

Letter from the Mayor



My fellow Tempe community members,

Climate change and the extreme heat our region faces present a critical opportunity for our community to come together.

Tempe is a world-class city – some say we are Making Waves in the Desert – and I am proud to see all of our climate commitment and progress.

What’s amazing is that the work of creating a more livable, resilient community is being championed by local businesses, young people, and neighborhoods with the support of city elected officials and staff members. We are all pulling together and that is just what we will need to keep creating the best future for Tempe.

In these pages, you can read about this new approach and the milestones we are committed to reaching in our journey. We actively seek and truly listen to community voices – they are here. And we have pinpointed the local, state and federal resources and partnerships that support our goals.

Youth: Middle school, high school, and college students are leading a passionate call for change and deeper investment in climate action. You will hear their voices in this document. For example, they want the city to expand climate action to include transportation equity, food access, and more changes in their schools. Adults must listen and respond.

Businesses: Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Local First Arizona, Downtown Tempe Authority, and businesses of all sizes across Tempe are making change happen. Opportunities for partnerships and program expansion are rich. Tempe businesses can be shining lights for social responsibility, energy cost savings, and climate action.

Climate Justice: Equal access to transportation, good jobs, affordable housing, and parks should be viewed as fundamental rights. Climate and social justice issues include addressing the racial and economic disparities of who has access to a shaded bus stop, a tree-lined cool street, an air-conditioned solar-powered home, and a dignified job. Our advocacy community speaks clearly that government needs to address racial and economic disparities.

Neighborhoods: Resident’s love living in Tempe and they want to continue to stay – comfortably – for generations. We are hearing from neighbors that there is a need to double down on our efforts to address extreme heat and urban forestry. We see the amazing work that neighborhoods are doing to green their streets and schools. There are many exciting opportunities to support increased shade, walkability, and residents’ connections to each other.

Grants: I am proud of our Sustainability and Resilience Office’s work to bring more than \$2.5 million in grants to Tempe so far. These grants expand what we can do by bringing new ideas, ways of working, and talent into our climate work. From centering BIPOC voices to youth-led climate action, to developing governance models for resilience to extreme heat, and to bringing climate-sensitive urban forestry to our streets and schools. Grants play a critical role in expanding how local government supports the climate movement in Tempe.

Partnerships: No significant advances in climate action can be made alone. Our research collaborations with Arizona State University, business partnerships and connections to local, regional, national, and international organizations allow Tempe to expand and improve our approach to transforming our city.

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Investments: Tempe has a long history of using local, state, and federal resources to build a multi-modal city with biking, walking, Orbit, buses, light rail, and Tempe Streetcar. That commitment to deep investment and multiple funding streams can also apply to housing, urban forestry, clean energy, human services, and community resilience. We will remain diligent in creating regional, state, and federal funding streams that can be paired with Tempe's investment to increase impact and scale.

Walking the Talk: Tempe will not ask residents and partners to invest in new technologies and approaches if we do not do so ourselves. We are committed to becoming carbon-neutral city operation by 2050 with a 100% renewable energy strategy by 2035. I am so proud of our Municipal Utilities, Engineering and Transportation, Community Development, Community Services, Human Services, Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology Departments for embracing these efforts and providing examples that inspire and motivate our residents and businesses.

Mayor and Council: I sincerely appreciate the hard work of my City Council colleagues in creating a more livable, sustainable and resilient city. Councilmembers Jennifer Adams and Lauren Kuby are working on policy and programs to support our climate work. Vice Mayor Randy Keating and Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage are leading the way in ensuring we are growing our economy and developing partnerships to help businesses across the city. Councilmembers Doreen Garlid and Joel Navarro are rethinking our approach to public safety and our parks and recreation investments.

Regional Collaboration: We all share air, water, energy, and transportation systems, so impactful change cannot happen in silos. Since our first Climate Action Plan, of the cities of Phoenix and Mesa now have climate plans, and regional collaboration is gaining momentum. We need to ensure a regional approach to growing sustainable transportation, expanding the clean energy economy and creating a cool and connected Maricopa County for all.

Livable and Sustainable Tempe for All: I appreciate your interest in exploring this thought-provoking plan. You will find inspiring voices, a solid set of potential investments, pathways for increased climate leadership, and plenty of opportunities for collaboration. We can do this. We can invest in the future. And we can do it together.

