



## SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 8, 2021

The Sustainability & Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 8, 2021, at 9:47 a.m.

### COMMITTEE PRESENT

Kevin Thompson, Chairperson  
Francisco Heredia  
Julie Spilsbury

### COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

### STAFF PRESENT

Marc Heirshberg  
Dee Ann Mickelsen  
Jim Smith

#### 1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

#### 2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and make a recommendation regarding the City's Climate Action Plan.

Environment Management and Sustainability Department Director Scott Bouchie introduced Deputy Director of Environment and Sustainability Laura Hyneman who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Bouchie provided a list of purposes from the Council's Strategic Priorities for developing a Climate Action Plan (CAP). He noted the CAP is a living document that will lead the City towards the completion of aspirational goals that will evolve over time. He stated in addition to having a Mesa specific CAP, it allows staff to measure the progress and success of programs. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Bouchie presented a list of the six focus areas within the CAP. He explained the focus areas cross-over one another to help achieve success. He provided an example of how energy that is being used has a direct effect on air quality. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Bouchie provided an overview of goals that can be measured such as carbon neutrality, renewable energy, and waste diversion. He noted the first goal is to use less energy or use energy more efficiently. He added to reach carbon neutrality the city will need to find new technologies. He presented on renewable energy and stated if the City uses less energy, it will automatically increase the percentage of renewable energy. He shared waste diversion is the next goal and to accomplish this, everyone must reduce, reuse, and recycle. He explained the

city will have to work on a paradigm shift over the next few decades to reduce the amount of waste being generated on a day-to-day basis. (See Pages 5 through 8 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Chairperson Thompson, Mr. Bouchie shared there are many types of paperboards which are not recyclable and causes contamination issues. He mentioned the items placed in the blue barrel should be taken to a materials recovery facility (MURF), where materials are processed and separated for a vendor to buy and produce another product while being profitable.

In response to a question from Chairperson Thompson, City Attorney Jim Smith stated the dates are more aspirational than a binding contract for Council.

Mr. Bouchie presented the final aspirational goal of developing a community wide CAP. He stated over the last few months the Environment and Sustainability Department has spent time with City Operations overseeing what utilities the City controls on a day-to-day basis. He mentioned the department will be reaching out to residents, businesses, schools, and other community partners to gather input about what they would like to see with the CAP. (See Page 9 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Bouchie requested feedback on the six focus areas and four aspirational goals. He pointed out once feedback is received, a first draft of the CAP will be shared with Council. He commented once the CAP has been implemented, updates will be provided on the progress. (See Page 10 of Attachment 1)

In response to multiple questions from Committeemember Spilsbury, Mr. Bouchie explained the CAP will set aspirational goals, discuss the current projects and programs the City has in place, and assist with future plans on how to meet the aspirational goals. He pointed out there are several local communities that have a CAP and stated he could provide information on those plans. He pointed out there is a desire for the City to engage with the community climate champions to seek out what ideas they have to help improve the City. He noted a broad range of community members display passion for the CAP, but the younger generations are showing greater concerns.

In response to multiple questions from Committeemember Heredia, Mr. Bouchie shared once the CAP is approved by Council, the plan is to begin engaging with the community over the next year. He stated the City will be looking into Federal funding opportunities now that there will be a CAP in place, with hopes of qualifying for grants. He mentioned a meeting with Department of Energy (DOE) on barriers for a food to energy project, that will create energy by putting food in anaerobic digestors. He stated the infrastructure plan the federal government is proposing ties into the food to energy project. He pointed out the City will work on helping Mesa residents reduce their consumption of energy and maintaining quality of life by providing energy saving investments and programs.

Chairperson Thompson commented he would like the ensure the City is thinking through the ramifications of the decisions being made moving forward with the CAP.

Chairperson Thompson affirmed consensus in moving forward to Council the proposed Climate Action Plan.

The following citizens submitted comment cards to be read in support of Agenda Item 2-a:

- Anna Mohr-Almeida, a Mesa resident
- Michelle Dao, a Mesa resident
- Adriana Parrino

The speakers offered a series of comments including, but not limited to, the following:

- The climate crisis is not an issue we can be passive about.
- Requesting the creation of a Sustainability Commission to bring stakeholders together to share best practices, promote partnerships, and create collaborations for sustainability solutions.
- Deep concerns about the city and national climate crisis.
- The Climate Action Plan would be beneficial for Mesa's future.
- Without people meeting their physiological needs such as consuming clean water and breathing clean air, society will not progress.

