

# PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

## Sustainability & Resilience Commission

### MEETING DATE

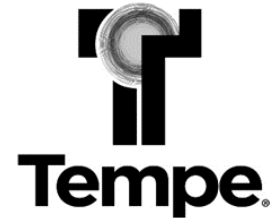
Monday, November 21, 2022  
 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

### MEETING LOCATION

**Microsoft Teams meeting**  
 Join on your computer or mobile app  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
**Or call in (audio only)**  
[+1 480-498-8745,,565023865#](#) United States, Phoenix  
 Phone Conference ID: 565 023 865#  
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AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER	ACTION or DISCUSSION
<b>1. Welcome New Members and Mission of SRC</b> – The Chair opens the Sustainability and Resilience Commission meeting to new members and provides an overview of the Commissions mission.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (4:30 – 4:33 pm) New Member: Erin Boyd, Culdesac	
<b>2. Public Appearances</b> The Sustainability Commission welcomes public comment for items listed on this agenda. There is a <i>three-minute time limit</i> per citizen	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (4:33 – 4:35 pm)	
<b>2. Approval of Meeting Minutes</b> The Commission will be asked to review and approve meeting minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (4:35 – 4:37 pm)	Action
<b>3. Board and Commission Annual Report to Council</b>	Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (4:37-5:15pm)	Action
<b>4. 2022 Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Rate Letter of Support.</b> Commission Chair will be gathering feedback for the letter and ask commissioners to submit the letter to Council.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (5:15 – 5:50pm)	Action
<b>5. Budget Overview.</b> Staff will provide an overview of the operating budget and capital improvement project budget funding the office received this past budget cycle. Discussion on potential asks for next budget cycle.	Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (5:50 – 6:10pm)	Discussion
<b>6. Housekeeping Items</b>	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (6:10 – 6:20 pm)	Discussion
<b>7. Future Agenda Items</b> Commission may request future agenda items.	Kendon Jung, Commission Chair (6:20 – 6:25 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 October 17, 2022

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, October 17, 2022, 4:30 p.m. at a virtual meeting on MS Teams, through City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Kendon Jung (Chair)  
Barbie Burke  
Natalie Mendoza  
Morgan Winburn

Meaghan Coon  
Jake Swanson  
Shawn Swisher  
Katja Brundiers

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

**City Staff Present:**

Brianne Fisher  
Braden Kay  
Maddie Mercer  
Evelyn Brumfield  
Andrea Escobar  
Tara Ford  
Stephen White

**Guests Present:**

Andrew Burnham  
Brian Sager  
Fernando Sarmiento  
Matt

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:0 p.m.

Morgan Winburn introduced herself. She works with Keep Tempe Beautiful and as a business advocate for sustainability and resilience. She has been working with community gardens for the last few years. She has worked with Clark Park for 7 years. She works full time for the Creighton Community Foundation as their garden lead. They do community gardens, food distribution, and SNAP assistance. She is part of the City of Phoenix backyard garden project. She has an Urban Farming Consulting position and is doing a fellowship at ASU on how to get community gardens part of business.

Chair Jung reminded commissioners that their goal is to research and advise and recommend city programs and policies to advance sustainability in Tempe. Their objective is to assist city departments in executing approved policies and programs, support education and outreach, identify sustainability partnerships, and plan measurable goals and benchmarks. This amounts to providing leadership, education, and guidance to inspire the world for a sustainable future. They are the cultural catalyst for sustainable change.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Brianne asked guests to introduce themselves.

Tara Ford said that Andrew Burnham is a consultant who will be assisting with a presentation.

Fernando Sarmiento introduced himself, he is with Greeley and Hansen and is based in Phoenix, AZ.

Brian Sager is with Work Urban Design and lives in Phoenix.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Jung called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 15, 2022.

**Motion:** Shawn Swisher

**Second:** Jake Swanson

**Decision:** Approved 8-0

**Voted to Approve:**

Kendon Jung (Chair)

Barbie Burke

Natalie Mendoza

Morgan Winburn  
Meaghan Coon  
Jake Swanson  
Shawn Swisher  
Katja Brundiars

### **Agenda Item 3 – 2022 Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Rate Study Recommendations**

Tara Ford and Stephen White presented.

They have final recommendations that they brought to council on Thursday at the work study sessions. Andrew Burnham from Stantec will be presenting. The presentation will be brief, 10-15 minutes at most. There are changes that Tara wants to emphasize:

- Keeping conservation at the forefront of the rate study. They are recommending a 4-tier rate structure instead of a 5-tier structure.
- They have a stormwater/environmental fee that they are proposing. They are not adding it as it is already included. They are peeling it out as a flat charge on the bill.
- They did a strength and loading study to see what is discharged for accurate billing.

Andrew began the presentation.

