



MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

March 7, 2023

Subject: Mayor and Council Consideration and Adoption of “Tucson Resilient Together,” the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (City Wide)

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Issue – Mayor and Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2020 and directed staff to develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Titled “*Tucson Resilient Together*,” the city of Tucson’s CAAP was developed over the past year and is ready for Mayor and Council consideration, and possible adoption at tonight’s Regular Meeting.

City Manager's Office Recommendation – The City Manager recommends the Mayor and Council approve *Tucson Resilient Together* as presented in Attachment A by adopting the attached Resolution. The City Manager also recommends that the Mayor and Council direct staff to develop an initial implementation plan, and report back on implementation progress at future Mayor and Council Study Sessions.

Background – Periodic updates on the development of *Tucson Resilient Together* were provided to Mayor and Council in Study Session on February 23, 2022, August 23, 2022, November 14, 2022, December 20, 2022, and February 22, 2023. The plan document presented tonight was developed based on significant public input from over 5,000 community members, including:

- A **Public Survey** on climate concerns conducted in 2021, with about 4,000 responses.
- A series of 14 **Climate Listening Sessions** with over 150 participants and 1,300 unique comments
- A year-long public and stakeholder engagement process, which included:
 - Two large-scale **Climate Action Workshops** with about 300 participants, conducted in English and Spanish.
 - Thirteen **Community Partner Dialogues**, soliciting input from about 270 previously underrepresented voices in city planning processes, including discussions with:
 - Paisanos Unidos
 - AZ Youth Climate Coalition
 - Local First Arizona
 - Southside Worker Center
 - International Indian Treaty Council
 - San Xavier Co-op Farm
 - NAACP Tucson Branch
 - A series of nine community **Pop-Up Events**, reaching about 270 community members.
 - Forty **Community Groups** that participated in plan development by hosting events, participating in workshops, and/or providing direct input.
 - An **Open House** was hosted for local community groups to discuss the Draft Plan on February 10, 2023, where 13 community groups were represented.
 - A **Local Business Listening Session** was hosted on February 28, 2023 to receive additional input on the Draft Plan from the business community, including members of the Tucson Metro Chamber, Tucson Hispanic Chamber, Southern Arizona

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- Leadership Council (SALC), Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association (SAHBA), the Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA), and individual business owners.
- Ongoing detailed discussions were held with City Advisory Groups.
 - Mayor Romero’s **Climate Action Advisory Council (CAAC)**
 - **Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability (CCES)**
- Periodic briefings were held with the **Mayor and Council Offices**.
- Draft materials were reviewed by **City Departments**.
- The Draft Plan version of ***Tucson Resilient Together*** was released for public comment on January 10, 2023.
- Revised memoranda documenting the **Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)** and **Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)** conducted in support of plan development were posted on February 27, 2023 (Attachment B).

Present Considerations – The City Manager recommends that Mayor and Council adopt ***Tucson Resilient Together*** as presented in Attachment A, direct staff to develop an initial implementation plan, and to report back on implementation progress at future Mayor and Council Study Sessions.

Securing Tucson’s climate future will require community-wide action and regional partnerships to succeed. Adopting ***Tucson Resilient Together*** is the catalyst to make this happen. By approving the plan, Mayor and Council will establish the framework for climate action and adaptation in Tucson. Staff, along with our numerous community partners, will pursue plan implementation. Activities will include advancing the climate strategies that are feasible and funded, performing additional assessments as necessary to support future decision-making, providing Mayor and Council with information on funding needs and opportunities, developing local and regional partnerships to advance climate action, and monitoring and reporting on climate action in Tucson over time. It is important to note that Tucson will require Federal funding to advance many of the actions identified in ***Tucson Resilient Together***.

Information for Mayor and Council’s consideration of adopting the plan is provided below.

Comments from the public on the Draft Plan were formally accepted through February 21, 2023. Due to widespread public interest, additional follow-up conversations were held right up until the writing of this Communication and additional feedback continues to be received to date. It is important to note that this feedback, and continuing dialogues with stakeholders, will continue into the implementation phase, after plan adoption. As of the writing of this Communication:

- Input was received at the Climate Action Hub <https://climateaction.tucsonaz.gov/>, through direct letters and emails, and through meeting interactions.
- Over 400 separate comments were received on the Draft Plan (provided in Attachment C) and were acknowledged and/or addressed in the Final Plan presented tonight for consideration. Some key outcomes include:
 - Most comments received were in support of the plan and its content.
 - A minority of comments expressed disagreement with certain proposed climate actions. Staff and our consultants stand behind the strategies as presented.
 - Some specific actions were modified or updated based on input received. For example, Transportation Action T-3.6 was updated to include an assessment of the city’s minimum parking standards for new development to reduce new parking

- requirements to limit new paved areas and to support non-automobile forms of mobility.
- Many comments are more adequately addressed during the implementation phase, rather than in the plan document itself. These comments will be considered during implementation.
 - Many commentors expressed concern that Water issues are not addressed directly in *Tucson Resilient Together*. As frequently noted, Water issues will be addressed in *One Water 2100*, the integrated master plan for Tucson Water, scheduled for completion later in 2023. Upon its adoption, *One Water 2100* will become a part of *Tucson Resilient Together* as these planning processes are ongoing and adaptable over time.
 - Some commentors questioned the level of technical analyses used in the development of *Tucson Resilient Together*. The project team acknowledges that better data will ultimately result in superior climate solutions over time. However, to delay plan adoption until additional analyses are conducted would unnecessarily delay meaningful climate action in Tucson. Further, many of the climate actions proposed in *Tucson Resilient Together* include continued – and improved – technical analyses during the implementation and monitoring stages.
 - Many commentors noted that there are minimal performance metrics identified in the plan. This is correct and we acknowledge that performance metrics are an essential element for effective climate action moving forward. Staff will propose metrics for the climate strategies as they are brought into implementation, within the overall guiding principles of Mayor and Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration. These metrics and our progress toward meeting them will be transparently reported over time.
 - Some commentors expressed concern over potential city policy changes, especially for land use, that could result from adoption of *Tucson Resilient Together*. Adoption of the plan itself only reinforces Mayor and Council’s prior policy direction under the Climate Emergency Declaration and initiates several climate actions that *could* result in policy changes over time. Such policy changes (along with any associated performance metrics) will result from robust stakeholder and public input processes during plan implementation.

Finally, our **Climate Action Report** is still published each month. To subscribe, please visit https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZTUCSON/subscriber/new?topic_id=AZTUCSON_139%3e

Plan Tucson Consideration(s) – This item relates to the *Plan Tucson* elements of Energy & Climate Readiness and is supported by the following policies:

EC1 – Encourage new and existing City infrastructure, facilities, and operations to use best energy efficiency technologies and energy conservation practices and strive for net zero energy facilities.

EC2 – Encourage increased energy efficiency in new private building construction and facilitate the transition of new private construction toward net-zero buildings.

EC3 – Reduce the urban heat island effect by minimizing heat generation and retention from the built environment using a range of strategies.

EC4 – Increase the use of low carbon and renewable energy sources, high fuel efficiency vehicles, and non-motorized transportation.

EC5 – Develop community energy conservation education and energy efficiency retrofit programs and identify appropriate new financing opportunities for energy efficiency and solar energy installations.

EC6 – Increase the use of solar power and other renewable energy sources for City infrastructure, facilities, and operations.

EC7 – Facilitate community use of solar power and other renewable energy sources.

EC8 – Assess and prepare for the effects of climate change on City infrastructure, facilities, and operations.

EC9 – Assess and address the vulnerability of the community’s health and safety, economy, and natural resources to climate change, and develop assurances that vulnerable and disadvantaged populations are not disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Financial Considerations – Development of the CAAP was funded by \$250,000 from the FY-22 general fund budget and up to \$200,000 of ARPA funds allocated to Climate Resiliency.

Implementation of the CAAP strategies will be subject to future budget allocations, Federal grants, State funding sources, donations, and other sources. Initial funding is available under the “Climate Resiliency” category established by Mayor and Council under the city’s ARPA funds spending plan. There is currently approximately \$8M of unallocated ARPA funds intended for Climate Resilience actions. Staff proposes to return to Mayor and Council at the April 18, 2023 Study Session with recommendations for the initial phase of *Tucson Resilient Together* implementation, including use of the Climate Resilience ARPA funds, if *Tucson Resilient Together* is adopted.

Legal Considerations – None at this time. The City Attorney has prepared the attached Resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy M. Thomure, P.E., ENV SP
Deputy City Manager

City Manager’s Office

Attachments: A – Tucson Resilient Together, Tucson’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
B – Tucson Resilient Together Final Technical Memo
C – Tucson Resilient Together Draft Plan Public Input Tracking Log
Resolution