



Environmental
Economic
Social

A Sustainable Tempe

Advancing social, environmental,
and economic sustainability
to foster lasting benefits to
Tempe's diverse community.



Green. Sustainable. Environmentally Friendly. Eco-Friendly. Earth Wise.

These days it seems like every organization is hopping on the sustainability bandwagon, with initiatives to market green products or their own positive environmental ways. While many entities get in the game quickly and ultimately without a deep commitment, others have vitally transformed their mindsets and operations to reflect new priorities.

The city of Tempe is among the latter. From our City Council to our city staff, Tempe is on a purposeful journey to make lasting changes to the way we serve our many different types of stakeholders. From encouraging xeriscape landscaping and recycling hazardous household chemicals, to transforming blighted land and getting people out of their cars, Tempe is a municipal leader in sustainability. This is a journey that, in some cases, we began many years ago. Other programs are only just starting and there are still many more possible approaches to adopt in the future.

Tempe is in this for the long haul and we need the input of all our community members. Do you have a new idea? Do you have feedback about an existing Tempe program? Tell us by calling (480) 350-8369 or e-mailing grace_kelly@tempe.gov.



Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Onnie Shekerjian
Vice Mayor

Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember

Shana Ellis
Councilmember

Kolby Granville
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Corey Woods
Councilmember

Environmental Sustainability

Water Conservation

Tempe cares about its role as a steward of the region's precious water. We are living that commitment every day and every year by:

- Saving nearly 1.4 million gallons of valuable, non-renewable and potable water daily through innovative reclamation and reuse programs.
- Championing groundwater replenishment for almost two decades by storing 31 billion gallons – two years of water supply – in Arizona's aquifers.
- Providing free xeriscape conversion workshops for residents.
- Reducing water demand by educating the community on conservation.



Solid Waste and Recycling

Tempe believes that once is not enough, and we demonstrate that by:

- Recycling millions of pounds of household hazardous waste each year at the region's first Household Products Collection Center. Tempe residents bring materials that otherwise would enter landfills, storm drains, sewers or aquifers.
- Fostering a culture of recycling by showcasing Arizona's first mobile recycling education center ERIC at schools and events.
- Collecting thousands of used athletic shoes through a partnership with Nike, Inc., which recycles them into sports surfaces around the country. Tempe tennis courts have been resurfaced using this material.
- Initiating a pilot program to collect residents' yard clippings, turn them into compost and reuse the material at city parks, reducing both landfill fees and purchases of mulch for parks.



Transportation and Air Quality

Tempe moves people in more ways than one, and we get on board with that priority by:

- Making it easier for bicyclists to choose a more Earth-friendly commute by offering secure bike parking, private showers, lockers and bicycle repair at the Tempe Transportation Center.
- Partnering with the region to bring light rail and all of its many benefits to Tempe, enabling community members to make the choice to leave their vehicles behind.
- Opening the first bicycle lane in Arizona on College Avenue in 1971 and creating the first local bicycle plan in Arizona in 1974. Tempe is home to 165 miles of bikeways, including multi-use paths, bicycle lanes, the Rio Salado and canal pathway systems, and grade-separated crossings.



Economic Sustainability

Land Use and the Built Environment

Tempe knows that it has a vital role in helping to create a sustainable community. We embrace that role by:

- Partnering with private developers to clean up and redevelop a 117-acre EPA Brownfield site, turning it into Tempe Marketplace, a thriving, 1.3 million-square-foot retail destination.
- Building three LEED-certified city facilities that have been widely recognized by regional and national organizations as models for sustainable development. The Tempe Transportation Center, for example, boasts a vegetated roof, innovative shading and abundant natural light.



- Encouraging reinvestment in residential properties through a permit rebate program that helps maintain the vitality, sustainability and attractiveness of Tempe's neighborhoods. Since it began in 2007, 140 homes have been revitalized through the program.
- Establishing standards for mixed-use and infill development near light rail, resulting in livable environments for residents and pedestrians, as well as the generation of new sales and property taxes.

