

## City of Peoria Sustainability Action Plan

### Sustainability Action Plan- Final

The City launched a sustainability program in May 2009, in direct response to the fiscal crisis and budget shortfall that affected the City's ability to fund programs. The City Council has created the vision for energy efficiency and fiscal responsibility. Staff has been working to develop programs at the budgetary and operational level, in order to implement the vision that has been created.

In terms of sustainability, as the goals are applicable to every department and the resources are shared, staff members who serve in a variety of functions within the organization are involved in this process. The Sustainability Committee has been successful in identifying an agenda and putting together a plan of action since May 2009. As of February 2010, the City has made significant progress on the Sustainability Action Plan, which encompasses the City's goals and tangible action plans for cost effective green practices, as well as the benefits of goal implementation. It is an inventory of accomplishments indicating that the departments at large have produced results that are in line with the broader vision of environmental protection and fiscal responsibility.

In terms of community-wide focus, The City will integrate planning for land-use, transportation, energy, waste, water, and green space. We look at our city as an integrated system in which density is the key to the development of new transport and renewable energy systems, and will help us meet our targets for greenhouse gas reductions and green buildings. Sustainability is a long range view of a community that allows all members to participate, and acknowledges the links between the economic, environmental and social aspects of a community. We will meet our future targets for sustainable development while producing financial savings in City operations.

**Sustainability:**

"... the deliberate effort to ensure that community development not only enhances the local economy, but also the local environment and quality of life."

- *Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development*



## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Sustainability Categories

#### Energy Management

*Purpose: Reduce our carbon footprint by seeking out clean technologies and renewable energy sources.*

Category Leader: Walt Begley

A. Reduce light pollution and energy consumption.



#### Change to high efficiency light bulbs in government buildings, street lighting and traffic lights

**Team: Walt Begley**

Short term

Status: Traffic lights (red and green) were converted to LED in 2006. At the current time, all new traffic lights are LED. Under the EECB grant, staff will set up several test sites in the city and negotiate with utilities to lower rates. The City is also setting up test areas for LED office lighting (using grant funding). The City currently has two projects that will be implemented in the next year (both federally funded), in order to add and replace existing pedestrian lights with new LED fixtures along 84th Ave, 83rd Ave, Washington St, and Grand Ave. We have chosen 64-watt LED fixtures in place of the 150-watt high pressure sodium fixtures. Both systems will be on APS electric meters; therefore it will be possible to measure the energy savings that is generated.

#### Identify grant opportunities, Attain new grants for energy efficiency

**Team: Tammy Shreeve**

Short term

Status: The City received the \$1.3 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Federal Government, which will provide funding for undertaking vital energy efficiency projects. Grant Coordinator Tammy Shreeve will continue to pursue energy grants from both state and federal sources.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Accomplishments

#### Utilize LED (Light-Emitting Diode) lighting for pedestrian cross walk signals

**Team:** Ronald Amaya, Jamal Rahimi

Done

Status: All of our traffic signal indications are LED. Peoria uses the Dialight 9-watt Pedestrian Head signals. All signal modules utilize Hi-flux LEDs rated at 1-watt or higher. These signal modules use temperature-compensated power supplies, to ensure longer LED life. They use the industry's lowest power standard for all colors.

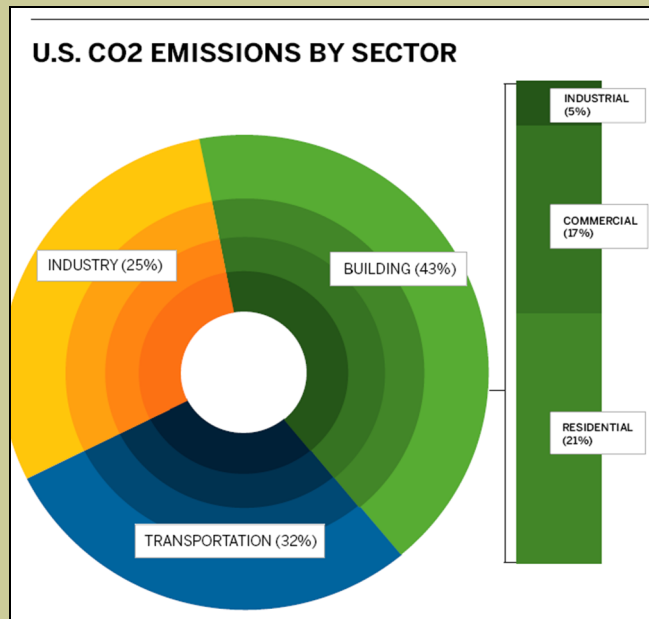
B. Increase efficiencies in building uses, and employee activities and functions; develop renewable energy mechanisms.

#### Conduct a GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions audit to establish baselines on the City emissions level

**Team:** Susan J. Daluddung, Bill Mattingly, Jesse Duarte

Short Term

Status: The City is in the process of completing a GHG emissions audit, which will help establish a carbon emissions reduction goal. Reducing local emissions will have the effect of reducing local air pollutants and will also help in the broader national effort to mitigate the effects of global warming. Goal: Reduce Peoria's greenhouse gas emissions level to 33% below 2000 levels by 2020.



