Sustainability Plan Community Workshops: Summary (May 2022)

Introduction

The Scottsdale General Plan 2035 (General Plan) highlights the importance of sustainability and outlines key goals and policies to promote environmentally sustainable practices for Scottsdale. As part of the implementation of the General Plan, the City of Scottsdale initiated work in June 2021 to develop the city's first Sustainability Plan (Plan) and engaged the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solution Service as a partner in this effort.

Identifying and Prioritizing Strategies and Actions

In May 2022, the City of Scottsdale hosted a series of community engagement workshops as part of the Sustainability Plan development process. There were two 90-minute community workshops to understand what the greater Scottsdale community would like to see prioritized in the plan. Invitations for the community workshops were sent to SEAC commissioners and all other citizen boards and commissions and were also open to the general public. The workshops were widely publicized on social media and via city newsletters. Workshops were held at the Scottsdale Community Design Studio (May 16) and at Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park (May 17).

The community workshops included a presentation on local drivers of change. This brief presentation highlighted local changes in the areas of population growth, air quality, heat, precipitation, waste, and inequality. Presented together, the accumulation of changes in our local environment presents a strong case for advancing sustainability. The workshop introduction included an overview of a possible structure of the Sustainability Plan, identifying six sustainability pathways and eighteen topics.

The workshop participants were asked to brainstorm and write possible actions onto sticky notes. They were then invited to sort them by topic, placing them on sheets of paper posted around the room. In total, at least 450 possible actions were identified by workshop participants across all six pathways. The most actions were proposed for the Low Emissions (98) and Nature-Based (101) pathways. Suggested strategies varied in type (e.g., regulatory or financial incentives), scale (i.e., municipal operations or community-wide), and timeframe (i.e., immediate or longer term).

The ASU team then grouped actions into 45 clusters, and participants were asked to vote on the ten actions or clusters that they thought are most important for the future of sustainability in Scottsdale.

Results

<table>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">Low Emissions Supports reduction of environmentally harmful emissions and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>

Climate
Air Quality
Mobility
Energy

</td>
<td>Participants prioritized planting more trees, increasing rebates and incentives and other actions to expand the use of solar energy, increasing public transit and active mobility options, and additional energy efficiency measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td colspan="2">Nature-Based Protects and enhances our city and natural environment by conserving resources, balancing land use and open space</td>
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<td>

Water Resources
Open Space
Land Use

</td>
<td>Participants also ranked more tree planting (especially to add shade) highly. Other top actions included adding more open space, reducing water consumption and diversifying the water supply, and promoting higher density housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">Circular Supports models of production and consumption that support the recycling, repairing, and repurposing of products and materials</td>
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<td>

Circular Economy
Food System

</td>
<td>Participants voted for multiple measures to increase waste diversion through reuse and composting especially.</td>
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<tr>
<td colspan="2">Resilient Anticipates and responds to shocks and stressors, preparing for new risks and impacts</td>
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<td>

Built Environment
Community Safety & Hazard Preparedness
Smart City

</td>
<td>Participants voted for actions to mitigate extreme heat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">Equitable & People Centered Encourages just and livable communities with equitable access to health and wellbeing services, housing, and education</td>
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<td>

Economic Viability
Housing
Education and Lifelong Learning

</td>
<td>Participants graded attracting green businesses and increasing affordable housing highly, with some recommending the need for a carbon tax.</td>
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<tr>
<td colspan="2">Community Builds thriving and inclusive communities reflecting the character of Scottsdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>

Arts & Culture
Community Services
Character

</td>
<td>Participants emphasized character and were interested in creating heat resilience centers.</td>
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</table>

Across all pathways and both community workshops, participants were most interested in open space and trees, renewable energy, addressing water shortages, reducing waste sent to the landfill, economic development, heat mitigation, and more affordable and dense housing. These top actions were used as the starting point for the strategies in the first draft of the Plan.

Open Discussion

Participants were asked two open-ended questions about the challenges facing Scottsdale and the benefits of sustainability. Responses covered a broad range of issues and identified a clear understanding of the needed scope of the Sustainability Plan.

