



Sustainability Year in Review

2013

City of Peoria Sustainability Mission Statement

The City of Peoria is committed to providing an environment in which our natural resources, our people and our economy are balanced. We will not compromise the future by focusing solely on the needs of today. We aspire to make Peoria a regional leader that develops, promotes and improves the quality of our community through sustainable practices.

Peoria Mayor & Council



Mayor
Bob Barrett



Vice Mayor
Tony Rivero
Acacia District



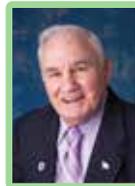
Councilmember
Bill Patena
Ironwood District



Councilmember
Cathy Carlat
Mesquite District



Councilmember
Ron Aames
Palo Verde District



Councilmember
Carlo Leone
Pine District



Councilmember
Jon Edwards
Willow District

Dear Mayor and Council:

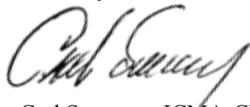
Peoria has a reputation of being an economically stable and forward-thinking city that truly cares about providing the best quality of life for its citizens. The city works hard to protect the environment and enhance the community while maintaining its fiscally sound standing. And thanks to your leadership, Peoria's future of being economically and environmentally sustainable is full of promise and opportunity.

Through your proven leadership with the adoption of the city's first Sustainability Action Plan, recognized as one of the first in the state, Peoria employees are using their talents and ingenuity to accomplish many of the city's goals. Though we faced our most trying times, the city has remained steadfast to ensure that sustainability continued to be at the forefront.

It's been more than a year since the Council adopted the Sustainability Action Plan and we would like to take a moment to share with you some of this past year's activities and accomplishments. In addition, this report will give you a look at some of the City's future projects.

We are proud of every step that moves us to becoming a more sustainable community. Every success, big and small, is recognized as an achievement which generates momentum towards more success. With your ongoing support and guidance, staff will continue to design innovative programs and develop efficiencies which help create a more sustainable city for today and the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Swenson', written in a cursive style.

Carl Swenson, ICMA-CM
City Manager

Focus Areas

The Sustainability Action Plan was adopted by the Peoria City Council in September 2012. This Year in Review report will provide you with our progress to date, as well as noteworthy accomplishments and community recognition.

Action Plan

- Management Practices
- Municipal Facilities and Community Building
- Transportation
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Water Resources
- Education and Outreach

The Sustainability Action Plan was one of the first three plans to be formally adopted by a city in Arizona. It is intended to provide staff a framework in which they can build upon with projects that keep these focus areas at the forefront. This past year, we developed projects and initiatives that provided immediate results and meaningful community impact.





Policy Goals

The City of Peoria's Sustainability Action Plan was developed taking into account the Council's policy goals. Sustainability impacts everything we do to make Peoria a great place to live, work and play. There are three pillars of sustainability: *Environmental, Economic and Social.*

Community Building - Enhancing Peoria's quality of life by maintaining our environmental commitment, economic strength and community livability.

Enhance Our Current Services - Implementing citywide efficiencies to grow and sustain a strong Peoria economy.

Preserve Our Natural Environment - Designing responsible growth management through land banking for parks and open space even within the built environment.

Total Planning - Planning for a sustainable future by balancing all three sustainability principles without sacrificing one for the other.

Economic Development - Creating opportunities for residents to work and live in Peoria thus reducing the environmental impact caused by commuting.

Enhancing Peoria's Leadership and Image - Making Peoria a community of choice by demonstrating our commitment to a quality of life that focuses on long-term success of our residents, economy and environment.





Municipal Facilities and Community Building

A direct measure of the impact of Energy Efficient Buildings is the energy demand per square foot. In 2007, the City Hall campus had an annual electrical demand of 3,500 kWh per square foot. By contrast, in 2012, annual electrical demand was only 2,250 kWh per square foot.

Energy-efficiency building practices, installation of LED lighting, and our citizens' request for more efficient customer-centric four 10-hour workdays have attributed to our energy use reductions.

With the addition of the Development and Community Services Building (DCSB) and the Municipal Court expansion, the City campus grew from 259,300 square feet to 341,500 square feet. The impact of energy reduction measures has resulted in a savings of \$450,000 per year.





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Green Building Design

The Peoria Community Center expansion is our second LEED Gold building. The Seattle Mariners and the City of Peoria are jointly pursuing a power purchase agreement for solar energy at the Peoria Sports Complex. And although the ball teams are aiming for Silver, maybe they'll go for Gold too!