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### Develop an energy plan that requires a certain goal for overall energy use reduction in City facilities

**Team: Walt Begley**

Long Term

Status: In February of 2009, the City created a goal to reduce energy consumption at the Municipal Office Complex by 10% over the following twelve months. After the first twelve months of measurements, the City has reduced electrical consumption at the complex by 12%. Our reduction in kilowatt-hours (kWh) has been 1,129,320 kWh, compared to our goal of 943,108 kWh. This has resulted in a dollar savings of over \$100,000. According to the Department of Energy, the average household in the United States uses 11,040 kilowatt-hours a year. Based upon this number, our savings is equivalent to the energy use of 102 average households per year. 1,129,320 kWh is the equivalent of 894 tons of carbon dioxide.

Our new goal is to reduce our energy consumption by 20% by 2012. This means we still have 8% in reduction to go. Thanks to the recent retrofit of the City Hall Chiller system along with the retrofit of site lighting to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology, we plan to exceed the 20% goal by February of 2011.

### Develop solar energy

**Team: Bill Mattingly, Walt Begley**

Ongoing

Metrics: The benefits of solar power include a reduction in energy consumption. Solar provides cost effective lighting and is a renewable energy source. It reduces local pollution, offsets greenhouse gases, and conserves the use of costly conventional sources of energy. The



photovoltaic system at Beardsley will produce a 20-30% reduction in the administration building's power bill. (This system is expected to provide 26% of the power required for running the Beardsley Operations Building). This reduction in power will be equivalent to planting 379 trees annually, or a reduction of 75 tons of carbon dioxide. Other Metrics: Annual energy bill savings from the production of solar; annual KW of solar installed; Annual GHG emissions level reduced

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due to the installation of solar; Number of private sector solar PV installations per year.

Status: The Solar Voltaic Pilot project has been constructed at the Beardsley Water Reclamation Facility. It is a 50kW (kilowatt hour) Photovoltaic System. **Peoria ranks No. 3** in Arizona (and tops in the West Valley) in solar energy permitting, according to the Vote Solar Initiative, which assessed Arizona governments in terms of the time and cost associated with solar permitting. **Tessera Solar and Salt River Project have** partnered to complete a 1.5- megawatt (MW) solar project, Maricopa Solar LLC, in Peoria. Maricopa Solar is the first commercial-scale solar facility built using the innovative SunCatcher solar-thermal technology, manufactured by Scottsdale, Arizona-based Stirling Energy Systems (SES). The project consists of 60 SunCatcher dishes and serves as a milestone for the nationwide deployment of the larger commercial projects previously announced in California and Texas totaling more than 1,600 MW.

5/20/2010- The City of Peoria partnered with Salt River Solar & Wind and the Theater Works organization in an effort to ensure solar power development. Salt River Solar & Wind has constructed solar power panels on the roof of the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts facility in old town Peoria. Theater Works Executive Director Jack Lytle, Mayor Bob Barrett and Salt River Solar & Wind's Owner/General Manager Mike Fricker made speeches at the Solar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 19, 2010 at the Center for the Performing Arts.

### Development of wind energy pilot project at the Lake Pleasant Fire Modular

**Team: Ed Striffler**

Long Term

Status: This was done as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The City designed and constructed a pilot non-grid scale wind energy project. Two residential/small commercial, pole-mounted wind turbines have been built at Peoria Fire Station #9, which is located at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. A component of this project is to include educational signage.



## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Accomplishments

#### Transition to efficient lighting use in the City's Public Housing Authority

**Team: Carin Imig, Millie Peterson, Debbie Stone**

Done, November 2009

Status: The Peoria Housing Authority, which owns public-housing units in the city that are operated by the Housing Authority of Maricopa County, replaced more than 400 incandescent light bulbs at its Parkview Estates location with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) donated by APS. (Parkview Estates is a 45-unit housing complex occupied solely by elderly and disabled residents). Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) save about \$30 over their lifetime and pay for themselves in about 6 months. They use 75 percent less energy and last about 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.



## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Partnerships

Category Leaders: Glen Van Nimwegen and Lisa Estrada

Purpose: Form partnerships with various public and private organizations, to encourage cooperation in the efforts to unify conservation measures, and bring a regional perspective to sustainability, planning and transportation efforts.



### Accomplishments

#### Participate in Valley Forward

Team: Glen Van Nimwegen

Currently participating

Status: The City of Peoria received excellent scores in Valley Forward's 2008 Environmental Report Card. The City received a grade of A- in Air Quality, A in Land Use, A- in Transportation, and an A in Water. The City received Valley Forward's Environmental Excellence Award of Merit for the Peoria Central School Restoration Project in 1998. The City also won an Environmental Excellence Award of Merit for the Design Review Manual in 1998.

Planning and Community Development Director Glen Van Nimwegen is a member of the Valley Forward Board of Directors. The Valley Forward Association brings business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to promote cooperative efforts to improve the environment and livability of Valley communities.

#### Partner with educational institutions such as the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University to gain a further understanding of growth and energy implications

Team: Lisa Estrada, Seth Blumen

Done

Status: The Sustainable Cities Network provides Peoria with a forum to network with local

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professionals and foster community and regional sustainability through the exchange of findings and updates on progress that cities are making in the areas of environmental protection, social equity and sustainable economic development.



## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Open Space and Green Space

Category Leader: Jeff Sargent

*Ensure the protection of an ecologically-functioning network of critical open space areas, restore natural habitats, and accelerate urban reforestation in order to create recreation areas and pristine environments that are free from pollution and construction.*



**Open Space Preservation, Conservation and Acquisition Study (Open Space Master Plan).**  
**Promote the establishment and protection of large contiguous tracts of native desert, significant landscapes, cultural resources, critical watersheds, habitats, and scenic resources**

**Team: Jeff Sargent, Glen Van Nimwegen, Shawn Kreuzwiesner, Ed Boik, Chris Jacques, Kris Luna, Adina Lund.**

Long Term (12-18 months, implementation follows)

Metrics: Cataloging, definition, and prioritization of prime scenic, cultural, and sensitive lands that should be acquired and/or protected by the City. Public open space also functions to provide aesthetic and psychological relief from urban development. Goal: 70% of citizens will live within ¼ mile of green space by the year 2030.

