

Memorandum



City of Tempe

Date: March 23, 2015
To: Mayor and Council
Through: Vice Mayor Woods and Councilmember Kuby
From: Sustainability Commission Workgroup
Subject: **Working Group Recommendation**

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tempe has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability in its business practices and governmental operations. Council recently adopted an ambitious energy goal to power 20% of city operations from renewable energy by 2025. The city has also pledged to reduce water consumption by 600 million gallons (citywide) by 2020. Departments citywide are crafting ways to adopt more sustainable office practices. In addition, the Public Works Department has many significant initiatives including:

- Producing “Tempe Compost” through its Green Organics program
- Exploring innovative ways of increasing waste diversion, including an ASU move-out day
- Advancing recycling programs through early childhood education and multi-family outreach
- Increasing transit ridership and encouraging alternate modes of transportation
- Bringing together the City and local businesses with innovative programs like the Tempe Grease Cooperative to sustain the sewer infrastructure

Establishing a Sustainability Commission is an important next step to ensure that ongoing programs reach their full potential and to identify potential public/private/university partnerships and opportunities for Tempe to create a more sustainable city for future generations.

DIRECTION:

Request Mayor and Council approve and implement the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Establish a Sustainability Commission. The City would benefit by the creation of such a body, comprised of citizens, businesses, nonprofits, the higher-education community and government, to share best practices and spark partnerships to create sustainable solutions. The commission would be charged with researching, advising, and recommending to City Council policies and programs that advance sustainability city wide, with attention paid to the following areas:
 - Local food and agriculture
 - Energy management (both city operations and residential)
 - Sustainable building and purchasing practices
 - Land use and development
 - Transportation
 - Sustainable economic development
 - Solid waste, recycling, and hazardous waste
 - Water and wastewater management
 - Climate and air quality

- Dark Skies
2. The Commission will also coordinate with staff on the annual city sustainability report.
 3. The commission will bring together citizens, businesses, nonprofits, the higher-education community and government to share best practices and spark partnerships to create sustainable solutions. Commission membership will give preference, but not limited, to Tempe residents and those working in Tempe. It will be composed of (11) members:
 - (1) ASU representative from the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability
 - (1) ASU representative at-large
 - (1) Tempe business entity that has led on implementing sustainability measures
 - (1) Industry representative from a sustainability related industry (energy, water, etc.)
 - (1) Tempe Chamber of Commerce or business advocacy group
 - (1) Tempe School District representative
 - (1) Faith Community or nonprofit sustainability advocacy group
 - (2) University or community College students from a college sustainability program
 - (2) At-large (must be Tempe residents)

MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP:

Vice Mayor Corey Woods

Councilmember Lauren Kuby

Anne Reichman, ASU, Julie Anne Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability's Sustainable Cities Network

Nick Francis, ASU's School of Sustainability, Graduate Student

William Greene, ASU Graduate Student

Corey Hawkey, ASU, Zero Waste Manager, University Sustainability Practices

Carlo Altamirano, ASU's Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes, PhD Student

Steven Frost, Ameresco

Don Bessler, City of Tempe, Director Public Works

Melissa Quillard, City of Tempe, Public Information Officer

Parrish Spisz, City of Tempe, Council Aide