Chairperson Thompson thanked staff for the presentation.

### 3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Sustainability and Transportation Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Sustainability & Transportation Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(Attachments – 1)

# City of Mesa Climate Action Plan: For a Sustainable Community

**Sustainability and Transportation Council Subcommittee**  
**April 8, 2021**

Scott Bouchie,  
Environmental Management & Sustainability Department Director

# Developing the Plan

## Purpose:

- Proactively and responsibly protect and conserve Mesa's environment and natural resources to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon pollution
- Maximize climate action for a healthy community with sustainable growth
- Build resilience in Mesa operations through implementation of mitigation and adaption strategies

# Developing the Plan

Mesa's Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a living document that:

- Sets aspirational goals and includes focus areas
- Lays out agreed upon concepts and initiatives
- Will evolve over time with new technology and resources
- Will be mindful of funding opportunities and fiscal constraints
- Will work for Mesa

# Focus Areas

Energy



Air Quality



Urban Heat



Water Stewardship



Materials Management



Local, Sustainable Food Systems



# Aspirational Goals

- Overarching goals that can be measured
- Departments will continue to be the owners of the projects and programs that will achieve progress toward these goals
- ✓ **NEEDED:** Sustainability and Transportation Council Subcommittee Input (today and ongoing)
- ✓ **NEEDED:** City Council Input (ongoing)