Status: Jeff Sargent has been researching documents published by the Sonoran Institute, the Trust for Public Lands, Arizona Game and Fish, M.A.G., and the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve, among others. Staff have been working with GIS technicians to gain a graphic picture of where the City needs to focus preservation and conservation efforts. This effort has already paid off with a few parcels having been identified early as being vulnerable to development pressure. These parcels are currently being considered for acquisition or protection under current ordinances and codes. The City has identified numerous Cultural sites to be preserved around Calderwood Butte. At the Casa de Piedras site, on the West bank of the Agua Fria, there are Hohokam Indian ruins (+/- 300 acres worth). Half of the site is on State Land, the other half is protected by the current Cemex quarry operator. They are located between Loop 303 and the Agua Fria river.

The City has made an effort to preserve numerous petroglyphs (ancient rock engravings), which have been stored over the past couple of years at the Jomax Wastewater Treatment Plant. They have been awaiting repatriation to Calderwood Butte (from where they were salvaged during the

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Tierra del Rio grading). Plans are underway to create a bench and circular landing on top of the Butte with some of the more prominent petroglyphs grouted into a space between benches. The larger boulders and glyphs will eventually be used at either the trailhead off Jomax (if and when the Tierra del Rio land swap is finalized) or at the trailhead link in Community Park #3.

### Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within 1 mile of every city resident

**Team: Jeff Sargent, Chris Jacques, Rebecca Zook, Kirk Haines.**

Ongoing. (Implementation will be through development cases.)

Status: The City's most recent Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan identifies a neighborhood park within a half mile of every section of land – which generally means 1 park for every square mile. The parks may be private, but will have to meet City standards to qualify as the “neighborhood” park for a section; The City will determine the percent of green space per neighborhood.



### Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect- Accelerate urban re-forestation

**Team: Jeff Sargent, Erik Wilson, Kirk Haines, Chris Jacques**

Ongoing.

Metrics: Trees provide shade, carbon exchange, stormwater retention, and oxygenation of the environment. They assist in reducing the urban heat island effect.

Status: The City has achieved "Tree City USA" status. 1. Determine baseline information. 2. City will be conducting a tree inventory over the next 1-2 years. 3. The City will update irrigation systems, and install new ones as necessary. 4. The City will conduct annual maintenance of newly planted trees for the first 5 years. 5. The City partnered with APS to replant hundreds of mature native plants along Happy Valley Road (APS donated the plants from a current transmission line project). 6. The City is in the process of establishing a holding yard for salvaged trees at the Pinnacle Peak Public Safety Administration Building.



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*Implement a Shade Ordinance.*

**Discourage / control All Terrain Vehicle use and desert dumping (encourage regular area-wide cleanup on a scheduled basis). Develop a strategy for the control and elimination of PM-10 dust pollution**

**Team: Police Chief Larry Ratliff, Scott Lekan**

Short term

Metrics: The improvement of air quality and the protection of desert species. Metrics: 165 written warnings were given to dust control violators (off road vehicles) between September 2009 and January 2010.

Status: The City has begun working on efforts to comply with not only our PM-10 ordinance but the Maricopa County DEQ PM-10 dust control measures. A partnership was established with The State Land Department to enforce and educate Off-Highway Vehicles. The City gave 165 written warnings to individuals in violation of the dust control policies between September 5, 2009 and January 3, 2010. All of the individuals were educated on new dust ordinances and told to leave. The individuals were also educated about State Trust Land, how to obtain a State trust land permit, where to obtain an OHV decal, and where they can ride legally. A person from each group was issued a written warning. In an effort to combat dust and particulate matter in the air, Peoria has purchased a new "green" street sweeper. The sweeper's engine puts out 50 to 90 percent less hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emissions than a regular diesel. It will emit 30 to 50 percent less particulate matter with almost no visible exhaust.

**Encourage healthy food options in neighborhood centers. Reduce the number of "food deserts" – large geographic areas that have no grocery stores/health food stores or that have distant mainstream grocery stores. Create effective land use policies to encourage access to food markets. Create "food balance"- the availability of healthy food options close to home. Possible City goal: Provide a means for citizens to order food from healthy food retailers and provide pick-up locations at the City municipal complex**

**Team: Susan Thorpe, Susan Daluddung, JP de la Montaigne, Glen Van Nimwegen, Jeff Sargent, Scott Whyte, Jeff Tyne, Seth Blumen**

Long Term

Status: Food deserts are large geographic areas that have no grocery stores/health food stores or that have distant mainstream grocery stores. Just living in a food desert can be a social determinant of health. A systematic review of food deserts, published in 2009 by Beaulac and