- Approach to the study is consistent with recent studies. Intended to achieve proportional equity between customers and utilizing Tempe's advanced metering technology.
- Part of the process prioritizes customer engagement. They have come with recommendations to present to the public.
- Rate Study Process:
  - o How much revenue is needed to keep operating and investing in infrastructure?
  - o How should that be allocated to customers based on usage.
  - o How do we want to capture those costs. 2 part system of fixed and variable charges.
- Revenue Requirements
  - o 5.5% increase in revenue for water system and 2.5% for wastewater.
  - o \$3 monthly environmental fee.
  - o Flood Irrigation: 50% cost recovery.
- Water Cost Allocation Adjustments
  - o Identified how costs should be distributed.
  - o Identified system of fixed and variable charges by customer class.
- Single Family Adjustment

- Adjustment to revenue capture in fixed monthly charges to provide more revenue in variable rates which incentivizes conservation.
- Current data suggest median customer uses 8,000 gallons/month.
- Used this information as well as lot size and irrigation need to arrive at 4-tier system.
- 4-tier system has more use in first tier but lower in the higher tiers.
- All other customer classifications have uniform rate system.
- Wastewater:
  - Performed cost of service adjustment for system- First time in over 5 years.
  - Developed updated rate structure with reduction in fixed rate structures. Lowering revenue recovery from 25 to 20%. Advances affordability.
  - Volumetric charges simplified rate structure. Grouped customers together in terms of lower vs higher strength wastewater return. Went from 6 classes to 2.
- Brought in solid waste service to identify change in total utility bills based on rate recommendations. \$3-10, 4-7% increase.
- Tempe is still one of the lowest cost service providers in the area.
- Stormwater/Environmental Fee:
  - Identified all activities related to stormwater/environmental activities currently being performed to have an understand of the cost of these activities and recover that cost.
  - This will become a separate fee that is transparent on the bill. This is a trend across the country and in Phoenix.
- Flood Irrigation:
  - Adjust rates to 50% cost recovery. Will enhance the recovery and balance rate increases.
- Tempe is in a water challenged part of the country but has some of the lowest water cost. In order to maintain that, regular and programmatic adjustments must be made to avoid deficits in infrastructure. Slow and steady wins the rate when managing utility systems.

Tara spoke about next steps for public engagement.

- They have done public outreach and commission meetings.
- This is the first post-council meeting commission meeting.
- Public meeting on Nov. 7 at the library in the evening and will have a virtual event earlier in the day.
- Jan. 5 will be a public hearing at council, if adopted will be in place March 25.
- Nov. 27 town of Guadalupe council meeting.
- Will meet with commercial and industrial community as well.

Questions:

- They are in the process of recommissioning the Kyrene water reclamation facility which is factored into the wastewater rates. Main purpose of recommissioning is for sustainability reasons so that they can recharge and reclaim water. Some of the treated water will be sent to SRP for power generation plant which will give them credits to use for wet water.
- Commissioner Swisher asked about equitable distribution of rate increases.
  - They took into consideration the lower rate tier which goes up to 8,000 instead of 6,000. Customers can save by conserving.
  - Some of cost allocations between classes are important. They want to ensure the same proportionality is kept. Keeping equity in mind from a cost causation standpoint. Tempe can be more accurate in equitable distribution of cost because of its advanced metering infrastructure.
- Commissioner Swisher wants to understand more about the national standards across the country and how are they equitably distributed. He wants to understand the impact on utility bills in general based on income and other factors. It seems like the lowest tier has the highest increase compared to the higher tiers.
  - They need to be mindful of national guidelines and Arizona revised statutes.
  - Some of the measures have a positive impact for lower volume users which correlate with lower income.
    - They have substantially reduced the fixed charges for lower volume users.
  - Delicate balance between legality and equity.
- Commissioner Swisher asked about incorporating stormwater fee into green infrastructure.
  - To avoid rate shock, they first included \$1.5 million of the total \$2.5 million in the fee.
  - They peeled out some of the regulatory fees that were previously incorporated in the bill.
  - Residential green stormwater infrastructure could be included in the next rate structure study.
  - Costs included in the program can be expanded as the program matures and evolves.
  - They are taking an incremental approach in order to avoid opposition from customers.
- Chair Jung thanked them for including the stormwater fee as a proposal. He asked how the commission can help build support for this program.
  - Tara said that the commission should let the council know what their priorities are.