Economic Development

Generating compelling, profitable jobs close to home by attracting healthcare and technology companies such as Bostwick Laboratories, NanoVoltaix, First Solar, TUV Rhineland Aide Solar and more.



Organizational Sustainability

Developing and sustaining organizational greatness. Objectives are achieved by cultivating leaders, aligning of purpose and strategic direction, and focusing on execution.



Social Sustainability

Social and Cultural Heritage

Tempe honors its past while looking to the future by:

- Declaring properties as historic so that they can be saved and properly restored. Tempe has listed 34 properties on its Historic Property Register, including the Niels Petersen House and Grady Gammage Auditorium. Most are also on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Partnering with community organizations to develop The Carl Hayden Campus for Sustainability in Papago Park, which will include natural and built elements that will demonstrate the meaning of sustainability.



Water Management

The KMGCC Recharge Project will be capable of storing over 5,000 acre feet of reclaimed water annually, adding to Tempe's existing credit balance of over 95,000 acre feet of Central Arizona Project and other renewable surface water.

More Energy Efficient Facilities

The city is currently designing a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory at the city's Environmental Services campus with the goal of LEED Silver certification.

Compost Program

A pilot program to collect green waste (trees, shrubs and grass) for composting and reuse at city parks. This program could reduce city landfill fees by tens of thousands of dollars while recycling a valuable resource for community benefit.



Partnerships and Awards

The Kyrene Water Reclamation Plant earned the General Electric (GE) Ecomagination Leadership Award in 2009, for demonstrating significant environmental and economical performance improvements, striking a balance between today's environmental, industrial and sustainability challenges.

Tempe has grown into a community designated as "bicycle-friendly" by the League of Arizona Bicyclists.

Partnerships including Arizona State University and Nike, Inc., resulted in more than 11,000 pairs of shoes recycled so far to make sports surfaces. Fifteen municipal tennis courts have been resurfaced using these recycled post-consumer materials.

Tempe Marketplace, an environmental and economic redevelopment project, was accomplished in partnership with private development and the EPA. A 117-acre Brownfield site was remediated and redevelopment into a thriving, 1.3 million-square-foot thriving commercial venue.

Tempe earned the inaugural Smart Growth Award from the Urban Land Institute in 2009, for advancing development that is economically sound, environmentally friendly and supportive of community livability.

The Tempe Transportation Center, which is seeking LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, has received numerous design, environmental and sustainability awards, it uses a variety of sustainable strategies (vegetated desert roof, exterior shading, natural daylight in place of lighting, etc.), to reduce the building's energy footprint by 52 percent. Water conservation measures include reuse of site water, low-water landscaping and gray water collection.

The East Valley Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility was constructed by the Cities of Tempe and Scottsdale, and Valley Metro. It displays sustainable strategies for water conservation (reusing 100 percent of the collectible bus wash water, using drought-resistant native landscaping, low flow/dual-operation plumbing fixtures and waterless urinals) and an energy reduction of 53 percent. It has earned two LEED Gold certifications from the U.S. Green Building Council and Valley Forward's Crescordia Award for sustainable design.

Grants

Energy Efficiency and conservation Block Grant (EECCGB)

Municipal Building Energy Audits of over 420,000 square feet of city building space and energy-efficient Retrofits based on the audit prioritization up to the maximum budgeted.

Grease-to-Energy Feasibility Study: 1) collect waste vegetable oil and trap grease from Tempe restaurants; 2) convert grease to biodiesel at a facility to be constructed at the South Tempe Water Treatment Plant campus; 3) generate electrical power from biodiesel using a turbine generator as the primary power source for all energy demand at the campus, and 4) offset 20 percent of the city's petroleum diesel demand by blending biodiesel at a 20 percent concentration at all City diesel fueling sites.

Energy Efficient Street Light Retrofit to replace 41% of all residential street lamps and ultimately reduce energy use by 30%.

Solar Demonstration Project: showcase solar power, educate the public on the science of solar power generation and increase awareness of solar feasibility for residential and commercial applications.

International Energy Conservation Code Implementation: implement the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code and provide timely inspections for all new residential and commercial construction.



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