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colleagues, states that “food deserts exist in the United States where area-level deprivation compounds individual disadvantage.” Diet plays a key role in overall health, but it is difficult to maintain a healthy diet without access to healthy foods. Food balance means that you can easily choose, at least in terms of distance, “good” kinds of food as easily as “bad” kinds of food. The City is pursuing the addition of a Whole Foods Market, a Fresh and Easy, and a True Foods Restaurant, which serve healthy/organic food. The City is exploring the possibility of developing a system in which local citizens can order healthy/produce and food online and pick up their food purchases at local City facilities such as the Library. Delivery will require thought and coordination. An alternate viable pick-up option might be the Community Center at 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jefferson. In the spirit of public-private partnerships, the City will give opportunity for non-profit organizations, schools and health-care institutions to participate. This could be in the form of manpower, resources, or facilities.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Transportation

*Purpose: Create a range of transportation choices and provide for connectivity; Decrease commuter road congestion; Create the efficient use of existing urban services and facilities, as an alternative to extending new facilities; Encourage energy conservation through reduced reliance on the automobile.*

Category Leader: Jamal Rahimi/Maher Hazine

A. Encourage transit-oriented developments that address all transportation options (vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, bus and rail). Increase the use of public transit amongst the public.



Team: Dave Moody, Chris Jacques, Jamal Rahimi, Jeff Sargent, Adam Pruett, Brandon Forrey, Rebecca Zook. Maher Hazine

Short Term

**Provide for safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings of collector, arterial or key intersections where high vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic volumes are common or anticipated. Meet ADA requirements for crosswalks. Provide additional space for pedestrians to ensure safe sidewalks and crosswalks**

Team: Jamal Rahimi, Brandon Forrey, Rebecca Zook

Short Term

Status: ADA requirements are met. There are 47 signalized intersections along bike routes that have crosswalks and pedestrian signals. Increase % of bike and pedestrian trips. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements are mandatory in the construction of new sidewalks/crosswalks. The City has 1 pedestrian-only traffic signal at Peoria Avenue and the New River bridge. There are 47 signalized intersections along bike routes that have crosswalks and pedestrian signals.

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**Encourage site planning, and transit-oriented design around future express route light rail and commuter rail transit centers to emphasize the ease and safety of pedestrian circulation. Add capacity in critical corridors – Add road lanes, new or expanded public transportation facilities, and larger bus and rail fleets to the local community**

**Team: Glen Van Nimwegen, Susan J. Daluddung, Andy Granger, Chris Jacques, Dave Moody, Rebecca Zook**

Long Term

Metrics: Peoria should be a community where people can circulate and meet their daily needs without depending on their cars, but where the car is recognized as a means of transportation and accommodated when necessary and feasible. Goal: By 2020, at least 30% of Peoria residents should use alternative transportation (non automobile) to get to work.

Status: Multi-Modal Transportation Plan- This study will create a Transit Master Plan for Peoria, and will include all methods of transit- bus line routes, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and para-transit (Dial-A-Ride). In addition, the Trails Master Plan will conduct a bus stop study to identify new locations along with the creation of design standards to be integrated into new and existing bus stops. The master plan will also develop a 5-year bus implementation plan. The consultant will undertake the development of the plan, in coordination with the Study Advisory Group, made up of key City staff. The public will be presented with several public transportation options for the Old Town transit corridor in April 2010. A formal recommendation will be made by the City Council and City staff in October 2010.

B. Encourage and support the development of a multi-modal path and trail network as an alternative safe route that connects with adjacent regional networks.

**Team: Jeff Sargent, Brandon Forrey**

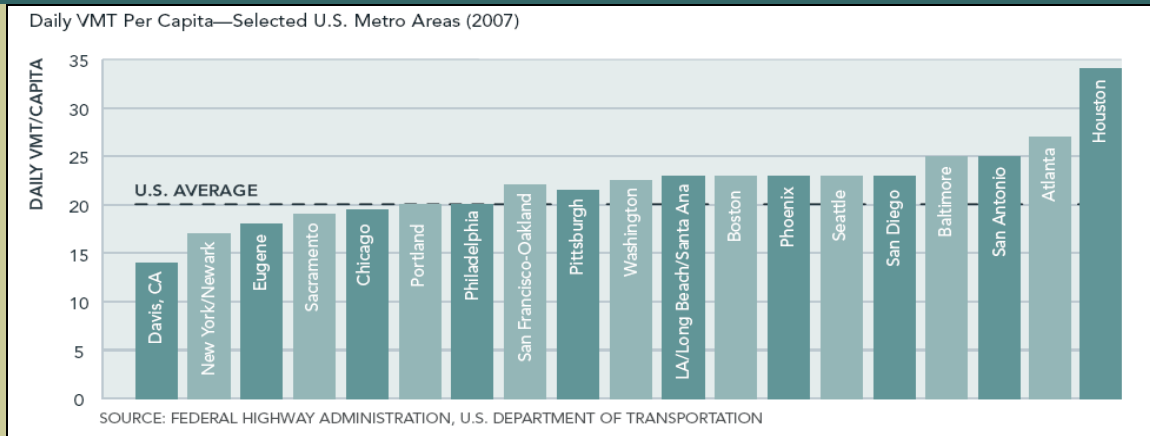
**Support walking and biking by providing bike route maps in various locations throughout the City**

**Team: Brandon Forrey**

Short Term

Status: A draft City-wide Bike Lane/Route Map has been prepared. MAG Bikeways maps have been made available at city facilities such as Rio Vista Park. The bike maps have been posted on the City's website and brochures have been made available to the public.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN



### Accomplishments

**Monitor and update a city-wide Bicycle Development Plan as a supplement to the City of Peoria Trails Master Plan, addressing access to trails, parks, schools, and major commercial and employment areas**

**Team: Brandon Forrey**

Done

Metrics: The annual trip reduction surveys will give the percentage of Peoria citizens who regularly commute by bike to work. Brandon Forrey is working on a MAG committee that is developing measurable bike and ped performance measures (which is a very difficult task). On collector streets, 59% of road miles have bike lanes. 24.7% of total arterial road miles have bike lanes. 1% of total arterial road miles have bike routes. 4.5% of collector street miles have bike routes.