- There are 2 stormwater questions on the online forum asking if residents would like these stormwater issues funded.
- Chair Jung asked if commissioners should fill out comment cards.
  - Yes they should and any other resident can.
- Chair Jung don asked how they aggregate their interest to council.
  - They take all comments into consideration.
- Chair Jung said that the commission are members of the public. He is concerned that the recommendation is to fill out a comment card. He wants to ensure that their interest in the stormwater fee makes it into their presentation for council. He wants to know what they can do to not have to wait for the next rate study to get the stormwater fee. The urgency is front of mind for him and many others.
  - Some of the stormwater infrastructure already have CIP projects funded out of general fund. Some of them were moved to the top because they are aware of the need for better infrastructure.
  - The part of the fee that is included in the new rates included a permit that has to do with stormwater. Any new developments will be looked at for stormwater/green infrastructure.
  - These items are not staying off to the side and they are trying to be sustainable in everything they do.
- Are the rates based around conservation?
  - They have been taking conservation measures and are listening to everything people say.
  - They offer rebates, incentives, education, options for water saving measures.
- Chair Jung agrees with Shawn that waiting until the next rate study to implement a program that is only 1.1% of the total consideration seems conservative.
  - Braden said that everything in gray on the presentation is all happening currently. It is being funded by the general fund, not the stormwater fee. There are reasons that they want to include these things in the stormwater fee because that would protect them from being eliminated in budget changes. These are absolutely things that are happening, it is a question of where the money is coming from.
  - Braden said he is very impressed with Andrew and the Stantec team. Council is very supportive of the stormwater fee which is a huge deal. They have seen examples of things like this falling apart when a city is too aggressive. Braden thinks this is a high-risk move by the water department already. The resilient Tempe Master Plan will look at what else the fund could cover and ways they can do cost recovery.
  - Braden recommends that next time they have stormwater specifically as an action agenda item for next week. Then they can develop a memo emphasizing their recommendations and enthusiasm. Braden appreciates

their enthusiasm but this is a long term investment that they have to take one step at a time. They need commission support for all of this work. Hopefully for the next rate study they will have a compelling message to triple their urgency and effort. Water has done a fabulous job for getting them to where they are now.

- Chair Jung thanked Braden and the water team for all their work.
- Vice Chair Burke asked if they have federal funds for the Kyrene plant and if there would be any leftover money that could be used for stormwater infrastructure.
  - o The plant will be open in 2025. \$37 million in potential government money but not guaranteed. There will not be any money leftover from that as the total cost is \$60 million. None of the funding could be used for stormwater.
- Braden asked if the current rate study assumes we are bringing in the revenue for the full \$70 million for the Kyrene plant.
  - o It assumes Tempe is funding the plant itself.
  - o The costs are not included in the current rate increase.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – USDA Grow Local Tempe Grant Overview**

Maddie Mercer presented about the USDA Grow Local Grant

- Urban agriculture and innovative production grant from the USDA for \$200,000. It is a planning project to design a strategy for implementing urban agriculture in Tempe.
- Beginning work from Fall through July 2024.
- Aligns with the CAP Update. Food and equity.
- Goal is to enhance Tempe food system by supporting urban agriculture among economically vulnerable populations. Focuses specifically on the Apache Corridor.
- Key Components:
  - o City planning and policy research
  - o Community engagement
  - o Training and professional development
- Goals
  - o Support city planning that advances urban agriculture in a range of types.
  - o Foster UA and food literacy in low-income areas.
  - o Connect needs of communities to UA site planning.
  - o Increasing professional development and training opportunities.
- Deliverables
  - o Policy recommendations
  - o Identification of existing food assets.
  - o Developing range of education events in communities.
  - o Robust community needs assessment.
  - o Pilot project plans



- UA/Local food maps.
- Partners organized into 4 working groups
  - City planning for UA
  - UA and local food engagement
  - Community engagement and needs assessment
  - Urban Farmer Support
- Next Steps
  - Kicking off this Fall with initial working group meetings.
  - Spring/Winter working on community engagement, dissemination of needs survey. Updates on resident needs, what types of events to have, and having UA pilot plans

Questions:

- Commissioner Swisher asked if there are future budget requests that the S&RO can make to expand the program.
  - This project aims to flesh out what those needs could be.
- Vice Chair Burke asked about the grant link and how it connects to previous indigenous food entrepreneurship.
  - They will integrate indigenous food training and site visits into the plan to highlight that knowledge and include that in the plan.
- Chair Jung asked how they can assure that they can assure that the economic development teams works with the S&RO on food business development and workforce development.
  - That integration will come into play in the city planning piece, especially in the roadmap around commercial spaces. They want to explore how they can support various initiatives. They wish to explore how they can physically fit those programs into the space.
  - Brianne added that Local First AZ are interested in working on a small pilot in the food waste/composting space. Additionally, they are interested in ways that the S&RO can influence within the planning team on the general plan.
- Commissioner Swanson asked if there is a way that they can connect with current farmers struggling to maintain ownership of the land.
  - There is not sense in developing UA if there is no land to put it on. Broader efforts to pursue land conservation is important to incorporate into city planning for UA in the long term.
- Chair Jung asked about UA in schools.
  - There is a lot of opportunity for embedding UA in schools. The Blue Watermelon project works to do that. 2 of the pilot sites are in schools.
- Commissioner Brundiers s connected this issue to the city of Phoenix workforce development.

- Commissioner Mendoza wants to support the UA movement in any way that she can. Chair Jung asked what the commission can do to support the work.
  - o Moving forward they would appreciate feedback on deliverables and processes that they are developing.
  - o Brianne mentioned that this is a 2 year grant with different project partners, so they could have meetings with different work groups and asking how they feel about it. They can work with working groups and piece out the grant.
    - Chair Jung said that sounds great.
- Commissioner Brundiers asked what can we do as a commission to include demand side management to build more excitement and willingness to pay. This has to do with stories and narratives they present. How can they be a cultural catalyst by informing public discourse by also preferences, especially willingness to pay.
- Chair Jung thanked Maddie for her work and presentation. There may be questions from the comments sent to her.