1. What do you feel are the critical issues Scottsdale will face that have the potential to impact our quality of life, natural environment, and economic vitality?
2. What do you think are the benefits to achieving sustainability in Scottsdale?

Attachments to Workshop Report

A full set of the slide deck presentation, including general instructions for participation used during the Community Workshops, is in Appendix 1. The data on the prioritized actions and votes and the open discussion questions is in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 – Community Workshop Slides

Scottsdale Sustainability Plan
Community Workshop

May 16, 2022 & May 17, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- How we got here?
- What's happening next?
- What are we workshopping today?
- Wrap-up

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LOCAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

POPULATION

- Maricopa County – largest numerical growth in the US (58,000 in 2021)

LOCAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

AIR QUALITY

- Metro Phoenix **experienced <u>110 days of "degraded" air quality</u>** in 2016 (The Environment Arizona Research & Policy Center)

    - Only the Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Atlanta metro areas having more bad air quality days.

- In 2020, there were over **<u>40 straight days of ozone alerts</u>**.

LOCAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

HEAT

- In 2020, **145 days** reached or exceeded 100 degrees.

- **53 days at or above 110 degrees**, with 14 days of 115 degrees or greater.

- Previous record in 2011, there were **33 days at 110 or higher**.

LOCAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

PRECIPITATION

- Few areas across Maricopa County **had more than 1 inch of rain in 2020's monsoon**

- **Only 15 days in 2020** with measurable rain at Sky Harbor International Airport

- There was a 110-day dry streak.

LOCAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

WASTE

- Low national average recycling rate (34%)

- Municipalities moving to zero waste goals

- End-markets are limited or non -existent in some cases.

- Some municipalities **stopping recycling programs or reducing existing services** .

LOCAL DRIVERS OF CHANGE

INEQUALITY

- **Metro Phoenix overall poverty rate is 14.6 %** (US average 11%)

- Extreme poverty affects 49 out of 975 neighborhoods in Metro Phoenix

- In 2019, the rate of youth disconnection in the Metro Phoenix was 12.3%

- Today, it's **27% or nearly 1 in 3 youth ages 16-24** who are not working or in school

Using a Sustainability Framework

Cities are using and aligning their goals with established sustainability frameworks for planning, implementation, and monitoring

- Many cities worldwide
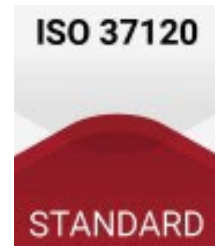- San Jose CA, Pittsburgh PA