Status: The City has accepted the bike plan which addresses how to add bike lanes to the existing arterial system. The City is actively retrofitting major CIP projects to include more bike lanes.

### C. Improve transportation options for the community/End Vehicle Idling

**Partner with MAG and Valley Metro Rail in the identification and adoption of a light rail route that extends from the Glendale and/or Phoenix route into the West Valley**

**Team: Susan J. Daluddung, Dave Moody**

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Long Term

Status: Under review

### Accomplishments

#### Follow anti-idling regulations/ Incorporate Anti-Idling technology for City vehicles

Team: Maher Hazine

Done

Status: The City follows the standards set forth by the Maricopa County anti-idling policy for heavy duty diesel engines. Solid Waste vehicles use anti-idling technology/equipment. The Public Works department is exploring the use of a hybrid street-sweeper.

D. Seek local, state, and federal funding sources that provide funds for multi-modal transportation and better connect the community to the City's open space areas.

#### Participation in the Grand Avenue Coalition

Team: City Council

In progress

Metrics: The pressures of recent growth in the Valley will require viable public transportation options such as commuter rail. Commuter rail is larger, heavier and roomier than light rail. It travels at a higher speed and emphasizes park-and-rides. The system proposed by MAG would use existing rail lines, including the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway line along Grand Avenue.

Status: Councilman Ron Aames is a member of the Grand Avenue Coalition, made up of West Valley and Phoenix leaders, a coalition of local officials that is pushing forward on a study to find the necessary funding for a commuter rail line that would run along the Grand Avenue corridor, linking to other parts of the Valley.



## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Sustainable Development

*Purpose: Reduce the effect of urban sprawl; Promote neighborhood-centric activity centers that employ a smart growth development template. Create walkable communities and, where applicable, transit-oriented development. Benefits will be: Economic development and improved tax base; Revitalization of downtowns, main streets, and neighborhood centers; development of needed housing that is close proximity to jobs and services.*

**Benefits of Redevelopment include:** *Reduction of urban sprawl and preservation of green space, mitigation of crime and safety issues associated with abandoned property, attraction of new tenants and small businesses, Promotion of sustainable growth.*



in

Category Leader: Chris Jacques

A. Revitalize and/or redevelop established and emerging urban cores. Reduce the negative effect of accelerated growth and urban sprawl through mixed use development and infill development in the Sports Complex and Old Town Areas.

**Team: Chris Jacques, Maria Laughner**

Long Term

**Adopt a Specific Area Plan for the Sports Complex Area (570 acres), in order to establish mixed-use, walkable, and thematic elements**

**Team: Chris Jacques**

Long Term

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Metrics: Jobs created in the 570 acre vicinity of the Sports Complex Area; City Council adoption of the plan; development density; street grid density (see LEED Core Concepts manual).

Status: § The Peoria Sports Complex Area Urban Design Plan is under review (Complete 2010).

**Mixed-Use and Infill Development- Capitalize on existing community assets such as schools, parks, transit and other infrastructure; and create new community assets. Create an area for major growth in new housing and employment opportunities. Create a well-integrated mixture of residential, employment, commercial, and civic uses, interdependent on quality transit service, surrounding a town center. Create mixed use centers consisting of primary employment generators and secondary retail, industrial, and residential uses**

Team: Chris Jacques

Long Term

Metrics: General Plan actions have been taken to create high density development; Number or % of new mixed-use development projects or conversions in the Sports Complex vicinity.

Status: Preparation of recommended development regulations for the study area, in order to foster an integrated, destination-oriented and pedestrian-focused mixed-use environment are underway. The following elements will be included: Transition of density levels including appropriate setbacks; shared parking standards and height and bulk requirements; and potential “green” development opportunities and design standards. The Multi-Modal Transportation Plan is in process and will consider both commuter rail and light rail options. The Circulation Plan will mitigate existing traffic impacts and enhance the area as a destination-oriented and pedestrian-focused mixed-use entertainment area.

**Adopt a Specific Area Plan for the Old Town area and vicinity (4 sq. miles)**

Team: Chris Jacques, Rob Gubser

Short Term

Metrics: community connectivity; street grid density (see LEED manual).

Status: § Old Town Area Plan adopted (Dec, 2009)

**Public Spaces- Establish accessible public spaces and ensure the design of unique features and thematic elements**

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**Team: Rob Gubser, Melissa Sigmund**

Short Term

Status: The Old Town retail core will focus on intricate and pedestrian-scaled, mixed-use infill development and rehabilitation that reflect traditional old town charm. The Old Town plan calls for future development that transforms the Southern Peoria core into an area with a diversity of cultural and entertainment-oriented uses. The City will create an identity for Old Town by integrating identity into: street furniture, light poles, way-finding signage, entry monuments, and historic markers. The City will ensure a wide range of uses in the Old Town area, such as cafés, art/culture, book shops, and outdoor dining.

### **Mixed Use Development/Transit/Pedestrian Options- Incorporate Vertical Mixed Use Development with future transit infrastructure**

**Team: Chris Jacques, Rob Gubser**

Long Term

Metrics: Proximity of neighborhoods to services and amenities through mixed land use (zoning); Number or % of new mixed-use development projects or conversions in the Old Town vicinity; diversity of uses or housing types.

