

# SUSTAINABILITY

“The Town supports and respects the magnificent Sonoran Desert in which it is located and recognizes its responsibility in protecting it. The preservation and utilization of indigenous landscaping, water conservation, protection of the quiet desert lifestyle, clear dark skies and a strong economic backbone allow future generations to enjoy what has been created here.”

Town of Paradise Valley  
Visioning Committee 2011



TOWN OF PARADISE  
MUNICIPAL COL  
6401 E. LINCOLN DR

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## 7. Sustainability

The definition of sustainability means maintaining a culture of stewardship to enhance the natural environment; maintaining existing stable economic interests; and maintaining and promoting an equitable quality of life for present and future generations. Given the Town of Paradise Valley's smaller size, land-locked location, primarily large residential lots, and minor quantity of commercial properties, the focus is on enhancement opportunities for the established community tapestry.

Locally, sustainability is important to ensure the social, environmental and economic systems that make up our community are providing a healthy, productive and meaningful life for residents and visitors alike. There are many benefits to prioritizing sustainability including fostering a culture of innovation and creativity; staying ahead of new environmental trends; strengthening reputation, increasing loyalty and improving stakeholder relations; retaining employees and increasing productivity; enhancing short and long term economic interests; and increasing meaningful citizen participation.

The Town of Paradise Valley has developed a comprehensive inventory of current policies, ordinances, and programs that support the Town's commitment to sustainability. The inventory revealed the Town already has many sustainable measures in place, including a hybrid vehicle fleet, audio/video conferencing, crime prevention classes and two "green" fire stations. In addition, the Town is exploring alternate energy sources to power the Town Hall campus.

The Town is committed to the environmental, economic, and social stewardship of Town operations and the Town of Paradise Valley community. Many of the following goals and polices require the Town to adhere to certain sustainable practices. By imposing sustainable measures on itself, the Town is leading the community by example. Special Use Permit properties will also be required to adhere to a higher sustainable standard as part of the legislative planning process. The Town's residents, through education and awareness, shall be encouraged to follow sustainable practices recognizing that doing so furthers the Town's vision of a healthy desert environment.

### 7.1 Social Sustainability

#### Goal S 7.1.1

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**Community Education and Involvement.** Cultivate broad community participation in programs to promote sustainability and provide the information people need to live in a sustainable way.

#### Policies

**S 7.1.1.1 Town Programs.** The Town shall create and promote Town programs to inform the community about sustainability and

measures they can take to make sustainable choices and be informed on potential financial incentives and rebates.

- S 7.1.1.2 School Programs.** The Town shall create and promote enriched educational programs about sustainability for local schools.
- S 7.1.1.3 Town Demonstration Projects.** The Town shall set standards of sustainability in Town buildings and practices for purposes of education and demonstration.
- S 7.1.1.4 Sustainability Tools.** The Town shall create and promote avenues to link interested residents with sustainable products and practices such as energy efficient products, water conservation measures, and waste reduction practices such as composting so that people have the tools they need to implement sustainable lifestyles.
- S 7.1.1.5 Policy Prioritization.** The Town shall involve the community in shaping sustainability policies and in determining which measures are essential, which are desirable, and which are possible to further sustainability within our Town.

## 7.2 Sustainable Environment

### Goal S 7.2.1

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**Residential Buildings.** Encourage the use of energy efficient features and practices and the use of “green” building design standards in new projects and remodeling projects.

#### Policies

- S 7.2.1.1 Energy Audits.** The Town shall encourage residents to undertake energy audits of their homes and implement the audit recommendations to reduce energy consumption.
- S 7.2.1.2 Energy Efficiency.** The Town shall encourage an increase in energy efficiency of existing homes when they are remodeled.
- S 7.2.1.3 Reuse and Recycling.** The Town shall encourage reuse and recycling of materials when buildings are deconstructed or torn down.

### Goal S 7.2.2

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**Non-Residential Buildings.** Require, where feasible, new non-residential buildings to adhere to “green” building design standards.

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### Policies

- S 7.2.2.1 Green Building Standards.** The Town shall require all new government buildings and Special Use Permit projects to achieve a minimum level of sustainability based on an accepted “green” evaluation system (i.e. LEED, or NAHB program).
- S 7.2.2.2 Project Balance.** The Town shall balance the objectives of sustainability and conservation of resources in Special Use Permit projects with the objectives of the applicant in terms of the extent and design of site and building improvements.
- S 7.2.2.3 Energy Audits.** The Town shall conduct energy audits for all public facilities and encourage energy audits for Special Use Permit properties.
- S 7.2.2.4 Energy Tracking & Management.** The Town shall implement an energy tracking and management system for Town departments and public facilities.
- S 7.2.2.5 Lighting Retrofits.** Where economically feasible, the Town shall install energy-efficient lighting retrofits and occupancy sensors on public facilities and encourage Special Use Permit properties to do the same.
- S 7.2.2.6 Renewable Energy.** The Town shall explore opportunities for Town installation of renewable energy and clean generation technologies and/or the purchase of renewable energy certificates to reduce the Town’s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

### Goal S 7.2.3

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**Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Transition Town operations and non-residential operations to operations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work with surrounding Cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions produced by services provided in our community. Additionally, encourage residents to reduce their carbon emissions.

### Policies

- S 7.2.3.1 Pollution-free Town Operations.** The Town shall manage civic operations to be as pollution free as economically feasible; including landscape maintenance equipment, Town building’s maintenance, and Town use of chemicals for pest management.
- S 7.2.3.2 Energy Efficient Town Vehicles.** The Town shall transition to the use of energy efficient low or zero emission vehicles.

