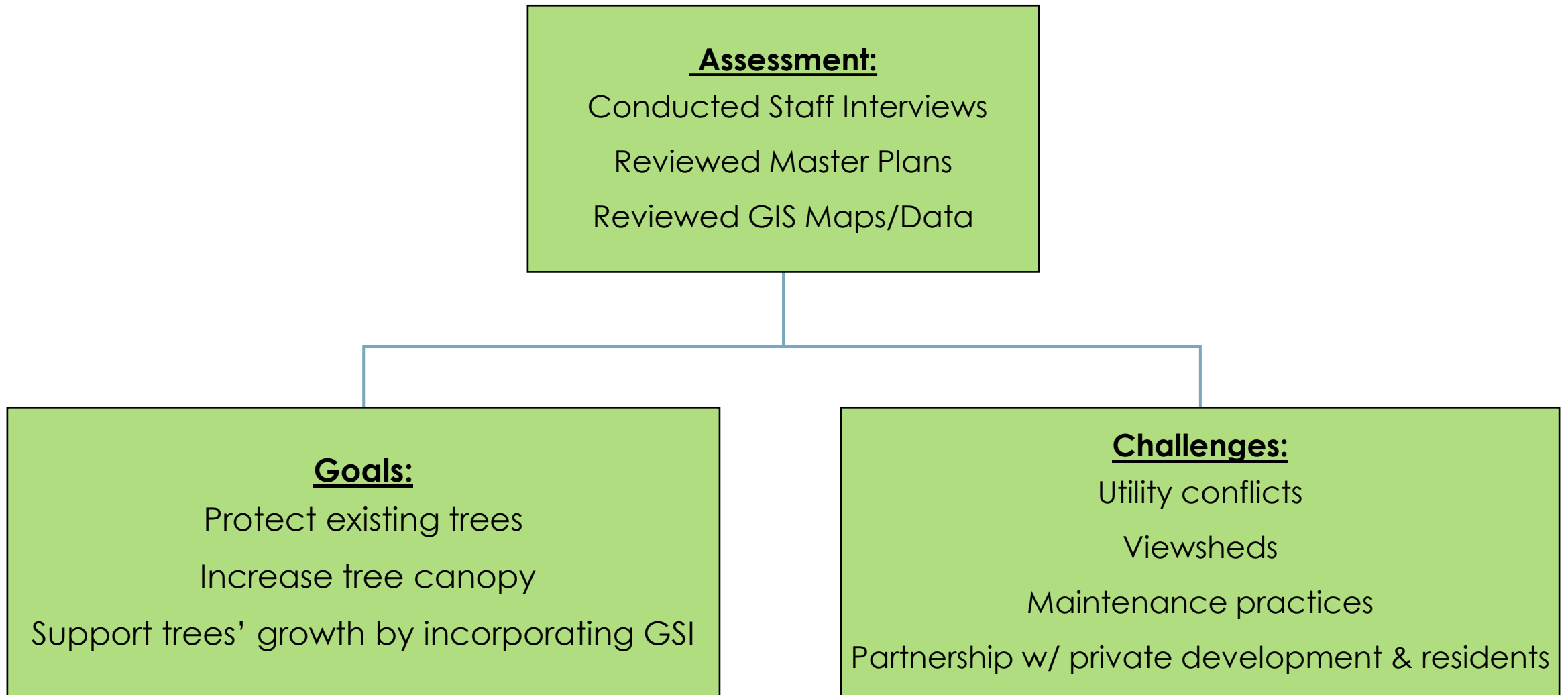
Phase 1: Assessing the Current State

Focused on understanding...

- Existing programs & initiatives.
- Previous GSI projects.
- Stormwater, urban forestry, heat, & equity data.
- Challenges & opportunities for expanding GSI.