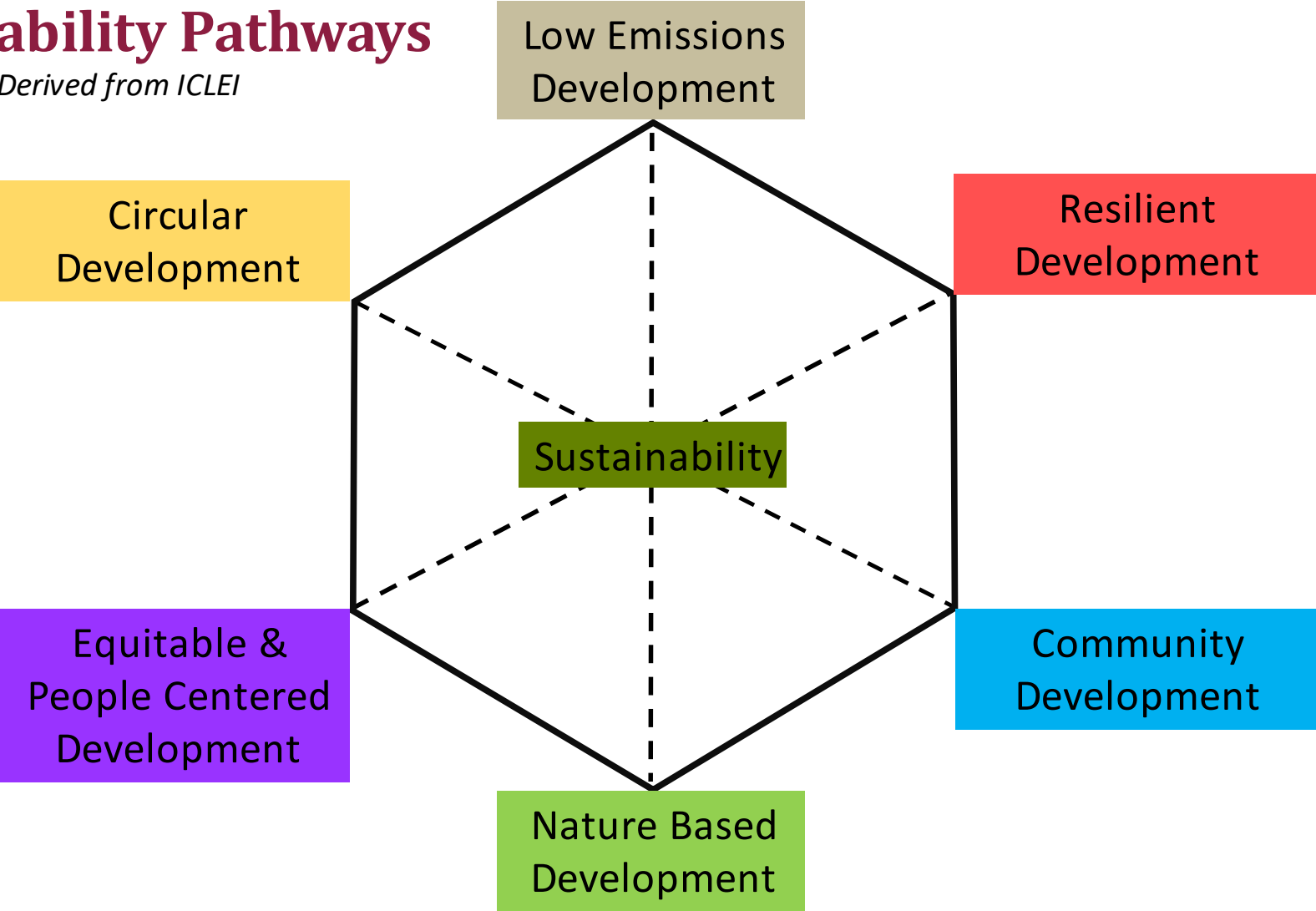- Many cities worldwide
- Pittsburgh PA, Los Angeles, NYC, and Boston

- A structured technical assistance program
- Available to ICLEI USA members

Sustainability Pathways
Derived from ICLEI

Low Emissions Development

Resilient Development

Circular Development

Sustainability

Equitable & People Centered Development

Community Development

Nature Based Development

Pathways

- **<u>Low Emissions Development</u>** -supports reduction of environmentally harmful emissions and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy use

- **<u>Nature-Based Development</u>** - protects and enhances our city and natural environment by conserving resources, balancing land use and open space

- **<u>Community Development</u>** - builds thriving and inclusive communities reflecting the character of Scottsdale

- **<u>Equitable & People Centered Development</u>**- encourages just and livable communities with equitable access to health and wellbeing services, housing, and education

- **<u>Resilient Development</u>** - anticipates and responds to shocks and stressors, preparing for new risks and impacts

- **<u>Circular Development</u>**- supports models of production and consumption that support the recycling, repairing, and repurposing of products and materials

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Pathways & Focus Areas

Low Emissions Development

Climate• Air Quality• Mobility•   Energy

Nature-Based Development

Water Resources• Open Space • Land Use

Circular Development

Circular Economy• Food System

Resilient Development

Livability• Built Environment• Community Safety & Hazard Preparedness• Smart City

Equitable & People Centered Development

Economic Viability• Housing • Education and Lifelong Learning

Community Development

Arts & Culture • Community Services • Character

Open Discussion

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Scottsdale's Challenges

What do you feel are the critical issues Scottsdale will face that have the potential to impact our quality of life, natural environment and economic vitality?

