



# City Council Report

**Date:** July 5, 2022  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** John Pombier, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Scott Bouchie, Environmental Management & Sustainability Department Director  
**Subject:** Mesa Climate Action Plan 2.0 Update

## **Purpose and Recommendation**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the proposed updates to the Mesa Climate Action Plan 2.0 (MCAP 2.0) and to recommend City Council replace the Climate Action Plan adopted June 21, 2022, with MCAP 2.0.

## **Background**

On March 4, 2021, the City Council established the 'Healthy Environment' as part of their Council Strategic Initiative. This initiative expressed the City Council's desire to proactively and responsibly protect and conserve Mesa's environment and natural resources to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon pollution.

In response to City Council's initiative, the first Mesa Climate Action Plan (MCAP) was developed to foster long-term community health benefits of sustainable growth and identify other communitywide environmental opportunities. On June 21, 2021, the City Council approved the first version of the MCAP. City operations led the implementation of the MCAP and sought public input on community-based action items to be incorporated in the plan.

The City of Mesa has a history and culture of sustainability led by the Environmental Management & Sustainability Department. The City has been committed to lowering our environmental impact, guiding sustainable growth, building resiliency, implementing mitigation and adaptation strategies, and supporting innovative technologies in City operations for over 15 years.

## **Discussion**

In MCAP 2.0, the City will continue to lead by example. We have identified how the City will create climate solutions with short-term and long-term benefits. Individual City

departments will continue to own the projects and programs implemented under the MCAP 2.0 which will achieve progress toward these solutions based on measurable targets and strategies.

MCAP 2.0 includes various reduction strategies incorporated into six 'Focus Areas':

- Energy
- Air Quality
- Heat Mitigation
- Water Stewardship
- Materials Management
- Local, Sustainable Food Systems

A Community Action Study was commenced in August of 2021. Branded as "Footprint for the Future", the study concluded with findings and final recommendations at the start of 2022. Priorities were identified from a cross-sector collaboration of subject-matter experts, local businesses, community stakeholders, and residents to help put Mesa on the path to carbon neutrality.

Community engagement efforts included:

- Community Workshops
- On-line Engagement through an interactive platform
- Virtual Public Meetings
- Climate Action Prioritization Survey
- Business Pledges of Support

The Community Action Study helped develop updated 'Aspirational Goals' in MCAP 2.0 will be used as a guide for our vision of the future:

Aspirational Goal #1: Carbon Neutrality

- Achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sinks
- Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of City Operations by 50% by 2030

Aspirational Goal #2: Renewable Energy

- Prioritize the use of renewable, resilient energy to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050

Aspirational Goal #3: Materials Management

- Manage material responsibly and divert 90% waste from the landfill by 2050

Aspirational Goal #4: Climate Ready Community

- Enhance community resilience through collaboration and inclusive engagement

MCAP 2.0 provides a pathway to accelerate our historical success so that we can increase Mesa's contribution to global climate action impacts. We want Mesa to continue to be a vibrant, prosperous, and thriving city for generations to come. The

Climate Action Plan will be a living document that will evolve over time as new strategies, resources, technologies, and collaborations come to light.

### **Alternatives**

1. Do not adopt the proposed Plan.
2. Request changes to the proposed Plan.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There are no fiscal impacts directly related with the implementation of the Plan with aspirational goals. Departments will continue to be the owners of the projects and programs that will achieve progress towards these goals and will continue to come to Council for fiscal approval through the normal processes (i.e., budget meetings, Council agenda).

### **Coordinated With**

The Plan was drafted and completed in coordination with the City Manager's Office, Environmental Management & Sustainability, City Attorney's Office, Arts and Culture, Business Services, Code Compliance, Community Services, Development Services, Economic Development, Energy Resources, Engineering, Falcon Field, Financial Services, Fire & Medical, Fleet Services, Human Resources, Innovation and Technology, Library, Municipal Court, Office of Budget & Management, Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, Police, Public Information & Communications Transit, Transportation & Water Resources.