

PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

November 13, 2025

Phoenix City Hall Online Using Webex

Commission Members Present	City Staff Present
Taylor, Penny Allen, Webex	Allen, Nancy Office of Environmental Programs (OEP), in-person
Barr, Kelly, Webex	Gerster, Katrina, OEP, in-person
Chapman, Darren, Webex	Zima, Elizabeth, OEP, in-person
Knoop, Kathy, Webex	De La Chapa, Carla, Office of Sustainability (OOS), in person
Odegard-Begay, Andrea, Webex	Aguiar Hernandez, Carlos, OOS, in person
Scoville-Weaver, Amy, Webex	Goldberg, Trixie Ann, OOS, in person
Tetreault, Colin, Webex	Curiel, Lahayla, OOS, in person
Torres, Ginger, Vice Chair, Webex	Guerrero, Jorge, OOS, Webex
Lobo, Caroline, Chair, Webex	Wright, Mary, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, Webex
Commission Members Not Present	Community Members Present
Gorseigner, Eric	Thompson, Christopher, Webex
Groman, Kevin	Rodriguez, Martin, The Nature Conservancy, Webex
Porter, Sarah	Carlisle, Mark, Webex
Sandweg, Bill	

1. Call to Order/Roll Call and Announcements:

The meeting of the Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission (EQSC) was called to order with a roll call at 3:01 p.m. There were 8 members present at roll call.

Commissioner Knoop joined the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Environmental Programs Administrator, Nancy Allen stated that Joshua Uebelherr has resigned from the City of Phoenix and she will be working to hire someone for the Climate Program Manager position in the new year. Ms. Allen also announced that Kailey Mullis was hired as the Executive Assistant in the Mayor's Office and is no longer in the Office of Environmental Program. Ms. Allen is working to hire Kailey's replacement now and the position should be filled soon.

Chair Lobo thanked Ms. Allen for the update and asked that the Commission be aware of any ways they can help with this process.

Chair Lobo announced that she will be stepping down as EQSC Chair as of January 1, 2026 and Commissioner Barr will be the new Chair. Chair Lobo has been the chair for two and a half years and as chair wanted to work on the General Plan and Climate Action Plan (CAP). The General Plan was approved by voters during the November 2024 election, and the CAP will be presented to City Council in 2026. Chair Lobo thanked the Commission for their support and presentations on the CAP and has enjoyed her time in this role. Chair Lobo also stated that the December meeting will be cancelled to give Commissioner Barr time to prepare for new role.

Commissioner Tetreault welcomed Commissioner Barr as the new Chair and thanked Chair Lobo for her years of commitment.

Commissioner Barr thanked Chair Lobo and Commissioner Tetreault for their support.

Vice Chair Torres thanked Chair Lobo for all the time she has given to the Commission. She is excited to work with Commissioner Barr as the new Chair.

2. Review and approval of September 11, 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Tetreault made a motion to approve the September 11, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Allee Taylor seconded the motion, and it carried 8-0.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak.

4. City of Phoenix Energy Access Plan

Chair Lobo introduced the Energy Team from the Office of Sustainability who presented on the upcoming Energy Access Plan (EAP): Chief Sustainability Officer Carla De La Chapa; Energy Manager Carlos Aguiar Hernandez; Community Energy Fellow Jorge Guerrero; and Administrative Intern Lahayla Curiel.

Mr. Aguiar Hernandez, Mr. Guerrero, and Ms. Curiel presented on the draft EAP that will be presented at the December 9th City Council Policy Session and recent community workshops that provided feedback that informed the draft plan. The EAP addresses energy affordability, energy poverty, and energy burden, focusing on community-driven solutions to create a more

sustainable and equitable future. The goal is to increase household participation in low-income programs by 25% by 2030. Ten community workshops were held with 193 participants. The top three programs and barriers participants cited were high cost of living, rebates on energy efficient equipment and retrofits, and need for energy conservation. They asked EQSC to prepare a letter of support for the EAP before the Policy Session.