### **Agenda Item 5- Board and Commission Annual Report to Council**

Brianne spoke about the annual report to council.

- The commission submits a report to the clerk's office on an annual basis which is a part of the larger board and commission report for the council.
- First piece: logistics, members, etc.
- Pages 2, 3, 4 get into the logistics and accomplishments.
- Brianne created a draft based on last years report. This is not a meeting where they need to decide on wording but instead an opportunity to look at the report and come back to the next meeting with additions and changes.
- Brianne asked commissioners to look over the document. They can give feedback directly over email.
- Next meeting will have a revised version with feedback.

Chair Jung said that they do not need too many people working on this, but encouraged commissioners to speak up if they see anything missing. He asked for questions; there were none. He thanked Brianne for her work on this and mentioned how this report is a great way to see the accomplishments of the commission.

### **Agenda Item 6- Housekeeping Items**

Next commission meeting is scheduled for Nov. 21. Chair Jung asked the commission if they would like to keep it or move it up by a week to avoid the holiday bustle. Chair Jung called for a poll of members thoughts. Option 1: keep meeting on 21<sup>st</sup>, Option 2: push meeting up to Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.

Results:

Keep (21<sup>st</sup>): Swisher, Mendoza

Move (14<sup>th</sup>): Burke, Jung

Either: Swanson, Brundiars, Winburn, Coon

Commissioner Coon is alright with any decision.

Chair Jung said there are two people with scheduling conflicts, so he asked to keep the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. All agreed.

Chair Jung asked about the Green Codes Schedule. Brienne presented:

- The IGCC code conversation with council was cancelled. They are now planning to have the meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be the work study session that Eric Iwerson will be presenting at. Commission saw that presentation in September. Commissioners can comment at the event.
- They will be coming in the first part of next year with actual language to be adopted. This is a voluntary approach but is a part of the phased process to get developers and the community to get on board with this process in the hopes of the code becoming mandatory in the future.
- EV ready code language is still being developed. There has been some challenges regarding language given the building safety department and community development has been understaffed. They are still planning to go to council in January to let them know what the code could be. This is for new building construction.
- Solar ready has been put on pause as they worked with EV's. They did not want to overburden the development community and their own staff with the amount of codes. They heard from stakeholders to start with EV ready code, so they are working on that to build trust.

Chair Jung said he is excited to start the new year with conversations about new codes. He asked for questions; there were none.

Commissioner Swisher said he is glad to hear progress and looks forward to the road ahead (pun intended). Chair Jung echoed the comment.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Swanson has 2 items that have been brought up to him by Tempe residents.

1:

In late July, staff from Tempe removed vegetation, native and non-native, other than mature trees in an area in Tempe in between the 202 and Pagago. Citizens commented that this removal reduces ecosystems provided by the biotic community. These services benefit humans and non-humans. Seeing only cost and limited benefits of these actions, why did that occur and why were resources used for such a task?

- Chair Jung and staff will try to address in the coming agendas.

2: Resident Tempe botanists and ecologists overheard a conversation saying that Tempe is possibly going to completely defoliate the bed of the Salt River within Tempe other than the lake area, supposedly as a solution to people living there. They are curious if there is truth to this solution, how can they ask questions, and whether ecosystem services are being considered.

- Chair Jung said he is interested and would be surprised if that were actually happening.
- Commissioner Swisher said that the residents are concerned from the source that this information came from.
- Brianne said they will look into answers for those questions.
- There was an engagement with the river bottom, which was included in a council presentation last week. There have been many service calls for fire in the river bed where there is a large homelessness population. There have been homelessness services provided there.
- The spike in service calls have resulted in leadership ensuring that the riverbed is a safe place. There has been an effort to remove and transition residents away from the Salt River on the east and west end. Brianne can find more information on the vegetation removal from that place, but she does not think that those activities would affect the vegetation very much. She will provide information on that issue.
- Commissioner Swisher asked for more information for how citizens can become involved in those decision-making processes.

Chair Jung welcomed Braden Kay back from his leave. He said that Brianne and Eric have been killing it in his absence, but they are excited to see him again.

Please refer future items to staff and CC Chair Jung.

Chair Jung called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Barbie Burke

**Second:** Katja Brundiers

**Decision:** Approved 8-0

**Voted to Approve:**

Kendon Jung (Chair)