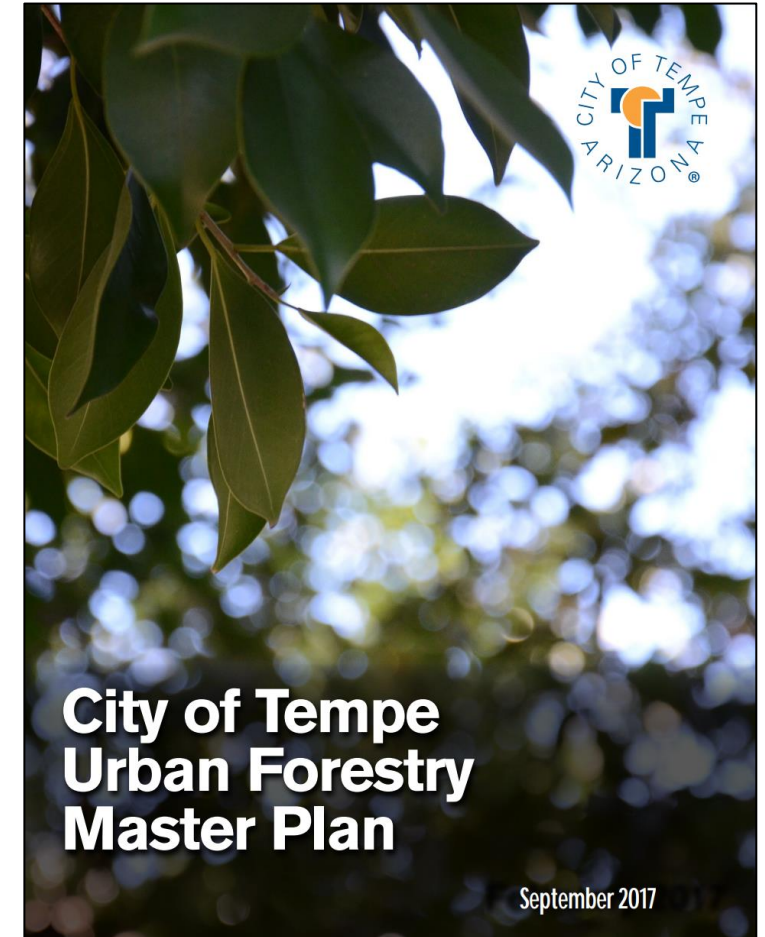
... through interviews, document review, & research.

Assessing Existing Initiatives – *Urban Forestry*



Urban Forestry (continued)

- Next Steps:
 - **Updated Master Plan** w/ recommendations for new programs & policies.
 - Updated **tree canopy maps** & assessment of canopy goals.
 - **New city codes and standards** to promote tree protection & maintenance practices.



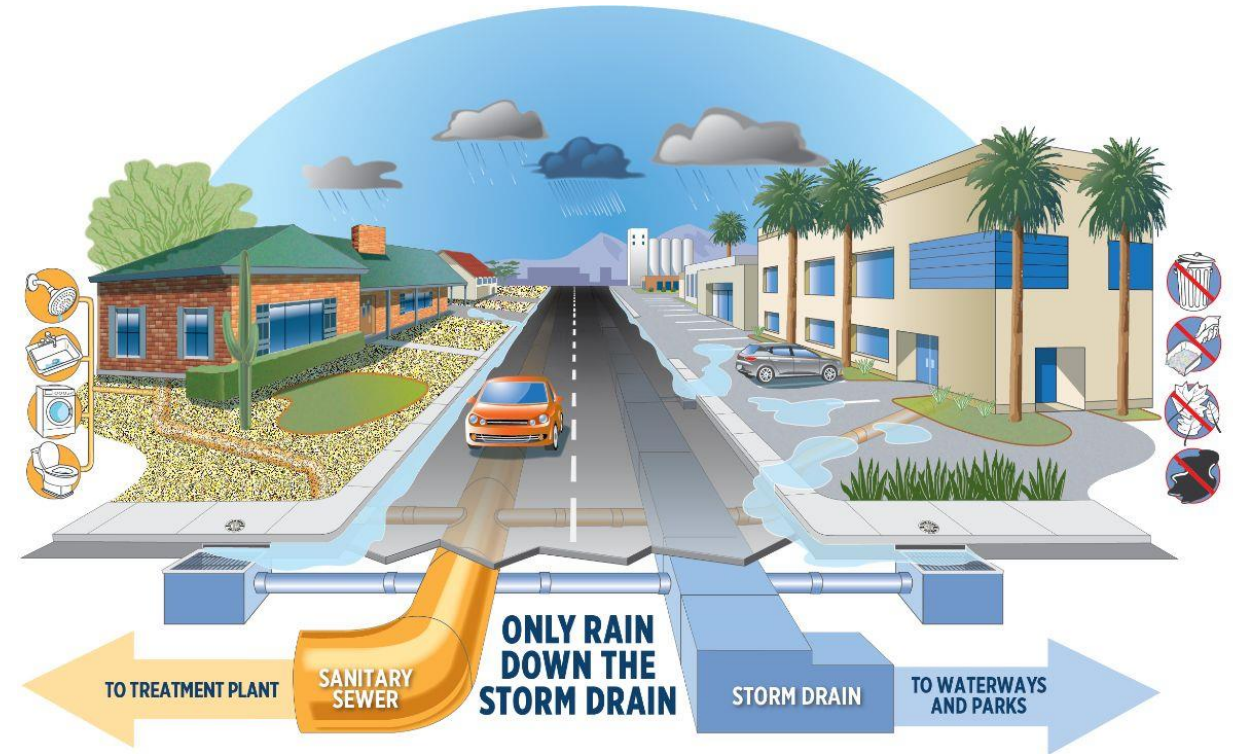
Assessing Existing Initiatives – Stormwater