Status: The Old Town Revitalization Plan's guiding principles are to improve the Old Town area's economic vitality; nurture Old Town's unique character; accentuate a sense of place; enhance connectivity; create usable, accessible transit areas; reinforce walkability and safety; connect quality streets and open space; and stimulate sustainable development.

B. Promote neighborhood-centric activity centers that employ a smart growth development template and integrate a mix of uses, multi-modal circulation options, public spaces and other elements.

**Team: Chris Jacques, Scott Cooper, Maria Laughner, Jamal Rahimi**

**Encourage an appropriate mix of jobs, housing, cultural attractions and recreational opportunities within each neighborhood center / core. Support the diversification of the economy by enhancing economic activity in a number of areas, including: University education; and health/medicine/research**

**Team: Maria Laughner**

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### Long Term

Metrics: Successful achievement of goal #3 will include the construction and opening of a 4 year university and graduate schools; Capital investment data; a 1:1 job to workforce ratio; Creation of new "green" jobs, and determining the number of jobs with benefits. Define green job market by type: professional support services, corporate energy providers, finance and venture capital firms, not-for-profits, green-related associations, and technology companies.

Status: The Economic Development Division is in the process of developing a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that will support a diverse job market in Peoria's future. The City has established a goal to add sports/arts related entertainment facilities/features to the Arrowhead Entertainment District. Another goal is to bring a 4 year university to Peoria.

**Identify vacant and/or underutilized sites that can be targeted for economic growth. Encourage the redevelopment of greyfield sites (old malls and commercial sites that are no longer economically viable)**

**Team: Maria Laughner, Chris Jacques**

### Short Term

Metrics: Adoption of the Commercial Rehabilitation Program, a 5 year program. Since January 2008, Peoria has redeveloped 4 vacant big box sites for proper use. New retailers have been added to vacated shopping facilities. Success metric: Capital investment; Acres of land redeveloped; Percent of land area that is natural, modified, or degraded.

Status: The Economic Development Department will identify underutilized sites and adopt plans for reinvestment and redevelopment. The City will utilize innovative financial and remediation techniques in order to expedite and cleanup greyfield sites and allow for new opportunities for investment and activity in previously vacant or hazardous sites throughout the City. A list of sites to be targeted for economic growth has been developed for areas south of Bell Road. Economic Development will implement a Land Assembly strategy as part of the broader effort to revitalize the local economy. The City is also working with developers to encourage land acquisition and redevelopment. The Commercial Rehabilitation Program will be finalized and presented to Council in Spring 2010.

C. Develop a program which encourages public and private sustainable development.

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### Increase training of City of Peoria staff in sustainable development. Identify key City of Peoria staff for potential USGBC LEED credentialing

**Team: Ed Striffler**

Short Term

Metrics: # of staff members that will be trained in LEED standards as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant project and Greenbuild Expo.

Status: This will be done as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The City has identified 17 staff members across the Capital Construction, Economic Development, Budget, Planning, Building Safety, and Facilities Maintenance Divisions to pursue the LEED Green Associate credential. Of the 17, four have been identified to seek the higher LEED Accredited Professional credentialing from USGBC in the areas of Existing Building Operations & Maintenance, LEED for Neighborhoods, and LEED for New Construction.



### Accomplishments

### Incorporate a sustainability policy statement in the General Plan Amendment establishing LEED Silver as the target achievement for new City construction and LEED-like design considerations as the target achievement where a LEED rating is not practical or is otherwise unattainable

**Team: Adam Pruett, Chris Jacques**

Done

Status: Done. The Environmental Resources Chapter of the 2009 General Plan Amendment includes a goal to improve and promote public and private sustainable practices. Within this goal, there is a policy establishing LEED Silver certification as the target achievement for new municipal buildings.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

*Purpose: Create efficiencies in city operations by reducing the number of office machines in use, standardizing the procurement of future office equipment, and reducing the need for paper. Expand the recycling program and minimize toxic products in City operations.*



Category Leader: Jesse Duarte

A. Increase the use of green office supplies while reducing costs. Encourage green procurement standards by purchasing recycled material. Reduce the need for paper.

Team: Dan Zenko, Mary Schmidt, Gerald Jackson

#### Accomplishments

##### Inventory, test the functionality of, and implement green products

Team: Dan Zenko

Done

Metrics: We have increased our use of recycled products to approximately 70% of items purchased (up from 14%). In addition, a rough projection of expenditures on office supplies indicates a spending reduction of 38%. The City has produced a total savings of \$124,380 in the purchase of recycled products and green office supplies between 2008 and 2009. The City won Office Depot's Green customer award in 2009 for these reduction efforts.

Status: Materials Management has already completed a study regarding the procurement of green/recycled materials. A substantial financial savings has resulted from this effort (\$124,380).

##### Implement an e-billing program for utility payments to the City from customers.

Team: Brent Mattingly, Vicki Rios

Done

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Metrics: This will reduce the need for paper payments, and save money for the City. Approximately 2,550 accounts have signed up for e-billing, which translates to about \$16,575 in total savings. Customers had been requesting that the City use online billing systems for utility bill payments.