Barbie Burke

Natalie Mendoza

Morgan Winburn

Meaghan Coon

Jake Swanson

Shawn Swisher

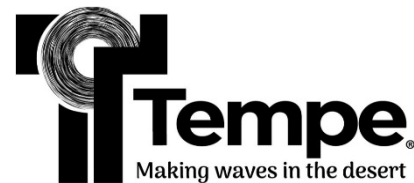
Katja Brundiars

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Prepared by: Henry Pearson

Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 2022 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 7 Meetings out of 7
Winburn, Morgan	12/31/2024	Attended 2 Meetings out of 2
Swisher, Shawn	12/31/2023	Attended 7 Meetings out of 7
Boyd, Erin	12/31/2024	Attended 1 Meetings out of 1
Milam-Edwards, Stephanie (vacant)	12/31/2022	Attended 2 Meetings out of 4
Burke, Barbie	12/31/2022	Attended 6 Meetings out of 7
Coon, Meaghan	12/31/2023	Attended 7 Meetings out of 7
Mendoza, Natalie	12/31/2022	Attended 7 Meetings out of 7
Brundiers, Katja	12/31/2023	Attended 5 Meetings out of 7
Swanson, Jake	12/31/2023	Attended 7 Meetings out of 7

**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 2022 were a mix of virtual and in person meetings. Meetings are typically held the third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at 31 E. Fifth Street, Engineering & Transportation Conference Room, Tempe, AZ 85281. In 2022, five virtual meetings were held.

**Number of Meetings Cancelled and Reason for Cancellation:**

July meeting was cancelled for summer vacation.

**Vacancies and Duration of Vacancies:**

Three vacancies occurred in 2022.

**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 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. The Commission also accomplished the following:

- Supported the approval of the Climate Action Plan 2022 Update by Council in March of 2022. The Commission heavily participated in the planning to ensure the update allowed Tempe businesses and residents to have tangible actions to partner with the City to create a citywide movement to reduce carbon emissions and become more resilient to extreme heat. The Commission's work and creating a coalition of support including reaching out to:
  - Community based organizations,
  - Business community stakeholders,
  - Non-profits and advocacy groups,
  - Residents,
  - Letter of support from Transportation Commission, and
  - Letter of support from Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission are continuing to support the three highlight actions outlined above. More specifically, the Commission held a retreat in June and identified opportunities to advance the highlight actions as members of committee. Work plans are being built out and progress reports will become a regular agenda item for accountability and progress.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission played a critical role in following, updating and educating members of the community about the progression of the Sustainability and Resilience Office (SRO) Budget process. SRO received historical funding levels from the Tempe City Council including four full time employees. Below summarizes the amounts approved and where the investment is intended to advance.

- Provided education and outreach to community members regarding Office of Sustainability's requests
  - Achieved historic investment into the Sustainability Office programs and personnel including:
    - Resilience and Sequestration - \$330,000
    - Climate Justice and Youth – \$125,000
    - Energy - \$60,000
    - Transportation - \$10,000

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission supported the City of Tempe Departments with advancing climate and sustainability goals by providing ideas and advice. The Commission has the opportunity to provide feedback to related department work and help integrate the principles of sustainability into every city program or project. Below is a summary of the feedback and projects that passed through the Commission:

- **Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Rate Study**
  - Commissioners provided a letter of support outlining their support for creating a line item for stormwater fee in addition to a request for an examination to determine if the city is allocating an appropriate amount of money for rebates and water conservation funding.
- **General Plan 2050**
  - A dedicated member of the Commission attends the Technical Advisory Commission for the drafting of the General Plan 2050. The Commission will also have the opportunity to review and contribute to the Chapter's SRO will be submitting to Long Range Planning Staff.
- **LEED for Cities and Community Carbon Disclosure**
  - Commission members have held staff accountable to increasing the earned rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and applying to become a LEED Certified City.
- **Adaptive Streets**
  - Commissioners provided feedback and program analysis for Tempe's first ever Adaptive Streets program coming out of the Transportation Department. Commissioners offered advice on community engagement opportunities and benefits for urban design and development.
- **Hayden Flour Mill**
  - Commissioners were provided an update from the selected development and design partners to re-develop the Historic Hayden Flour Mill. The Flour Mill is at the base of the Hayden Butte Preserve which is a traditional cultural property and a known archaeological site.
- **Grass Clippings at Rolling Hills**
  - Commissioners provided accolades for the proposal to reduce the footprint of grass associated with the golf course. Commissioners provided feedback to further reduce water usage at the site and discussed possibilities for additional sustainability elements like heat relief, urban cooling, energy efficiency, and composting site.

### **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 including: resilient energy hubs, transportation demand management and mobility hubs, electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure, green stormwater infrastructure standards and the adoption of the international green construction code. We would like to see the Mayor and Council pass a suite of policies in 2023 as it



relates to green codes. The Commission will also be supporting the development of the Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Feasibility Study. The Commission will provide guidance for staff and consultants during the analysis process, neighborhood pilots, prioritization and standards.

### **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:

- Adopt a Tempe Green Construction Code for private development
- Adopt a Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study
- Adopt Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Code and Standards Amendments
- 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
- Energy Equity Pilot Project
- Equitable and inclusive engagement in the Climate Action Plan Update focused on small businesses and residents with low incomes

### **Grant Implementation**

The Commission will support city staff in guiding the implementation of existing grants including United States Department of Agriculture Grow Local Tempe, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Cool Kids, Cool Places, Cool Futures, and State Farm Century of Gold grant.