There were eight Peoria staff members who participated in the construction of homes for Habitat for Humanity. The team documented the building process to obtain LEED certification for the homes. Two homes, located on Monroe Street, were constructed with a goal of achieving LEED Silver.



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Transportation

Peoria continually looks for innovative approaches to improve transportation throughout the city. Whether by foot, bike or car, we strive for better methods to enhance the quality of life for residents.

With all new project designs and construction projects, we incorporate new bike and pedestrian facilities, as well as add pavement overlays where available.

According to the **2013 Citizen Survey**, Peoria residents are recognizing improved traffic flow throughout the city. Over the past year we have added flashing yellows for improved efficiency at signalized intersections which reduces greenhouse gas emissions from idling. Other signal improvements include the installation of energy-efficient LED signal heads.

An example of how we are using best practices in the design and construction of new roadways is on the Lake Pleasant Parkway. This project re-uses inert material salvage for aggregate and landscape to reduce the amount of material sent to landfills.





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Recycling and Waste Reduction

Peoria is taking steps to ensure recycling opportunities exist at all city-owned facilities. This includes all public buildings such as those on the City Hall campus, Community Center, Rio Vista Recreation Center, Sunrise Mountain Library, and several others.

While recycling is currently available at several of Peoria’s neighborhood and community parks, plans are in place to implement additional receptacles in the near future for expanded access to recycling options.

In addition, there are several water fountains on the City Hall campus which track the amount of plastic water bottles eliminated when you drink from the fountain or refill your reusable water bottle. One fountain’s usage meter has shown that the water dispensed is the equivalent of more than 6,270 plastic water bottles.



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Water Resources

Up to 70% of water use associated with a building is outdoors. At the City's newer buildings, landscaping with Xeriscape principles has significantly reduced this water demand. Wherever available, reclaimed water is now used to serve these outdoor needs, including Centennial Park and the fountain at City Hall. Indoor water use is minimized by low flow fixtures in all of the newer City facilities, and are installed in older ones when replacements are otherwise needed.

In addition to expanding our reclaimed water customer base for non-potable uses at City facilities and HOAs, Peoria staff are currently undertaking the development of the city's first Integrated Water Master Plan to ensure this valuable and vital resource is available for future needs.

Public Works-Utilities Department (PW-U) completed its evaluation of energy efficiency at its remote sites in FY13. PW-U has reduced electric usage by 9.7% in FY13 as compared to FY12, as well as decreased costs by \$43,655 despite significant electric rate increases.

The PW-U's Environmental Resources Division continues to successfully manage the City's water resource portfolio, water quality, and conservation programs.





The Environmental Resource Division's conservation measures include 24 Arizona Department of Water Resource (ADWR) best management practices including the popular water conservation rebate program.

In addition, the City is partnering with the United States Bureau of Reclamation on two conservation focused grants that enhance public education and homeowner association irrigation system technology.

The City is also a regional partner of the popular and successful **Water Use It Wisely** program.

Enhanced **Sustainable U** educational programs for Peoria residents, and bigger and better sustainability events are increasing the awareness of the importance of sustainability in our community. We've already shown that LEED Gold buildings are attainable, and we continue to use LEED best practices in all of our new construction projects, including best water use practices.