The presentation stated that 96% of households that experience energy burden, where over 6% of the household's income is being spent on energy costs, are low-income households. Commissioner Barr asked for clarification on whether energy costs only included household energy or also included gasoline for vehicles. Ms. Curiel stated that energy burden only included energy and natural gas bills for household energy.

The presentation shared Maricopa County heat death report data where 88% of indoor heat deaths occurred where air conditioning was present, but not in use or was not functioning. Chair Lobo asked if there was Phoenix specific data available since the EAP is specific to the City of Phoenix. Ms. Curiel stated that Maricopa County data was all that was available, however they can look into whether or not Phoenix specific data is available from the county.

Ms. De La Chapa stated that they can share the draft EAP with Commissioners on Monday, November 17th as it is currently embargoed as City Council reviews the draft. Any comments on the plan would need to be sent to city staff before November 21st as they are on a quick turnaround. The letter of support they requested would need to be approved today as the next EQSC meeting would be after the December 9th meeting where they need the letter by.

Ms. Allen stated that extensive comments can come later as this iteration of the plan will not be the last, but at this point the draft is nearly final. Ms. De La Chapa agreed and welcomed comments before November 21st with more extensive comments later on when they revisit updating the plan.

Chair Lobo asked if the Commission could vote on a letter of support via email after they have time to review the draft EAP. Ms. Allen stated that would not be possible as they need to follow Open Meeting Law requirements of voting during a public meeting.

Vice Chair Torres stated that the findings shared during the presentation are consistent with her experience working with Local First.

Chair Lobo asked if Vice Chair Torres supported writing a letter of support without seeing the draft EAP.

Vice Chair Torres stated that she supports the concepts shared, however would need a copy of the draft for full support.

Commissioner Barr acknowledged the unfortunate meeting timing and suggested an alternative of writing a high level letter of support for the ideas shared during today's presentation, including Ms. De La Chapa and her team, the focus areas, and actions.

Commissioner Tetreault stated that Commissioners could share individual comments at the Policy Session after they see the draft plan since there won't be another EQSC meeting before then.

Chair Lobo asked city staff for their thoughts on this idea. Ms. De La Chapa stated that individual comments are welcome and Commissioners could come in person to provide comments at the meeting or submit online written comments before the meeting.

Chair Lobo asked if other Commissioners attended the community workshops and if they saw similar observations that were shared in the presentation today. She agreed with Vice Chair Torres' comments and that the conclusions shared align with what she's heard from the community as well. She also liked Commissioner Barr's idea of writing a high level letter of support along with providing individual comments. She offered to write the draft letter of support and circulate via email.

Commissioner Barr made motion for Chair Barr to draft a letter of support, including mention that the Energy Team presented an overview of the draft plan and the Commission support the focus areas and recommended actions shared. Commissioner Knoop seconded the motion, and it carried 9-0.

Chair Lobo summarized that city staff will share the draft EAP once it is available on November 17th and all comments will need to be sent to OEP and OSS before November 21st. She will draft a letter of support and share before the January meeting for Commissioner's review where Commissioner Barr will take over finalizing the letter once she is the new Chair.

Chair Lobo thanked Ms. De La Chapa and her team for their work. She is happy to see that their workshops were well attended and included expert speakers and facilitators.

5. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Chair Lobo reminded Commissioners that the December meeting will be cancelled and Commissioner Barr will become the new Chair for the January meeting.

Commissioner Barr would like the Commission to take time at an upcoming meeting to decide as a group how meeting structure will be moving forward and which topics the Commission would like to focus on. She asked Commissioners to begin thinking about this and come prepared with any opinions they have on how to reinvigorate the work they do. She also asked Commissioners to consider coming to meetings in person or having a discussion on how frequently they could all attend in person.

Vice Chair Torres stated that she is happy to continue as Vice Chair alongside Commissioner Barr, however she is happy to step down to allow someone else the opportunity to be Vice Chair. If anyone would like to become Vice Chair they can talk to her or Commissioner Barr to express their interest.

Chair Lobo thanked Commissioners and wished everyone a happy holidays.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katrina Gerster, Environmental Quality Specialist