

- 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 10 members present at roll call. The following commissioners arrived after roll call:

 - Eric Gorsegrner at 3:11 p.m.
- 2. Review and approval of October 13, 2022, Minutes**

Commissioner Colin Tetreault made a motion to approve the October 13, 2022, minutes. Commissioner Kathy Knoop seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.
- 3. Review and approval of November 10, 2022, Minutes**

Commissioner Kevin Groman made a motion to approve the November 10, 2022, minutes. Commissioner Bill Sandweg seconded the motion and it carried 10:0.
- 4. Public Comment**

No one spoke.
- 5. State of Circular Economy in Arizona**

Alicia Marseille, Senior Director, Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service, ASU and Dr. Rajesh (Raj) Buch, Director of Business Development, Circular Economy Lead Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service, ASU, spoke about circular economy projects with public and private partners. Dr. Raj Buch, Director of Business Development spoke about the linear and circular overview. The overview revealed that a 100 billion tons of resources have been consumed every year. Additional resources are needed due to the demand for products. By 2050 there will be 218.5 billion tons produced. This increase will result in 1.7 earths to 3 earths unless changes are made. Alicia Marseille, Senior Director spoke on solid waste management systems going from linear to circular designs. The circular economy is based on three principals which include elimination of waste and pollution, circulation of products and materials and regeneration of nature. The city of Phoenix and ASU established a partnership with RISN (Resource Innovation and Solutions Network). More than 25 research projects were completed. As a result, the city of Phoenix increased the diversion rate from 16% to 38%. Economic Impact studies showed \$1.9 billion Gross Domestic Product. They also collaborated with six other city of Phoenix departments, stakeholders and other municipalities such as the city of Austin, Texas public works department. Private sector companies such as Loop, Philips, OR Beverage Recycling Cooperative and Plant Chicago moved to a circular business model. Current circular economy efforts in Arizona include glass, plastic, organics, textiles, tires, and healthcare through Stryker. Another is E-waste a company called AZStRUT and AZ Forward. Senior Director Alicia Marseille reported community economic development to look at opportunities for job creation and improvement of livelihoods. Director of Business Development Raj Buch spoke about the USDA grant for rural hub and spoke recycling. A partnership has been formed with ADEQ in order to support and increase recycling around Arizona. Urban flow analysis has also been conducted on converting economic flow to material flow. Senior Director Alicia Marseille also spoke about MicroFactory circular plastics and collection efforts. They are working with the city of Phoenix to launch a MicroFactory. Other partnerships include Sustainable Urban Ecology (SUE) and Agtech food systems incubator, De Ceuvel, and Rio Reimagined.

Commissioner Kevin Groman asked about contamination challenges with recycling and what innovations are being done, and what is ASU doing with other recycling materials. Alicia Marseille, Senior Director and Director of Business Development

Raj Buch entered into discussion about integration of technology and educating consumers. Project Manager Amanda Jordan added to the conversation about renovations taking place at the 27th Avenue facility that is going online in September in order to properly sort materials. Public Works also introduced a pilot program called Oops/Shine On in order to educate residents and reduce contamination. A 100% conversion was reached within the pilot program. Commissioner Kevin Groman asked about expansion to the program. Project Manager Amanda Jordan indicated there would be more to come.

Commissioner Eric Gorsegrner asked if an anaerobic digester would be a realistic opportunity for waste streams. Alicia Marseille, Senior Director and Director of Business Development and Director of Business Development Raj Buch don't know of any. Business Development and Director of Business Development Raj Buch added the materials would be too dry and fibrous and would add methane gas, however the facility is looking at food and yard waste.

Commissioner Colin Tetreault entered into discussion with regards to policy considerations. Senior Director and Director of Business Development Raj Buch responded that aggregating waste across municipalities and barriers for large scale recycling. There are also inconsistencies of recycling standards. Furthermore, they are looking at data and reporting to find solutions for diversion.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked about plastic shopping bags and contaminants going into the bins and are there any solutions or other options with Alicia Marseille, Senior Director and Director of Business Development replying with a machine would collect and turn them into pellets. Chair Caroline Lobo spoke about educating legislators with regards to plastic bag waste. Alicia Marseille, Senior Director and Director of Business Development added that not all plastics are bad. She added that procurement mechanisms have been put in place for building material reuse. Project Manager Amanda Jordan added that pilot programs and how to deconstruct are taking place with Historic Preservation. Nancy Allen, Environmental Programs Director added that conversations started before the pandemic. Chair Caroline Lobo asked about integration into the general plan. Nancy Allen, Environmental Programs Director reported that the general plan is currently underway. Additional outreach efforts need to take place and data is vital. There is also a proposed bill for plastic bags. Project Manager Amanda Jordan also reported that Public Works will be kicking off an outreach in April and will include village planning, libraries, senior centers. Nancy Allen, Environmental Programs Director added that it must be mainstreamed and convenient and not just engagement but have an education component.

6. Climate Action Update

Joshua Uebelherr, Environmental Programs Economic Development Program Manager reported on the Climate Action Plan Update, which was approved by City Council in October 2021. The plan is to incorporate changes in greenhouse gas inventory data and activities to reduce climate change. The city of Phoenix received an A rating from CDP for climate change efforts, which only 12% of cities made this rating. Recent progress includes the development of transit-oriented developments and walkable urban code from Planning and Development. Transit received council approval of plans to purchase in the future zero emissions, hybrid and battery powered busses in order to lower emissions. Joshua Uebelherr, Environmental Programs Economic Development Program Manager also spoke about working with other city departments to ensure key performance indicators are appropriate, measurable, meaningful and being tracked. Also, what potential

barriers there are for other departments to achieve CAP goals. Such barriers could include political, legal, regulatory, social, or economic funding constraints. Additionally, public information webinars about the 2023 Climate Change Action Plan will occur during February and early March. During this time and throughout May the city will be working across departments to create an updated CAP draft. Public engagement workshops will be held from June – August. The final draft will go for council approval in the fall of 2023. Joshua Uebelherr, Environmental Programs Economic Development Program Manager asked about EQSC participation.

Vice Chair Ginger Torres asked when the first draft would be available for public review. Joshua Uebelherr, Environmental Programs Economic Development Program Manager responded by saying the first draft would be available in June prior to the public workshops.

Chair Caroline Lobo asked what a webinar looked like. Joshua Uebelherr, Environmental Programs Economic Development Program Manager responded with review of the CAP, followed by a presentation of inventories and review of progress and activities. The first webinar will be held live, hybrid format for the second and third webinars, location is TBD.

Commissioner Anna Bettis asked about weekend webinar engagement, multiple language format and about federal funding. Joshua Uebelherr, Environmental Programs Economic Development Program Manager

7. Announcements and Review of Future Agenda Items

Chair Caroline Lobo welcomed newest commissioner's Anna Bettis, and Eric Gorseger.

Chair Caroline Lobo spoke about proposed agenda items. Commissioners entered into discussion about potential agenda items including CAP, water drought, and the budget. Nancy Allen, Environmental Programs Director mentioned the Zero Waste program, and the Tree and Shade Masterplan. Commissioner Bill Sandweg requested annual legislative updates. Nancy Allen, Environmental Programs Director indicated they can be found on the phoenix.gov website. Chair Caroline Lobo asked for commissioners to think about inviting various organizations to the EQSC 35th Anniversary celebration, date to be determined.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita Ponce,