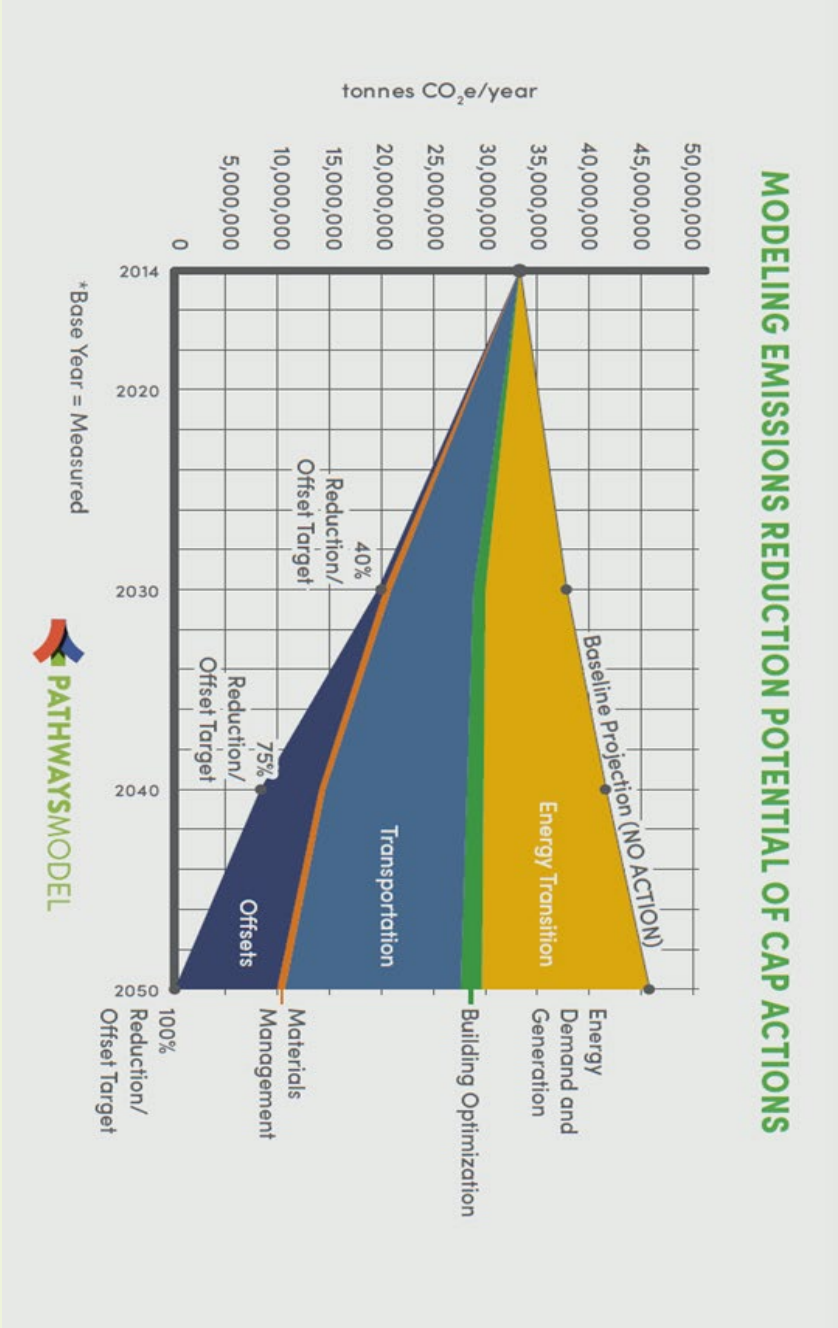


# Aspirational Goal: Carbon Neutrality

Achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sinks

Strive to reduce the carbon footprint of City Operations by 50% by 2030

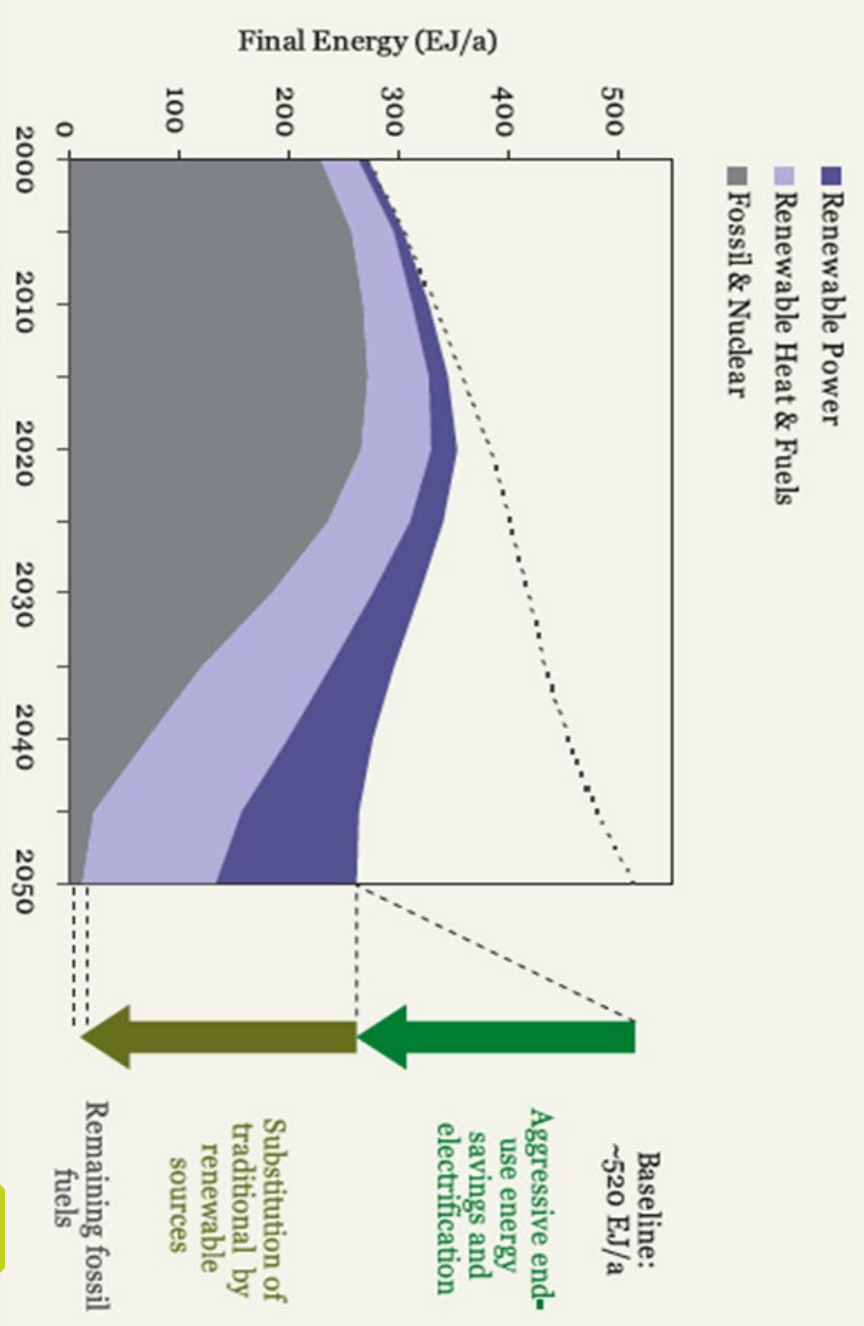
Sample chart shows how this could be accomplished