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Scottsdale's Benefits

What do you think are the benefits to achieving sustainability in Scottsdale?

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Actions Workshop

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Workshop

Low Emissions Development

Climate • Air Quality • Mobility • Energy

Nature-Based Development

Water Resources • Open Space • Land Use

Circular Development

Circular Economy • Food System

Resilient Development

Livability • Built Environment • Community Safety & Hazard Preparedness • Smart City

Equitable & People Centered Development

Economic Viability • Housing • Education and Lifelong Learning

Community Development

Arts & Culture • Community Services • Character

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Actions Workshop

1. For each Focus Area, write down 2 -4 actions you think are the <u>most important</u> actions the city can take to improve sustainability. They can be:

- Regulatory/policy, expenditure, financial incentives or voluntary
- Municipality operations or community-wide
- Immediate (near term) through longer term (5+ years)
- Overlapping

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Actions Workshop

1. For each Focus Area, write down 2 -4 actions you think are the <u>most important</u> actions the city can take.

2. What do you think are the <u>10 most important actions</u> to improve Scottsdale's sustainability <u>in the next few years</u>?

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Actions Workshop

ASU Facilitators

Please share with the participants the
highest voted actions
from your Focus Areas

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Wrap-up

Thank you for your participation!

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	5/16 Cluster	5/17 Cluster	Cluster Total	Action	5/16 Action	5/17 Action	Action Total
Low Emissions							
Air Quality							
EVINFRA		2	2	add EV infrastructure			
EV				electric public transportation	1		1
				revisit design/engineering standards, heat = short comings in existing electrical components, plan for hotter, increase acelity.		1	1
EVCITYOP		4	4	city change out all govt vehicles to low emission			
AIRQLTY		1	1	stop the use of landscape blowers		1	1
URBFRST				plant 1 million trees	5		5
				More trees		3	3
TRFCFLW		1	1	reduce auto idling @ traffic lights by using roundabouts & synced signals			
Climate							
CLMTPLN				create climate action plan	1		1
URBFRST	1		1	urban tree management	1		1
				more trees	1		1
				median strips with more plants	1		1
Energy							
ENGEFF				energy efficiency measures	4		4
				Investigate nuclear powered energy	1		1
				eliminate coal generating electricity over time	1		1
RNWCTYOP				solarize municipal ops		1	1
RNWINCTV		9	9	increase solar energy rebates & incentives to make it more accessible			
RENEW	4		6	expedite solar permits	2		2
	2			battery storage on city property	1		1
				energy proactive policies and incentives to accelerate use of solar	1		1
				solar incentives	1		1
				reward electrification	2		2
				incentivize solar for every residence	1		1
				mandate alternative energy goals on new construction	1		1
				reduce dependence of fossil fuels		2	2
EVCITYOP				electrify all city vehicles	1		1
Mobility							
ACTMOB	1	3	4	close areas to vehicular traffic	2		2
				connection promoting walkability through all major development	1		1
				bicycle lanes on all streets	3		3
				increase bike lanes	2		2
				safe streets	2		2
				improve bike ability		1	1
PUBTRNS		5	5	Increase transit options that are clean and non polluting	2		2
				light rail on Scottsdale road	3		3
				light rail up the 101 to the air park	1		1
TRFCFLW				use more traffic circles	3		3

August 10, 2022

August 10, 2022

	5/16 Cluster	5/17 Cluster	Cluster Total	Action	5/16 Action	5/17 Action	Action Total
Nature Based							
Land Use							
URBFRST	2		2	plant trees	5		5
				plant trees!	1		1
LUPLAN		4	4	multifamily is better for environment	2		2
				control density	2		2
				promote higher density housing	3		3
LANDMGT		4	4	wildlife corridor maintenance	2		2
				develop town wide programs to promote monarch butterflies host plants focused on open space	3		3
				ban all pesticides city use, residential, sold in stores, etc..		1	1
				Xeriscaping		1	1
Open Space							
OPNSPC		11	11	keep the green belt along Hayden	1		1
				make more parks	1		1
				wildlife corridor maintenance			
				more pocket parks	3		3
				increase open space via acquisition	1		1
URBFRST		2	2	planting of more shade trees	3		3
LUPLAN				continue NAOS Strategy & try to work into old neighborhoods		2	2
				better regulate & manage NAOS natural area open space		1	1
REGCOL				link Scottsdale natural open space strategy with other cities around the valley to create master plan		1	1
ECNDEV				create fund to look after our open spaces especially the McDowell Sonoran Preserve		1	1
Water Resources							
WTRRED	6	3	19	incentivize turf removal	1		1
	2	8		more desert native plants everywhere	1		1
				clear analysis and communication of strategy to create 'all in' water conservation	1		1
				push strong incentives on communities to reduce water consumption	4		4
				Scottsdale require water use reduction in residential and business	1		1
				water reduction incentives	1		1
				phase out residential grass lawns		1	1
WTRREG		5	5	consider a tax on bottled water	1		1
				stop providing bottled water @ COS events	1		1
WTRINFRA				Scottsdale contribute funds to raise Bartlet Dam	4		4
				work with state on west valley brine water desalinization	1		1
WTRSRC		1	1	Broaden reclaimed water use	3		3
				greater water reclamation on rooftops, grated side walks, reservoirs	1		1
				passive & active water harvesting	1		1
				Scottsdale start direct potable water reuse to homes & businesses by 2030	1		1
				direct potable water reuse	4		4
WTRPLN		3	3	plan for extended water shortages			
WTREFF				connect streets dept with water company to ensure medians & tree strips follow water efficiency guidelines		1	1

	5/16 Cluster	5/17 Cluster	Cluster Total	Action	5/16 Action	5/17 Action	Action Total
Community							
Arts & Culture							
ARTS				keep doing public art project	1		1
				engage the public with interactive art	2		2
SUSEDU				encourage recycled art projects		2	2
Community Services							
COMPGMS				increase programs for drug use & mental health	1		1
				provide 2-3 heat resilience centers for the 7% Scottsdale poor	4		4
Character							
CHARPLN	1	5	6	solar identity	1		1
				foster & create a reputation as most sustainable city in the west	1		1
				make solar part of our community identity	1		1
				historic preservation upgraded as a priority needs city initiatives	2		2
				focus on neighborhoods	4		4
				we need city council members who are honest about their campaign promises	10		10
				identify architectural styles that say "Scottsdale!!" and not "whatever"		2	2

	5/16 Cluster	5/17 Cluster	Cluster Total	Action	5/16 Action	5/17 Action	Action Total
Equitable							
Economic Viability							
COMPGMS				true cost purchasing that considers cost to people due to environmental hazards	1		1
				retain younger residents	4		4
ECNDEV	1	7	8	incentivize Green & Clean business with incentives & Incubators	1		1
				assertively recruit green businesses	1		1
				local government supports new business construction	2		2
				more independent businesses	1		1
				introduce carbon tax	5		5
				be a leader in saying no to new businesses that are high water/energy use		1	1
TUREVNT				promote environmental tourism	2		2
Housing							
AFDBLHSE	1		1	create affordable housing for city workers & young wor	4		4
				Scottsdale provides additional incentives to build affordable housing	1		1
				affordable housing policy	5		5
				encourage development community to address affordable housing incentives	4		4
				incentivize developers to build efficient & affordable housing with a small energy footprint	1		1
COMPGMS	1		1	legislation to limit # of short term rentals			
Education and Lifelong Learning							
				address lack of youth connectedness	1		1
				connect to public schools using public/private partnerships with workshops on sustainability	1		1
				host/fund Scottsdale sustainability summit led by k-12 students	1		1

	5/16 Cluster	5/17 Cluster	Cluster Total	Action	5/16 Action	5/17 Action	Action Total
Resiliency							
Livability							
ACTMOB				walkable downtown	3		3
COMPGMS				get buy in from community for sustainability	1		1
HEATMIT	1		1	shaded walking areas	4		4
				heat reflecting building materials	1		1
				create chief heat officer for the city	1		1
				encourage hardscape with less heat retention	2		2
TUREVNT				solar festival	1		1
GRNINFRA		1	1	use light colored roofs			
Built Environment							
ACTMOB				reduce automobile in downtown Scottsdale	2		2
COMPGMS				Operation fix it to help community upkeep & maintenan	1		1
EMGPREP				require energy & water resiliency plans for large deve	1		1
GRNINFRA	1		1	increase density in planned areas better walkability	1		1
				solar shade structures everywhere	2		2
				pedestrian shade prioritization	1		1
				cool/green roof promotion	1		1
				enforcement of green building codes at permitting	1		1
				create crushed granite walkways instead of cement	1		1
REGCOL				public/private partnerships for sponsorship of sustainable actions such as sponsored urban forest programs	2		2
				connect regionally with local municipalities, tribes, states to share resources	1	0	1
EVINFRA				EV charging in all new homes, multifamily, buildings		1	1
Circular							
Circular Economy							
CIRECON	5	2	7	require reuse of recycled material in development	1		1
				add preferred purchasing for green/energy saving prod	1		1
				city wide compost		5	5
WSTDIVR	3		3	require recycling services at commercial & multifamily	2		2
				handbook for day rentals with instructions for recycling	1		1
				mandate that bars recycle glass bottles	2		2
				create a households hazardous waste center like mes:	3		3
				set stricter goals for recycling resources	1		1
				recycling at multi family housing	2		2
Food Systems							
CIRECON	3		3	citywide composting of food waste	3		3
FDINSCR	1		1	Foster local food systems and production	1		1
				bring agriculture production to unused land in low incor	1		1

OPEN DISCUSSION RESPONSES	
Question #1 What do you feel are the critical issues Scottsdale will face that have the potential to impact our quality of life, natural environment and economic vitality?	
5/16/2022	**5/17/2022**
Heat	Population Growth
H20 - Shortage	Wildfire
Air Quality	Affordable/attainable housing
Crime	Loss of design aesthetic
Afordable Housing	loss of unique Character
Transportation & Congestion	Local food
↑ In Development	Air quality-Clean air
Housing Density	Multiple governing agencies
Youth Education	Recycle - low participation rate
Carbon Equity	State preemtions- W.M.- many issues
Waste Management Info	$ Revenue to fund things
Access, Services and Community	Environmental Ed.
Aging Residents	Demographics
Preservation	Policing of STR - affects quality of life
Car Centric Design	State Legislation - Intergov relations
Devisestment	Water
Community Co-Hestion	Affordable Housing
Sprawl	Adequate Streets
Public Safety	Attainable Housing
Economic Vitality	Urban Heat/Heat Island
Mis-Info/Lack Of Info	Electricity
State-Preemption	Ethnic Diversity
	Land Locked
	Compost
	Transportation
	Waste Management
	Pesticides
	Schools/Stress/Quality
	Short-Term Rentals
	Policing Effectiveness
	Sustainable Development

OPEN DISCUSSION RESPONSES	
Question #2 What do you think are the benefits to achieving sustainability in Scottsdale?	
5/16/2022	**5/17/2022**
Quality Of Life	Most Livable City
Saving $$	Tourism
Preservation Of Resources	Mental/Healty Benefits
Walkabilty	Clean air
Healthier Community	Clean water
Balance Of Growth & Develop	Cradle To Grave Residency
Better Future For Next Gen	Aging In Place
Sense Of well-being	Connection To Place
Mitigation Of Heat Island	Natural resource management
Clean Air	Environmental preservation
Safety For Citizens & PD	Water resources-water management
↑ Resiliency	Brighter future for familie's-Cradle to grave residency - age in place
Preserving Our Tax Space Base	Government Cohesion
Becoming A Model City	Place based education
Property Value Preserved	
Better Bond Rates	
Political Capital	
Survival	
Available Housing	
Education To Public	