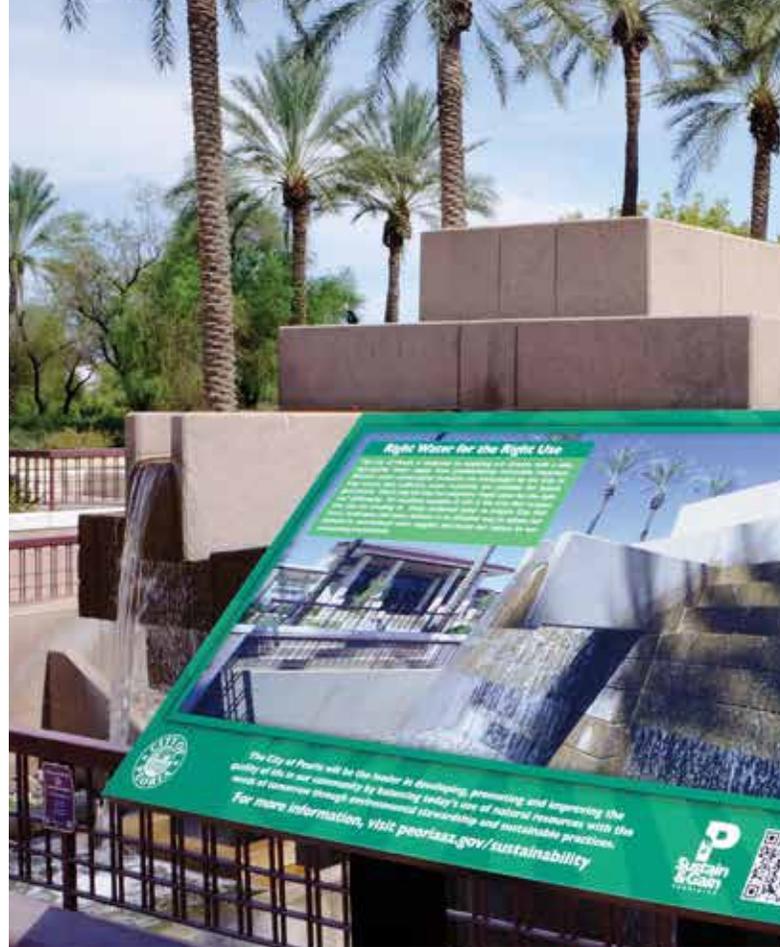


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Education and Outreach

We've made a lot of progress this past year in the development of a cohesive marketing plan for our educational workshops and programs around sustainability, including landscaping, residential solar usage, and more. The City's water resources workshops are now marketed under the **Sustainable U** program. Through this cross-departmental collaboration we are able to create efficiencies and increase the city's economic sustainability.

Part of our education and outreach effort included several family oriented film screenings that touch on the sustainability message. We had two outdoor films, one at Centennial Plaza, one at Sunrise Mountain High School, and we also offered summer films in the library.



FREE WATER CO & LANDSCAPING



We recently included a **Sustainable U for Teachers** to provide knowledge and educational tools for expansion of their environmental curriculum. We also added Sustainable U class offerings at the Sunrise Library including one aimed for the kids to teach them how to reuse and repurpose everyday items headed for the trash.

The City Hall campus has many great “green assets.” Through a campus signage project, completed in FY14, visitors can learn about our municipal campus sustainability programs.



CONSERVATION NG CLASSES

RECYCLE

SUSTAINABLE

WATER CONSERVATION

FOR TEACHERS!

GROWING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE STARTS IN THE CLASSROOM.

Awards and Recognition

The City of Peoria has received recognition for the staff's hard work and commitment to sustainable practices. At the Arizona Forward 33rd Annual Environmental Excellence Awards, Peoria was recognized with one of the highest honors – the Crescordia Award - for our use of solar lighting at our Westwing Neighborhood Park, located in north Peoria.

The City Hall green campus won an award of merit in the Site Development and Landscape–Public Sector category.

In July, Engineering Planning Manager, Shawn Kreuzwiesner, and Environmental Resources Supervisor, Mike Buettner were awarded with the Dare to Be Green Award for their innovation and leadership. Shawn for his dedication to developing the Sustainability Action Plan and Mike for the on campus recycling initiative.

Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, Lisa Estrada and Shawn Kreuzwiesner received the City Manager's Excellence Award for their Leadership in Environmental Sustainability. Lisa was also chosen to represent Peoria, (as one of three cities) to participate in an ASU Sustainability Initiative "Creating the Cities of the Future."

A member of our Public Works-Utilities Department received national recognition this past year. Environmental Resources Manager, Robin Bain was designated a Public Works Leadership Fellow (PWLF) by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Ms. Bain also received the 2012 Person of the Year Award from the international WateReuse Association.





Building on the Past & Looking Towards the Future

Looking ahead, we plan on doing more great things. Despite the fragile national and statewide economy, employees remain dedicated to pursuing green initiatives and ensuring that sustainability remains a priority. Through Mayor's and Council's continued leadership and vision for the future, we are able to make Peoria a community that is sustainable for years to come.

Staff will continue to:

- Ensure that the goals and objectives are feasible and supported
- Continue to develop projects and initiatives to deliver sustainable outcomes
- Develop benchmarks, performance measurements and periodic checkpoints
- Partner with ASU and other community partners to leverage resources and expertise

To learn more about Peoria's sustainability initiatives, programs and outreach, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/sustainability. You can also like us on Facebook at City of Peoria's Sustain & Gain.





City of Peoria

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