Assessment:

Conducted Staff Interviews
Reviewed Drainage Studies & Master Plans
Reviewed Stormwater CIP Plan

Goals:

Compliance w/ MS4 Permit
Promote Stormwater Quality
Manage Stormwater Quantity
Integrate GSI into Stormwater CIP Projects



Stormwater (continued)

- **Next Steps:**
 - **Assess** GSI methods that can address both stormwater quantity (flooding) and stormwater quality (pollution) concerns.
 - **Identify** opportunities to integrate GSI into existing & future stormwater CIP projects.
 - **Support** compliance with federal regulatory (MS4) requirements.

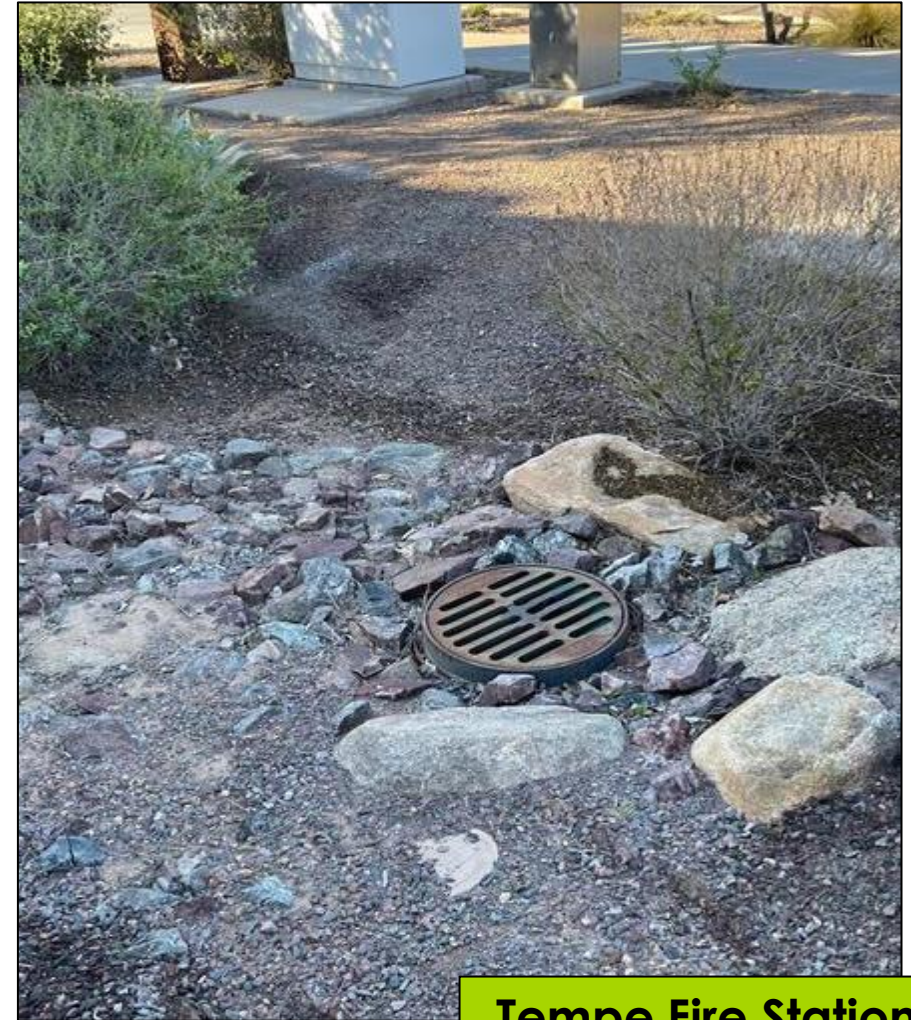
Assessing Existing Policies – Codes & Standards

Assessment:

Conducted Staff Interviews
Reviewed Engineering Design Criteria
Review Zoning & Development Code

Goals:

Provide Guidance for Integrating GSI
Address Existing Maintenance & Utility Challenges
Streamline GSI Review Process



Tempe Fire Station #7

Codes & Standards (continued)

- **Next Steps:**
 - **Develop** Standards of Care.
 - **Develop** Native Vegetation & Biodiversity Toolkit.
 - **Integrate** GSI details & standards into existing city codes.
 - Engineering Design Criteria (*for public buildings*)
 - Zoning & Development Code (*for private development*).

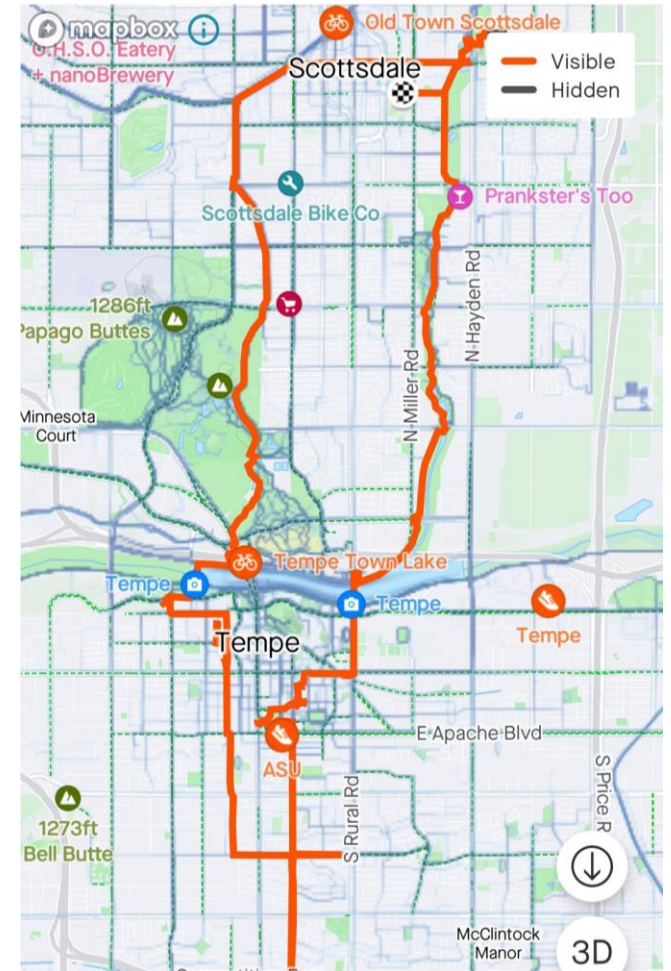
Assessing Existing & New GSI Projects – *Site Visits*

- Assessment:

- WERK team visited **25 different sites** to inventory and assess existing and potential GSI.



Distance 29.25 mi | Elev Gain 328 ft



Pilot Projects (continued)

- Next Steps:
 - **Design** materials to highlight projects that exhibit GSI best practices.
 - **Create** a new GIS map that includes heat, flooding, urban forestry, and equity data.
 - **Develop** a pilot project prioritization tool to identify future projects.

Mill Ave. & 13th St. Median



Pilot Projects (continued)

- *Pilot projects will...*
 - **Demonstrate** how GSI can be integrated in different types of projects.
 - **Test** new codes and standards.
 - **Leverage** connections with Urban Forestry & Environmental Services.



College Ave. & Alameda Dr.

Future Funding Strategy

Goal:

Address **rising costs of federal regulatory compliance & meet increasing urban cooling needs** by developing a sustainable funding solution.

Next Steps - Utility Feasibility Study

- **Review** other cities' strategies for funding stormwater management & urban greening initiatives.
- **Identify** alternative funding solutions for future GSI projects, such as an Urban Cooling and Stormwater Utility.
 - **Coordinate** with Water Rate Study by Municipal Utilities.

Your Voice, Your Future City

Rain to Roots Ambassador

- **Learn** more about stormwater and urban cooling initiatives.
- **Review** project materials.
- **Site visits** on pilot projects.
- **Advise** on direction of programs and policy recommendations to Tempe City Council.



Hybrid meetings on the **1st Wednesday of the month**, 5:30 – 6:30 PM.

Project Next Steps

- **Project Outcomes**
 - Pilot Project Designs
 - City Codes and Standards
 - Urban Forestry Master Plan Update
 - Sustainable Funding Strategy
- **Upcoming Ambassador Program Meetings:**
 - **November 1st:** Urban Forestry
 - **December 6th:** Pilot Projects
 - **January 3rd:** Stormwater



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT -



Description as Defined in Ordinance:

The Tempe sustainability commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To research, advise, and recommend to the city council policies and programs that advance sustainability in Tempe, with particular attention to sustainability in the following areas:

- a. Energy management (city operations and the city as a whole);
- b. Climate-action plan with a roadmap of actions to be recommended;
- c. Local food and agriculture;
- d. Livable neighborhoods and happy communities;
- e. Land use and development;
- f. Building practices;
- g. Purchasing practices;
- h. Economic development (green jobs);
- i. Solid waste, recycling, and hazardous waste;
- j. Water and wastewater management;
- k. Transportation;
- l. Dark skies;
- m. Air quality;
- n. Environmental justice; and as of June 2015
- o. Preparedness and resiliency.

(2) Assist city departments in executing approved policies and programs;

(3) To support education and outreach related to the city’s sustainability practices;

(4) To identify potential sustainability partnerships with public, private and educational entities; and

(5) To recommend for city council consideration a comprehensive sustainability plan with measurable goals and benchmarks to ensure year-to-year progress. (Ord. No. O2015.24, 6-25-15)

TCC § {City Code, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 21 }

List of Board and Commission Members, Including Attendance and Service Dates:

<u>Board/Commission Members:</u>	<u>Service Dates:</u>	<u>Attendance Record:</u>
Kendon, Jung	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Winburn, Morgan	12/31/2024	Attended 3 Meetings out of 3
Swisher, Shawn	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Boyd, Erin	12/31/2024	Attended 2 Meetings out of 2
	12/31/2022	Attended 2 Meetings out of 4
Burke, Barbie	12/31/2022	Attended 10 Meetings out of 11
	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Mendoza, Natalie	12/31/2022	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11
Brundiers, Katja	12/31/2023	Attended 10 Meetings out of 11
Swanson, Jake	12/31/2023	Attended 11 Meetings out of 11

Name of Chair and Vice Chair:

- Chair – Kendon Jung
- Vice Chair – Barbie Burke

Staff Liaisons and Contact Information:

<u>Staff Liaison:</u>	<u>Department:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>	<u>Email:</u>
Brianne Fisher	Office of Sustainability	480-350-8959	Brianne_fisher@tempe.gov

Meeting Frequency and Location:

Meetings in 2023 were virtual via Microsoft Teams. Meetings are typically held the third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Number of Meetings Cancelled and Reason for Cancellation:

July meeting was cancelled for summer vacation.