Sincerely,



Corey D. Woods
Mayor

Commission Letter



Hello neighbor,

We are the chair and vice chair of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission. We are a city commission made up of residents, experts, businesses, and advocates that guide and recommend climate action policy to your Mayor and Council. We are thrilled to be a part of the Climate Action Plan Update. The Commission has advised staff, attended meetings and briefed elected officials. The Commission worked with the Sustainability and Resilience Office, Unlimited Potential, Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Local First Arizona, Downtown Tempe Authority, Arizona State University, Tempe students, and residents like you on this update.

When we co-created the first plan with Mayor and Council, it was important for us to use five Tempe values as guiding principles to shape the update:

Equity - Race, income and background should not determine a resident's access to clean energy, shade, transportation or housing. We need to support initiatives that address inequality;

Engagement - The city must move away from just informing, to creating co-ownership that allows residents, youth, and businesses to be true parts in change;

Evidence - Data and best practices can ensure we use resources wisely and have impact;

Enterprise - Local businesses are part of Tempe's soul and critical partners in building solutions;

Fiscal responsibility - We have limited funds to address climate change and we must be stewards of public funds.

Over the past six years, our Commission worked to enhance and secure Tempe's Sustainability and Resilience program and its climate action approach. We are excited to continue this work in Tempe. But we want to be very clear; the actions taken so far are inadequate. Moving forward we need to:

Be more urgent - The science is clear, the window to take climate action this decade is critical;

Welcome transformation - We need to move beyond destructive fossil fuels and fully embrace the clean energy and transportation economy;

Increase funding - Tempe is a climate leader in Arizona, but that means nothing without deep city, regional, state and federal investments in our buildings, homes, schools and businesses;

Collaborate more - "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

We need to encourage our Mayor and Council to make a deep financial investment in emissions reduction and resilience efforts. We have a responsibility to our friends, family, to our children and our children's children to take bold, decisive action today. The Sustainability and Resilience Commission believes this update to the Climate Action Plan is the next step towards a healthier and more resilient future for generations to come.

And we are proud that this plan centers the voices of Tempe residents and businesses at its heart, and we look forward to the investments in action and collaboration that will be made this year. We would like to thank everyone for working together on this update and continuing to step up to do the big things needed to make Tempe a better and healthier city.

Kendon Jung, Chair
Barbie Burke, Vice Chair
Sustainability and Resilience Commission
City of Tempe

Executive Summary

Community Actions

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

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 natural disasters 21

Agendas

Community voices are included in the 2021 CAP Update to reflect our city's culture and values. The City of Tempe held engagement events to allow community members to share thoughts, advice, lived experiences, and ideas on how to invest and where to take action. Four stakeholder agendas emerged from our continued engagement. We worked with local partners, residents and businesses to co-create the following agendas:



Youth

Food and transportation equity and partnerships with school boards and leaders 26



Business

Saving money, conserving resources and connecting to community 30



Climate Justice

Extreme heat and energy equity and land stewardship 34



Neighborhoods

Extreme heat and partnering with community-based organizations 38

Executive Summary

Proposed Investments

Investments need to be made to address the concerns of community members. Opportunities of investment will be pursued through the following policies, programs, and infrastructure:



Policies that provide shade, urban cooling, energy cost savings, and increase access to food, transit and affordable housing through ordinances and plans **23**



Programs that lower greenhouse gas emissions, develop resilience to extreme heat and address racial inequality **24**



Personnel to write grants, develop policy, design infrastructure, implement programs and engage businesses and residents **24**



Infrastructure that increases tree canopy, promotes urban cooling, manages stormwater and provides safe low carbon transportation options. **25**



Municipal operations including plans, infrastructure and policies, that demonstrate leadership in lowering greenhouse gas emissions and building up resilience to extreme heat. **25**

Disclaimer : The Mayor and Council have the opportunity to use the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Budget to fund the programs, policies and infrastructure in this Update. The mention of an action in this Update does not mean that these recommendations will be automatically funded. Residents and businesses need to work with elected officials and city staff to determine the best investments to make each year.

Racial Equity and Climate Justice

During the planning of the 2019 CAP, residents requested more interactive engagement and a stronger focus on equity and climate justice. In response to that feedback, the Sustainability and Resilience Office played an active role in the Equity in Action (EiA) program with the Neighborhoods Services Department and the Strategic Management and Diversity Office. The EiA program, supported by a team of City of Tempe employees from many departments, recruited a diverse coalition of residents and advocates across Tempe. With the support of local racial equity consultants, the coalition developed a framework that supports the City of Tempe in increasing the participation of historically underrepresented and marginalized community members, including BIPOC residents (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) in government planning and decision-making.

Equity in Climate Action Planning

In the Summer of 2020, the Sustainability and Resilience Office held a listening session with EiA members and residents that care about environmental justice. The residents urged the City of Tempe to fully acknowledge the connection between climate change and racial equity. The data in Tempe and the Phoenix region clearly shows that residents of color are harmed by extreme heat more than white residents. Addressing extreme heat and climate change means that racial inequality and structural racism must be addressed. The listening session participants recommended that the City support a Climate Justice Agenda that is co-created with a community-based organization with existing relationships and trust within communities of color.

Climate Justice Agenda

The City of Tempe partnered with Unlimited Potential, a local non-profit, to identify climate change issues affecting marginalized communities in Tempe. These issues make up Tempe's first-ever Climate Justice Agenda. This partnership helps the City create awareness and address areas of priority such as transportation, energy, resiliency, affordable housing, and food access, specifically in the neighborhoods that are exposed to extreme heat. Unlimited Potential strives to center Indigenous voices in Tempe and highlights the importance of collaboration with local tribes and tribal members on land stewardship. Furthermore, Unlimited Potential conducted all of their engagements in English and Spanish in order to reach residents that do not traditionally engage in City of Tempe public outreach events.

The Climate Justice Agenda reflects one attempt to diversify the residents that have a say in city decision making. One of the key takeaways from the community-led work, is that intersectionality matters. Thinking in silos allows injustice and inequality to continue. Decisions made across the City of Tempe can affect how residents survive and thrive during climate change. Policing policy, affordable housing programs, parks infrastructure, road design all play a role in how residents of color experience Tempe. When a climate shock like a heatwave happens, decisions in different areas of the City from years before can have a lasting impact on what resources or infrastructure is available in a particular place. Climate justice and preparing for a future with extreme climate change require paying attention to connections, history, and how we support residents who have previously been left out of design processes and decision-making. The Climate Justice Agenda and the integration of equity into the 2022 CAP Update are one attempt at a more inclusive policy making process. There is a need to continuously work on who is involved in public engagement and what priorities are made in investing in the future of the city.

2022 CAP Update Engagement

The 2022 CAP Update improves upon the 2019 CAP to better reflect the voices and needs of residents and businesses.

Four agendas were created to express the views and ideas of Tempe residents and businesses: Youth, Business, Climate Justice, and Neighborhoods. Each stakeholder group was asked to identify the actions and partnerships need to advance climate action in Tempe. The agendas were created through the following process:

Listening Sessions: The Sustainability and Resilience Office hosted six listening sessions in the Summer of 2020 to learn from residents and businesses about what they wanted out of the 2022 CAP Update process. The listening sessions focused on youth, equity, design professionals, neighborhoods, businesses, and the faith-based community. In the Spring of 2021, ASU students in a course called “Equity in Climate Action” hosted two listening sessions inviting community members from the Neighborhood and Youth stakeholder groups. The course was co-taught by Dr. Lauren Withycombe-Keeler and Dr. Marta Berbés. The purpose of the listening sessions was to hear about people’s lived experiences and visions for climate action in Tempe. The listening sessions informed the tools, forums, and agenda development implemented during the rest of the update process.

Imagining Tempe in 2035 through stories: The Climate Stories project features two stories set in 2035. The stories were placed on posters throughout Tempe and led participants to see how communities might respond to extreme heat in the future. After reading the stories, participants were given the opportunity to respond to a survey on what they felt Tempe could do to combat climate change and make Tempe more resilient. They voiced problems that Tempeans face, solutions the City of Tempe can implement, and the community actions the City of Tempe can support. This project offered a novel engagement strategy to engage the public in future initiatives. The authors note that participants in their process envisioned: “A Tempe where the City is doing its best in combating climate change and making the City more resilient. More shade structures, sustainable farming, and solar energy were emphasized. But most importantly, it was envisioned that the City of Tempe would be more compassionate, collaborative, and cohesive.”

Partnerships:

Partnerships were developed to co-create the four agendas:

- Tempe Chamber of Commerce (Business Agenda)
- Local First Arizona (Business Agenda)
- Unlimited Potential (Climate Justice Agenda)
- Arizona State University (Neighborhoods Agenda)
- Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission (Youth Agenda)

Public Forums: Each agenda held public forums over the Summer and Fall of 2021. Local First Arizona and the Tempe Chamber held two panels to create the Business Agenda. The Sustainability and Resilience Office hosted neighborhood and youth forums. Unlimited Potential held a series of workshops and an evening event in Escalante Park to inform the Climate Justice Agenda.

Stakeholder Agenda Open Houses: The City of Tempe held two virtual meetings in September, 2021 and January, 2022 to allow residents to review and edit the four agendas and provide feedback on the investments.



Resident interacting with a Climate Stories poster.