### **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.



November 21, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council,

Kendon Jung  
Chair

Barbie Burke  
Vice Chair

Erin Boyd  
Member

Katja Brundiers  
Member

Meaghan Coon  
Member

Natalie Mendoza  
Member

Jake Swanson  
Member

Shawn Swisher  
Member

Morgan Winburn  
Member

As members of the Sustainability and Resilience Commission, made up of residents, experts, businesses, and advocates that guide and recommend climate action policy to the Tempe City Council, we are providing this letter of support for the 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission use equity one of a select set of guiding principles to lead our advice and recommendations to Council. The 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study valued equity practices which resulted in a policy and pricing structure that supports vulnerable and low-income water users. Simplifying and consolidating the water rate tier system allows for most single-family water users needs to be met within tier one, while also providing conservation signals for larger lot sizes. The Commission greatly supports the reduction of tiers for this purpose. We greatly appreciate the leadership of Tempe City Council and Municipal Utilities Department for investing in advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) that enables quality data collection and analysis which result in equitable policy recommendations.

The Sustainability and Resilience Commission also wanted to highlight the importance of this years Rate Study for including, for the first time, an acknowledgement and analysis of a stormwater fee. While this is not only good for tracking and recovery of regulatory requirements and expenses, it provides a future opportunity for capital investments. The simple fee structure for stormwater will enhance transparency and public understanding while also adding valuable data to the Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study. The Master Plan and Study is intended to discover strategies to deepen the cities investment in urban forestry, green stormwater infrastructure, and urban cooling. Tempe City Council's approval of the fee sets the city up with a sustainable funding stream and the ability to explore progressive strategies to manage extreme heat and stormwater in the future.

Members of the Commission are deeply appreciative of the staff from Municipal Utilities for their comprehensive approach to developing their recommendations to Council and their deep commitment to community engagement. The approval of the recommendations in the 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study will continue the City of Tempe's trajectory as being a climate leader in the valley. Tempe City Council's approval maintains strong conservation policy and positions the city to develop innovative strategies that will advance urban cooling and create a community resilient to extreme heat.

Best regards,

Chair, Kendon Chung  
Vice Chair, Barbie Burke

## General Governmental Program

### FY 2022/23 - FY2026/27 Initial Recommended CIP Project Listing

New project requests are underlined

Project Name	Proposed Funding Source(s)	Capital Budget Re-appropriations	New 2022-23 Appropriation Request	2022-23 Total Requested Appropriation	Additional Projected Needs				Total 5-Year Program
					2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	
<b>Engineering &amp; Transportation</b>									
<u>Community and Workplace Charging Infrastructure</u>	General Fund Cash Reserve-CIP	-	200,000	200,000	100,000	600,000	400,000		1,300,000
	General Obligations Bonds			-			200,000		200,000
Energy Conservation Program	General Obligation Bonds	100,000	275,000	375,000	200,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	1,100,000
	General Fund Cash Reserve-CIP	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	4,000,000
	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>1,275,000</b>	<b>1,375,000</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>1,175,000</b>	<b>1,175,000</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>5,100,000</b>
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Federal Grant Contingency	Federal Grants	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
<u>Green Infrastructure</u>	General Obligation Bonds	-	-	-	375,000	375,000	375,000	375,000	1,500,000
	General Fund Cash Reserve-CIP	-	150,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	150,000
	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>1,650,000</b>
<u>Resilient Energy Hubs &amp; Microgrids</u>	General Obligation Bonds	-	500,000	500,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,300,000
Solar Power Partnerships & Solar in City Facilities	General Obligation Bonds	660,368	300,000	960,368	150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,710,368

## FY22/23 Sustainability and Resilience Funding Summary

Resilience and Sequestration				
Rnk	Supplemental	Original Request	Approved Funding	Difference
1	Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study	250,000	250,000	0
3	Neighborhood Resilience Coordinator	107,750	107,750	0
6	Regional Resilience Initiative	25,000	25,000	0
7	Residential Green Stormwater Infrastructure	30,000	30,000	0
10	Climate-adapted Urban Forestry	25,000	25,000	0
22	Cooling Center Standards	20,000	0	NF
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>457,750</b>	<b>437,750</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Climate Justice and Youth				
Rnk	Supplemental	Original Request	Approved Funding	Difference
2	Youth Climate Engagement Coordinator	107,750	107,750	0
8	Local Food Access, Production and Entrepreneurship Roadmap	100,000	100,000	0
9	Indigenization and Land Stewardship program	25,000	25,000	0
12	Climate Justice and Indigenous Land Stewardship Specialist	97,450	0	NF
13	Backyard Garden Pilot Program	50,000	0	NF
14	Food Forest Program	50,000	0	NF
15	Local Food and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Specialist	97,450	0	NF
17	Food Entrepreneurship Training Pilot Program	20,000	0	NF
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>457,650</b>	<b>232,750</b>	<b>224,900</b>
Energy				
Rnk	Supplemental	Original Request	Approved Funding	Difference
11	Energy Equity Specialist	97,450	97,450	0
16	Energy Equity Program	50,000	50,000	0
19	Clean Energy Economy Roadmap	50,000	10,000	-40,000
23	Business Sustainability and Community Electric Vehicle Specialist	93,450	0	NF
20	Business Sustainability Platform	50,000	0	NF
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>340,900</b>	<b>157,450</b>	<b>183,450</b>
Office of Sustainability				
Rnk	Supplemental	Original Request	Approved Funding	Difference
4	Grant Management and Climate Policy Coordinator	107,750	\$107,750	0
5	Indian Bend Wash Landscaping	50,000	50,000	0
21	Operating Budget	10,000	5,491	4,509
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>167,750</b>	<b>163,241</b>	<b>4,509</b>
Transportation				
Rnk	Supplemental	Original Request	Approved Funding	Difference
18	Community EV Roadmap	30,000	10,000	-20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL \$563,441</b>				