# Aspirational Goal: Renewable Energy

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

Sample chart shows how this could be accomplished



# Aspirational Goal: Waste Diversion

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

Figure 1: Traditional Waste Hierarchy

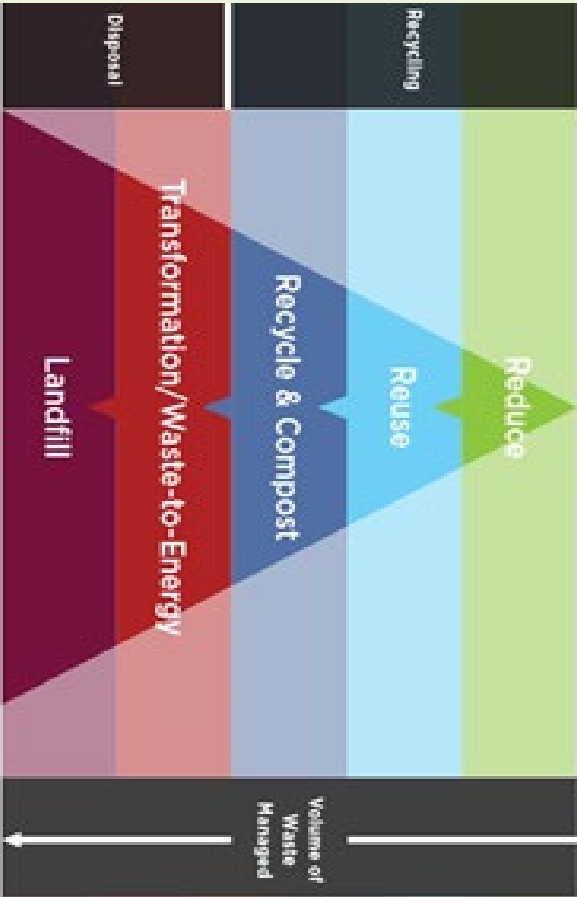
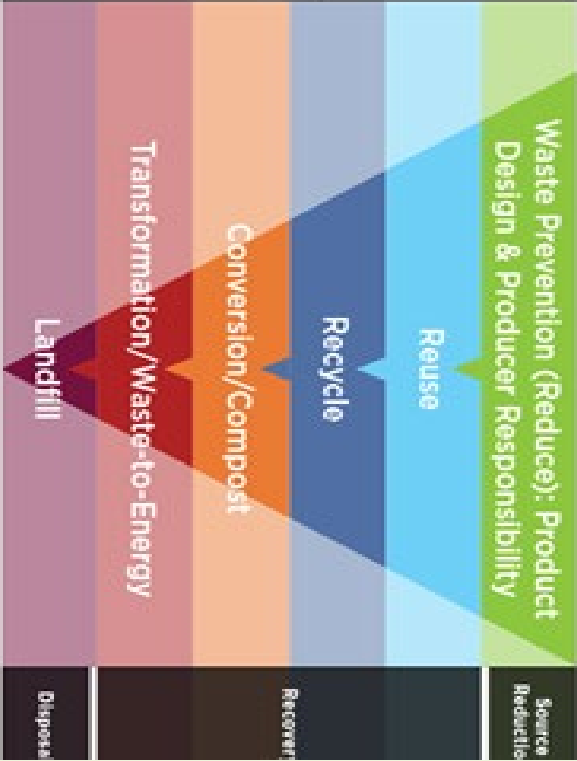


Figure 2: New Waste Management Paradigm



# Aspirational Goal: Communitywide Action

## **Develop community-based action items to be incorporated into the plan**

- Take a 360-degree approach
- Engage the community
- Learn from other communities
- Work with private and public partners for input
- Create community climate action champions

# Next Steps

- ✓ Develop the CAP:
  - Continue meeting with departments
  - Write the CAP
  - Share the CAP with Council for adoption
- ✓ Implementation
  - Adopted CAP will provide support for department's initiatives
  - Departments are the owners of projects that will realize these goals
  - Council will use plan to support projects that implement the goals
- ✓ Return with updates on progress toward Aspirational Goals



# Questions?



**mesa·az**  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY

