



## Sustainability Section

Month in Review: February 2022

### HOT TOPICS:

- Summer White recently joined our team full-time as our new Waste Reduction & Food Systems Coordinator with the Sustainability Office.

- Summer has lived in Flagstaff for over seven years and has developed a strong dedication to our community through her undergraduate career in the Environmental Studies program at NAU, four years as an urban farmer, a year of service in our office through the AmeriCorps VISTA program, and a member of the Flagstaff Foodlink board.

- In her new role, Summer supports will focus on helping to reduce consumption and waste through increased education around existing recycling services and several composting pilot programs. Additionally, Summer manages the Community Garden Program, Urban Farm Initiative, and backyard animal keeping outreach which aim to promote increased access to locally produced foods.



Outside of work, catch Summer at the skatepark on her roller skates, hitting the trails on her mountain bike, or walking her basset hound Sophie!

- Sustainability is hosting a 9-week Flagstaff Sustainability Leaders training program that educates and equips participants to be advocates for climate action in the Flagstaff community.
  - This will take place over the course of nine weeks, every Wednesday from April 6<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Sustainability Office.
  - Course Topics include Perspectives on Sustainable Communities; Climate Change 101; Communicating on Climate; Climate Justice- Equity, Vulnerability, and Collective Action; Waste Minimization and Behavior Change; Food Systems and Consumption; Water, Energy, and Structural Change; Transportation; Land Conservation and Fire Ecology; and Volunteer Opportunities.
  - Class capacity will be limited to 20 participants. Applications are open from Tuesday, March 1st until Tuesday, March 15th. Apply online at <https://www.flgsustainabilityleader.org/>

## CLIMATE ACTION:

- Sustainability staff presented the Residential Sustainable Building Incentive to Council on February 15<sup>th</sup> and will return on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for the second read and potential adoption.
- Staff presented to the Bond Committee on proposed climate action projects on February 24<sup>th</sup> and will return on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> for further discussion.
- Staff applied to NAU's Center for Service and Volunteerism for three VISTA positions, on electrification workforce development, FUSD climate action, and community resilience.
- In our continued commitment to NAU's Climate Science and Solutions graduate certificate program, staff participated in a Mock Interview session with program students to offer an insight into municipal climate action jobs
- Staff continues to support the Innovate Waste and Carbon Neutrality Challenge, and this month delivered two pop-up workshops on "The Emerging Business Opportunity of Carbon Dioxide Removal." There were 14 attendees total at these workshops.
- Sustainability staff presented to the student Environmental Coalition at Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy to provide information on the Flagstaff Youth Climate Advisory Group, offer ideas on climate action in schools, and hear from the coalition what project they were currently working on.

## COMMUNITY STEWARDS/LITTER PREVENTION:

- The Sustainability Office launched a new grant opportunity, the Engage, Empower, Elevate Grant. This effort is in response to a twofold challenge in Flagstaff: the record high number of unsheltered community members and keeping Flagstaff litter free is an ongoing challenge. The grant will award an organization with up to \$30,000 for a project that provides employment opportunities to persons experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, to abate litter in our community.
  - If you know of organizations who may be interested in applying for this grant, please share this information. Applications for are open through Friday, March 11th. All information including the guidelines and application link can be found on the [Engage, Empower, Elevate webpage](#).
- Sustainability and the Friends of the Rio de Flag applied jointly to NAU's Center for Service and Volunteerism for a Rio Stewardship Coordinator AmeriCorps position. The VISTA position would work to engage and educate community members and students on the importance of the City of Flagstaff's watershed and to encourage the care of these environmental areas.

- February Litter Cleanup Data:

Date	# of Volunteers	Total Hours	Bags of Trash	Bags of Recycling
2/5	30	90	10	0
2/5	8	12	6	5
2/5	5	5	5	0
2/12	1	1	1	1
2/14	2	4	2	0
2/19	1	1	1	1
2/19	40	80	10	10
2/19	16	32	4	0
2/19	5	15	5	0
2/19	14	28	5	0
2/19	4	8	4	0
2/19	5	10	9	6
2/19	1	3	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>23</b>

#### ENERGY:

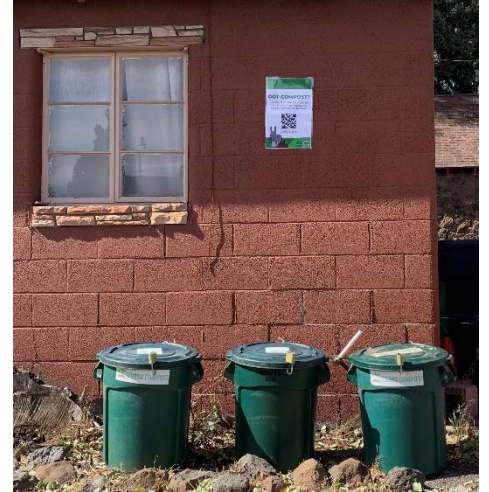
- One virtual Home Energy Efficiency workshop was held on Feb 24th and had four attendees.
- EV Charging Updates:
  - Airport: Due to Supply Chain issues, the Service Entry is currently unavailable. Staff met with APS to coordinate a plan to move forward with some of the civil elements that can be advanced in March, and an update will be provided on the whole project completion timeline as more information on the Service Entry becomes available.

#### FOOD SYSTEMS:

- The community garden registration process has shifted to being managed internally by the Food and Waste Team to allow for our community partner Terra BIRDS to take the lead on education outreach opportunities at the garden.
  - Online applications will open to the public on March 1st with versions in both English and Spanish.
  - We are partnering with an NAU capstone group to table on campus and recruit volunteers for our planned weekly volunteer days at the garden. Volunteer days are set to begin in May on Thursday afternoons between 4:30-6:30pm.

## MATERIALS MANAGEMENT:

- The current Residential Food Scraps Drop-off station at the Flagstaff CSA Store has become very popular with collection of compostable items so we are increasing pick-up from twice monthly to weekly. Since the launch of this program in October we have diverted over 4,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill.



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

- In the meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Sustainability Commission heard a presentation from MetroPlan, reelected Chair McCain and Vice Chair White to serve in their respective positions for another year, voted to approve the working group's edits to the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant, called together a working group to plan an event for future Neighborhood Sustainability Grantees, and received part one of three of their Climate Ambassador Training.
- Next meeting: Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 4:30pm-6:30pm

## UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- The City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office is hosting a [Fix-it Clinic](#) on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The event will be held at the Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center, located at 245 N. Thorpe Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.
  - Volunteers will be fixing small household appliances, clothing, electronics, jewelry, bicycles and more. Appointments for fixes will be given priority, walk-ins are welcome. Please note that masks are required of all attendees.
- The next Home Energy Efficiency (HEE) workshop will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, location TBD.
  - More info can be found at <http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/hee>

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our top post on both Facebook and Instagram was a post about the Backyard Livestock Keeping Permit.