## Resilience and Sequestration

Preparing for Tempe's future will allow our city to adapt to disturbances, such as extreme heat, while remaining a livable and equitable urban center.

**FTE (full time employee)**

**+ (joint department submission)**

**Total Resilience and Sequestrations Requests: \$426,781**

Resilient Tempe Master Plan and Utility Feasibility Study (#1) **+**

**(One-time \$250,000)**

Master Plan to develop vision for cooling, urban forestry and stormwater and feasibility study to determine implementation and funding options. Due to concerns of the General Fund handling of additional stormwater regulation personnel and program costs, this study is needed to determine the feasibility of creating a new urban cooling and stormwater to cover the increasing cost of compliance and the future costs of meeting Tempe's stormwater and urban cooling needs.

Neighborhood Resilience Coordinator **(#3)**

**(Recurring \$81,318)**

Tempe neighborhoods need support in working with schools, businesses, and residents to keep neighborhoods safe, cool, and connected. The Resilience Fellow will start Tempe's neighborhood resilience program, support resilient energy hubs, in partnership with Neighborhood Services, Community Services and Community Services.

Regional Resilience Initiative (#6)

**(One-time \$25,000)**

The initiative seeks to support Maricopa County in seeking competitive federal funding for resilience to extreme heat, electric vehicles and energy equity. The project also seeks to explore long-terming funding and financing solutions for urban forestry, green stormwater infrastructure and green buildings.

Residential Green Stormwater Infrastructure (#7)

**(\$30,000 Recurring)**

This reoccurring request would create a funding stream for neighborhood pilot projects that neighborhoods to apply to the City of Tempe to receive. These projects are critical for demonstrating to businesses and residents that curb cuts, bioswales and bulb-outs can be used to increase tree canopy and vegetation, while reducing potable water use.

Climate-adapted Urban Forestry (#10)

**(\$25,000 recurring)**

This request will build upon the work completed in the community last year at Thew Elementary School, McClintock High School and Tempe High School. The request covers contracted services for tree planting and outreach. This request will further advance the citywide 25% tree and shade canopy goal while prioritizing student walkways and playgrounds and providing educational platforms and future programming.

Cooling Center Standards (#22)

**(\$20,000 One-time)**

This request is to hire a consultant to come up with standard operating procedures for operating cooling centers including at the soon to be open EnVision Tempe. The standards will including guidelines for staffing, heat relief practices, communications, awareness outreach and energy cost saving practices.

International Green Construction Code\*\*

*(Community Development)*

This funding would support Community Development and Sustainability in staff training and consulting required to offer Developers the option of use of the International Green Construction Code. Use of the code

will support energy efficiency and promote use of shade and cool materials in order to ensure Tempe's buildings are prepared for the effects of climate

*\*\*Requests being submitted by different City Departments. More info when available.*

## Climate Justice and Youth

Investments that support implementation of the Climate Justice and Youth Agendas in the 2022 Climate Action Plan Update.

*FTE (full time employee)*

*+ (joint department submission)*

**Total Climate Justice and Youth Request: \$519,044**

Youth Climate Engagement Coordinator (#2)

**(\$87,750 recurring)**

Young people in Tempe want see the city further engage with school districts and school leadership and we heard a clear desire for programs that support youth in working on food access and production and transportation access.

Local Food Access, Production and Entrepreneurship Roadmap (#8)

**(\$100,000 one time)**

A roadmap for building the local food economy and increasing food access. The roadmap will address racial equity through ensuring that neighborhoods with high percentages of BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of color) residents have access to local food solutions.

Indigenization and Land Stewardship program (#9)

**(\$25,000 one time)**

This funding request will support the partnership, projects and policies that will be a result of the partnership with Indigenous Design Collaborative (IDC) that was established to produce projects that integrate Indigenous arts, culture, and design activities across Tempe.

Climate Justice and Indigenous Land Stewardship Specialist (#12)

**(\$97,450 recurring)**

This position comes out of the recommendations from the Climate Justice Agenda in Tempe's 2022 Climate Action Plan Update. Residents stated a need for the city to support more partners with community-based organizations and local tribes with transportation, urban cooling and land stewardship pilots.

Backyard Garden Pilot Program (#13)

**(\$50,000 one-time)**

Pilot program to support residents in growing food in backyards and on multi-family properties

Food Forest Program (#14)

**(\$50,000 one-time)**

Pilot to promote landscapes on public and private property that increase biodiversity and food production. The pilot would allow the City to select land, establish a for-profit or non-profit partner to develop a food producing and water responsible food forest that could include fruit trees, shrubs, vines and cacti.

Local Food and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Specialist (#15)

**(\$97,450 Recuring)**

This position will support growing Tempe local food economy and support residents and schools in creating local food and urban cooling pilot projects.

Food Entrepreneurship Training Pilot Program (#17)

**(\$20,000 one-time)**

The pilot will train a cohort of up to 30 Tempe residents to support the creation of new values-based food business focused on creating high quality jobs and sustainable and low carbon food products.

## Energy

The City of Tempe will work towards emissions reduction in municipal energy by working with key community stakeholders to create new plans and programs.

**FTE (full time employee)**

**+ (joint department submission)**

**Energy Total Requests: \$325,894**

**FTE**

Energy Equity Program (#16) **+**

**(Recurring \$50,000)**

Energy efficiency and clean energy have an opportunity to benefit the people that need it most. This funding would continue to support energy training for Tempe residents to provide resources on how to invest in energy efficiency and become involved in regional energy policy.

Energy Equity Specialists (#11) **+**

**(Recurring \$97,450)**

This position comes out of the recommendations from the Climate Justice Agenda in Tempe's 2022 Climate Action Plan Update. Residents that worked with Unlimited Potential stated a need for the city to support residents in navigating energy use and clean energy programs.

Clean Energy Economy Roadmap (#19)

**(One-time \$50,000)**

Tempe has an opportunity to work with Chamber of Commerce, APS, and SRP to define a roadmap for the clean energy economy. Workforce development, incentives, cooperative purchasing, and energy scoring are all potential methods to grow an economy around clean and renewable energy.

Business Sustainability Platform (#20)

**(One-time \$50,000)**

Partnership with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, APS, and SRP to ensure that Tempe businesses have the information and best practices for investing in energy efficiency. A website, workshops, and business support will ensure that Tempe businesses can benefit when we grow the clean energy economy in Arizona.

Business Sustainability and Community Electric Vehicle Specialist (#23)

**(\$93,450 Recuring)**

The business community stated a clear need for more outreach and communication and for my support in moving forward the adoption of electric vehicles by Tempe businesses. This position would develop electric vehicle roadmap and implement EV programs for residents and businesses.

EV Fleet Coordinator (Municipal Utilities) \*\*

Position to support Municipal Utilities Department in electrifying city owned fleet and charging stations.

*\*\*Requests being submitted by different City Departments. More info when available.*



## Office of Sustainability

The Office of Sustainability strives to make sustainability a fundamental aspect of policy work in Tempe by expanding the Office's involvement and engagement within city operations.

*FTE (full time employee)*

*+ (joint department submission)*

**Office of Sustainability Total Request: \$168,150**

Grant Management and Climate Policy Coordinator + (#4)

**(Recurring \$107,750)**

Develop regional, state, and federal policy solutions and develop grant proposals.

Indian Bend Wash Landscaping (#5)

**(Recurring \$50,000)**

Funding to keep Indian Bend Wash an active and thriving public space that showcases sustainability practices and organic landscaping.

Operating Budget (#21)

**(Recurring \$20,000)**

Additional funds are needed to support the Office of Sustainability in outreach, consulting services, and hosting regional meetings to move policy and programs forward. The Office survives on a \$10,000 budget, which makes it difficult to carry out the communications and marketing expected by residents and the Sustainability Commission.

## Transportation

Tempe will advance our multi-modal transportation system by investing in the necessary infrastructure to make public transit the preferred method of travel around Tempe.

**FTE (full time employee)**

**+ (joint department submission)**

**Transportation Total Request: \$30,000**

Community EV Roadmap (#18)

**(One-time \$30,000)**

This roadmap would coordinate efforts between the City of Tempe, MAG, APS, SRP, DTA, Tempe Chamber of Commerce, ASU, and other key stakeholders to develop a ten-year roadmap for electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure deployment. Cost/benefit analysis to determine carbon reduction, air quality, and public health benefits would help build evidence for the generational investment required to shift to a low carbon economy and transportation system.

Fleet Electric Vehicle Roadmap\*\*

**(Municipal Utilities in Fleet CIP)**

This roadmap will create a 5-year plan for investing in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure for Tempe's fleet. The plan will outline the investments required to reduce carbon emissions and improve the operations and maintenance of the city fleet. This investment will ensure Tempe is a leader in demonstrating how to reduce emissions and improve air quality through transitioning fleets to electric vehicles.

EV Solar Charging\*\*

**(Engineering and Transportation in Solar CIP)**

Solar charging during the day takes advantage of the sun to support clean transportation. By demonstrating the use of state-of-the-art solar sharing stations on city property, we hope to model solar workplace charging for the Tempe business community.

*\*\*Requests being submitted by different City Departments. More info when available.*