Status: Billing information is now available online. For utility (water, trash, sewer, and stormwater) services, customers can view their billing statements for the previous 3 months worth of time. Water consumption levels can be viewed online for the previous 13 months worth of time. In order to promote e-billing, the Finance Department has put messages on utility bills, inserts in utility bills, made Council presentations on the subject, done Channel 11 notices, done customer service representative phone promotion, made notices through the InFocus newsletter/ E-nouncements, placed signs at the customer service center, created a new account signup promotion, done press releases, done City webpage notices, done email announcements, and created messages on utility bill return envelopes.

### Establish the use of paperless direct deposit advices

**Team: Kent Meredith, Brent Mattingly**

Done

Metrics: This action will result in a savings of \$16,000 per year.

Status: The city transitioned to a paperless direct deposit system on the 09/24/09 payday. Prior to the conversion date, the payroll office offered off-site training to any department that deemed it necessary for their employees. The main focus was on employees who were not currently taking advantage of e-services or did not normally use computers. As part of E-services, employees can view personal information, pay stubs, leave accruals, and benefits. They can currently change their W-4 status online anytime, and sign up for and/or change health benefits info during open enrollment.

### Implement an online hiring and recruitment process through the utilization of new computer software.

**Team: Wynette Reed (HR Department)**

Done

Metrics: Increased efficiency will result from automating screening processes for new job candidates. The new system can accommodate special testing requirements or supplemental questions. ROCS! is costing Peoria about \$17,000 initially and will have an ongoing cost of about \$12,000 a year. In return, it will reduce the amount of paper purchased and handled, cut the

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

amount spent on advertising, allow more efficient use of staff time, enhance customer service and save on postage.

Status: Recruitment for hiring will now be done through a new system called Recruitment Opportunities in Civic Service, or ROCS!, for short. Peoria will post job openings on [www.governmentjobs.com](http://www.governmentjobs.com) and [www.peoriaaz.gov/jobs](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/jobs). Job seekers can search and apply for positions using their own computers, library PCs, or a kiosk to be placed in the Human Resources Office. Each job application will have a link to ROCS! – where applicants can set up a personal account, input their information, apply for the advertised position and save their information in case they want to apply for other jobs.

As the recruitment process progresses, applicants can log in to check their status. Meanwhile, ROCS! will send e-mail acknowledgments when applications are filed, and notify a candidate when a decision has been made about his or her application.

D. Minimize the use of compounds that are hazardous to employees' health and reduce environmental hazards in City Parks/Open space.

**Team: Mike Fusco, Abel Salas, Tracey Booth, Kirk Hanes, Millie Peterson, Cindy Lyons**

### Accomplishments

**Identify and eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals. Identify which chemicals are currently used in City Parks/Open space and City facilities.**

**Team: Mike Fusco, Abel Salas, Tracey Booth, Kirk Hanes, Jesse Duarte**

Done

Status: The City has reduced (and will eventually eliminate) the use of unhealthy chemicals in cleaning/maintenance products. A chart of chemicals found in each cleaning product has been drafted, which provides each chemical name, purpose, toxicity rating, along with a "green" alternative and the associated cost. Cleaning products that rate high in toxicity will be replaced by cleaner/healthier products based on this analysis. Vendors are also using this list to reduce the use of high-toxicity products through time. Green certified products in use include: hand soap, glass cleaner, neutral cleaner, liquid enzyme and multi-purpose cleaner (for washing walls and floors).

Implement a Plastic Bag Reduction Program.



## **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN**

### **Form a partnership with the Bag Central Station Campaign**

**Team:** Jesse Duarte, Beckie Borquez

Long term

Status: A partnership has been formed with the Bag Central Station campaign (City of Phoenix). The City will implement a program to educate and promote the recycling of plastic bags in various City locations. The recycling staff plans to introduce this program during the United Way and CARES event. Plastic bag donation barrels will be made available at City hall locations on April 1, 2010, in conjunction with Earth Month.

### **Accomplishments**

#### **Promote the recycling of plastic bags**

Done

Metrics: Approximately 380 billion plastic bags are consumed each year in the U.S., and they are not biodegradable. Only 5.2 percent of these bags are recycled. Plastics bags are among the 12 items of debris most often found in coastal clean-ups. Recycling plastic bags will help reduce the overall number of plastic bags consumed in the U.S. The City will determine the # of plastic bags that have been turned into proper City disposal centers by local citizens, on a monthly basis, once this program is initiated.

Status: Reusable bags have been distributed at various community and internal events. Plastic bags will be exchanged for canvas bags through a City program. The Solid Waste Division discourages the use of plastic bags and has implemented this message as part of the recycle education campaign. The City will initiate a community-wide publicity campaign in order to spread the word about the plastic bag program. Plastic bag recycling barrels will be placed at Rio Vista, City Hall, Main Library, Sunrise Library, Community Center, and the Development and Community Services building.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Water Conservation

Category Leader: Robin Bain

*Promote water conservation as a top priority in the planning of sustainable development within the City, and assist City customers in reducing water use and saving money, through educational outreach and rebate programs. Find new ways to increase the reuse of reclaimed water; recharge surface and reclaimed water, and minimize reliance on ground water.*

*Overall Goal: Implement water conservation elements in all aspects of community life.*

*Minimize water use and maximize water conservation. Ensure a sustainable supply of drinking water.*

Metrics: Water consumption per capita; Water consumption by sector- residential, industrial, agricultural, commercial; set benchmarks related to localities with similar characteristics (e.g., population, climate, topography); Calculate/record the number of new construction (municipal buildings and/or general public) and renovation projects that incorporate water efficient techniques.

**Investigate the adoption of a city-wide policy on fixture purchases and replacements to reduce water waste in existing and new City facilities**

**Team: Core Team: Robin Bain, Leeann Spahos, Alan Dulaney, Brian Biesemeyer**

Short Term

Metrics: Water savings per individual device will vary, but overall, the City has saved on water and electricity. New fixtures use 30% less water. The City has established a 29.1% water use reduction target on the Municipal Court building project renovations.

Status: The City continues to promote principles of water conservation. In our existing buildings, we are testing various low-flow plumbing fixtures. This includes dual flush toilets and pint-flush urinals. In the Development and Community Services Building, we have installed self-flushing toilets. These save water and are more hygienic. The new court building will use "ultra-low" water



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use fixtures including the “pint” flush urinal, 1.28 gallon water closets, and water-saver no-touch metered faucets. The City follows Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design principles in new construction and retrofitting existing buildings.

### Provide a rebate for energy (water) efficient washing machine use in residential homes.

#### Ensure the use of xeriscape landscaping methods in the community

**Team: Core Team**

Short Term

Status: 350 credits have been applied as of May 4, 2010. In Fiscal Year 09', 59 credits were applied. The City converted 122,980 square feet of land to xeriscape in FY 09'. 3,102,101.52 gallons of water use were saved in FY 09.

### Accomplishments

#### Provide a rebate for High Efficiency Toilets

**Team: Core Team**

Done

Status: High-performance, water-efficient toilets reduce water / wastewater use and costs in the home, and help conserve the nation's water resources. The City has applied 141 credits as of May 4, 2010. 198 high efficiency toilets were installed from July 1, 2009 to May 4, 2010. The city has produced a savings of 825,586.33 gallons of water since the implementation of this program on July 1, 2009. High Efficiency Toilets use 1.3 gallons per flush or less. Data will be updated as additional citizens sign onto the program. The City provides a \$75 rebate for High Efficiency Toilets. There is a set maximum of two toilet credits per household utility account. Program implemented on July 1, 2009.

#### Promote elements of the water conservation plan and landscaping methods

**Team: Core Team**

Done

## **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN**

Metrics: Increased awareness and participation in the water conservation and rebate programs. Community classes to date have increased 120%, and water conservation packet requests are up 290% compared to the same time last year

Status: The City offers water conservation and landscape classes. Subjects include: basic water efficient design techniques, the seven principles of xeriscape, and efficient plant irrigation methods. Conservation education and training is offered for the youth population at elementary schools. Conservation education and training is available for facility managers (non-residential) through guidebooks and online resources. The City prints messages on utility bills which promote water conservation. These messages also educate the public as to sustainable landscaping methods and rebate programs.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

### Sustain and Gain Awareness and Communication: Internal and External

Category Leader: Sherine Zaya

*Purpose: Communicate opportunities to Peoria residents on practical, convenient and creative solutions for increasing energy efficiency and improve the understanding of the concepts and principles of sustainability throughout the community.*



**Improve citizen understanding of renewable energy and other sustainable practices. Utilize Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding to develop outreach activities that focus on energy reduction, energy conservation, green building and the City's overall sustainability program**

**Team: Stuart Robinson, Sherine Zaya**

Short Term

Status: There is information available on the City's Sustainability website on important steps that citizens can take to preserve resources, such as: recycling, converting to electronic billing, utilizing express bus services, reducing water use, utilizing solar energy for home energy consumption, disposing of hazardous wastes, building green in home construction (energy efficiency, etc.), and how to calculate one's own carbon footprint. The City will develop a plan for a grant-funded outreach program that will include such methods as: community newsletters, display items, advertising in local news outlets, the development of a Sustainable Business Recognition Program, and/or the organization of seminars for local organizations to network with City staff on ways to conserve energy and or use financially sustainable practices.

#### **Sustainability-Related Book/Art Promotion**

**Team: David Hunenberg**

Short Term, in progress

Metrics: An increase in the number of Sustainability-related publication checkouts at the Peoria Library. The Library currently has an up-to-date and comprehensive collection of materials housed

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in the 300, 600 and 900 areas of Dewey. The majority of the most up-to-date information is available from electronic databases, particularly the magazine index. The topic is ever-changing and magazines/periodicals capture this.

Status: The library carries Sustainability-related books on topics such as green architecture/building, water efficient landscaping, and open space conservation. The Library has done special displays on the subject. Using the new integrated library system, Polaris, library patrons are able to create a personal bibliography on sustainability, which will list every Library-owned book within the topic. Such lists can then be saved to an account or printed out. The Library also offers green art exhibits.

### Accomplishments

**Create "sustainability resource center" on the City's internet web page. Include links to sustainability resources (recycling, water, etc.)**

**Team: Sherine Zaya**

Done

Metrics: Residents have been made aware of the City's plan for energy efficiency and resource-efficient community planning.

Status: The City's Sustainability website provides information for upcoming events such as the Beardsley Water Reclamation Facility Solar Event, and the Earth Day/Arbor Day Event. The website provides a link to the Sustainability Action Plan; information on the City's use of alternative fuels in City vehicles; the steps Peoria is taking to encourage smart growth planning and create walkable, mixed-use communities; an overview of the City's sustainable business practices, such as office supply reductions, green purchasing, and the e-billing program; the City's standards for green (LEED) building construction; an overview of the City's water resource management goals (including recharging surface/reclaimed water); and Peoria's environmental report card from the Valley Forward Association (at least an A- in every category).

**SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN**

A large, empty rectangular area with a light olive green background, intended for the Sustainability Action Plan content. The area is framed by a dark teal border with rounded corners.