Vacancies and Duration of Vacancies:

Three vacancies occurred partly through 2023 with positions being filled in September 2023.

Subcommittee and Subcommittee Activity:

Did the Board/Commission have any subcommittees active during the reporting period? YES NO

Mission Statement:

The mission statement of the Sustainability Commission is to be a culture-catalyst to provide leadership, education, and guidance on sustainability programs and policies to City Council and for our entire community to transform Tempe into a healthy and resilient city that inspires the region, the nation and world.

Accomplishments (Past 12 Months):

Since the passing of Tempe's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) in November 2019, the Sustainability Commission has been working with staff to guide the implementation of the highlight actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan Update including: resilient energy hubs, transportation demand management, green infrastructure standards and the adoption of the international green construction code.

CAP Highlight Actions:

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission organized and supported the first design competition in partnership with American Institute of Architects - Phoenix Metro and the American Society of Landscape Architects – Arizona Chapter. The goal of the competition was to be able to show the transformative possibilities of the Climate Action Plan through physical interventions of architecture, landscape architecture, and mater planning, ensuring the City and its residents will have a greater understanding of the potential impacts of Green Codes, Green Stormwater Infrastructure, and Resilient Energy Hubs. The competition provided winners with a monetary prize and the City of Tempe hosted an awards ceremony at the Tempe Center for the Arts. The Commission will continue to discuss how to use the winning designs to continue to educate, visualize, and push for innovative city planning.

Sustainability and Resilience Office staff worked with Building Safety to move forward the voluntary 2018 International Green Construction Code. The Commission provided a letter of support outlining the importance of this work and the necessity of incremental approach to this updating the building code, specifically creating a culture in the development sector to support the cities vision for sustainable built environment.

The Commission also advocates sustainability and resilience elements to be included in citywide planning, policy, and infrastructure.

General Plan 2050:

The Commission was active in supporting the approval of the General Plan 2050. Commission Shawn Swisher and Chair Kendon Jung were active members of the stakeholder group that meet regularly to get updates on individual chapters.

The Commission provided a letter of support to the Development Review Commission and attended their meeting in person to speak to the points outlined in the letter. Additionally, meetings with individual members of Council were held prior to the General Plan 2050 vote going to Council. The Commission's active participation led to stronger language in the General Plan and approval by Council.

Goals Related to City Council Strategic Priorities, if Applicable (Next 12 Months):

Climate Action Policy

The Commission seeks to support Mayor, Council and city staff in passing climate action policy that moves forward the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and more specifically, focusing their efforts on progress towards the three highlight actions in the Climate Action Plan Update including:

- Resilient Energy Hubs and Resilience Hubs
 - Support staff and stakeholders on heat relief and resilience messaging and communication in preparation for the opening of EnVision Tempe.
- Transportation Demand Management and Mobility Hubs
 - In partnership with business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Tempe Authority, find private-public partnerships that help communicate and advocate the goals of improved transportation systems and policies.
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) standards and the adoption of the International Green Construction Code
 - Collaboration with the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) Phoenix Metro Chapter to focus their annual design competition around GSI with the goal of helping Tempe residents, elected officials, and stakeholders visualize future projects.

Extreme Heat and Resilient Recovery Efforts

The Commission will support city staff in organizing and planning for extreme heat across multiple departments. Investing in urban cooling in addition to adaptation efforts that protect the communities most vulnerable with pilots and programs including:

- Advise on the implementation of the voluntary Green Construction Code for private development
- Support the development and design of the Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study
- Adopt Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Code and Standards Amendments
- Advocate for the opening of the EnVision Resilience Hub on Apache, including opportunities to add solar, energy efficiency technology and refrigeration
- Residential Green Stormwater Infrastructure program to streamline resident efforts to build bioswales, curb cuts and bump outs
- Support and share heat relief messaging and energy equity pilot projects

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More consistent communication and joint activity with Council and other Commissions

The Sustainability Commission is dedicated to more consistently coordinating with Mayor and Council and other Commissions. The Commission fully supports the creation of a Council Committee on Carbon Neutrality and Resilience that would include emissions reductions in transportation, energy, water conservation, resilience to extreme heat and urban forestry.