**S 7.2.3.3 Town Inventory and Reduction.** The Town shall complete and maintain a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Town and non-residential operations and the community to set baselines for comparison purposes and establish goals for reduction.

**S 7.2.3.4 Carbon Footprint Calculator.** The Town shall educate residents on how to reduce their own carbon footprint and continue to provide a “carbon footprint calculator” on the Town’s website for individuals.

Goal S 7.2.4

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**Water Conservation.** Encourage the responsible consumption and recycling of water through various conservation practices and limiting new impervious surfaces in new and redeveloped properties in order to reduce the Town’s very high water consumption rate.

Policies

**S 7.2.4.1 Consumption Reduction.** The Town shall encourage the reduced consumption of water through conservation and more efficient appliances and fixtures.

**S 7.2.4.2 Low Water Use Plants.** The Town shall encourage the use of drought resistant and desert adapted plants in developments.

**S 7.2.4.3 Water Reuse.** The Town shall encourage the harvesting of rainwater and grey water for reuse and recycling of other waters when feasible.

**S 7.2.4.4 Impervious Surface Reduction.** The Town shall limit the scope of new impervious surfaces and encourage reduction of existing impervious surfaces for all new developments in order to reduce storm water runoff.

Goal S 7.2.5

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**Solid & Hazardous Waste.** Require efforts designed to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and ensure that generated waste is recycled or efficiently disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

Policies

**S 7.2.5.1 Trash Service.** The Town shall pursue efficient and responsible methods of trash collection for the Town that results in reduced solid waste production and reduced impacts on the Town’s streets and air quality.

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- S 7.2.5.2 Resident Recycling.** The Town shall encourage residents to recycle when possible and review the possibility of initiating a recycling program in the Town.

## 7.3 Sustainable Economics

### Goal S 7.3.1

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**Finances.** Require efforts to ensure the Town's short and long term economic interests are sustained over time.

#### Policies

- S 7.3.1.1 Expenditures and Revenue.** The Town shall support ongoing operating expenditures by ongoing, stable revenue sources and will not be funded by debt issuance.
- S 7.3.1.2 Capital Improvement Plan.** The town shall prepare a long range capital improvement plan and update it each year. The plan shall be developed within the constraints of the Town's ability to finance improvements.
- S 7.3.1.3 Adequate Reserve.** The Town shall maintain an adequate reserve of the annual general governmental (General and HURF funds) operating expenditures for unforeseen emergencies, such as significant loss of revenues or catastrophic impacts on the Town.
- S 7.3.1.4 Fund Evaluation.** The town shall evaluate all fund designations and reserves periodically for long-term adequacy and financial sustainability.

## 7.4 Implementation Measures

The Sustainability Element sets forth broad goals and policies related to sustainability within the Town. Implementation requires translating these broad statements to specific actions, systematically evaluating progress, and active community participation.

The following implementation measures have been identified for Sustainability and serve as a basis for the performance evaluation of Town staff, leadership and other Town volunteers in the execution of the General Plan.

<b>Table 7.4-1. Sustainability Implementation Program</b>		<b>2012-2015</b>	<b>2016-2020</b>	<b>2021-2030</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>1. Coordination with Flood Control District of Maricopa County</b> Continue coordinating with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to review the design and function of flood control and drainage facilities in the Town.						<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.5.1, S 7.1.5.4, 7.1.5.6					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Engineering Division supported by Planning Staff					
<b>2. Stormwater Management Plan</b> Continue to comply with the Town's stormwater management plan and program in conformance with the NPDES requirements and guidelines to protect and improve stormwater quality in the Town.						<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.4.1, S 7.1.4.2, S 7.1.5.3, S 7.1.5.4, S 7.1.5.5					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Public Works; Community Development, Engineering and Building Divisions					
<b>3. Public Outreach</b> Maintain and update Town Website with sustainable news and practices.		<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.2.1, S 7.1.2.4, S 7.1.2.5, S 7.1.4.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Planning Division; Management Services supported by Information Technology					
<b>4. Public Education</b> Continue working with local schools, Town Residents and the general public to educate all those interested on sustainable practices.						<b>X</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.2.2, S 7.1.2.3, S 7.1.3.1					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Planning Division supported by Town Council					

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Table 7.4-1. Sustainability Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
<p>5. <b>Green Building</b></p> <p>Encourage the use of Green Building through incentives such as reduced permit fees and minor variations from the area regulations. Acknowledge contractors who adopt green building practices. Consider feasibility of adopting green building codes. Require all new or remodeled Town owned buildings to meet an accepted green rating system.</p>		X				X
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.3.2, S 7.1.3.3, S 7.1.3.4, S 7.1.3.5, S 7.1.3.7, S 7.1.3.8, S 7.1.3.9, S 7.1.6.1, S 7.1.6.2, S 7.1.6.3, S 7.1.6.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Planning and Building Divisions supported by Town Council; Water Utility Committee					
<p>6. <b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory</b></p> <p>Maintain and complete the greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Town operations. Encourage changes to lower greenhouse gas emissions where possible.</p>		X				X
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.4.1, S 7.1.4.2, S 7.1.4.3.					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Planning Division; Public Works; Town Council					
<p>7. <b>Wash Maintenance</b></p> <p>Maintain and update wash inventory map and annual inspections of all washes.</p>		X			X	
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.5.1, S 7.1.5.2, S 7.1.5.3,					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Code Enforcement and Engineering Divisions supported by Information Technology					

Table 7.4-1. Sustainability Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
<p>8. <b>Sustainable Water</b></p> <p>Encourage the responsible consumption and recycling of water through various conservation practices and limiting new impervious surfaces in new and redeveloped properties.</p>						X
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.6.1, S 7.1.6.2, S 7.1.6.3, S 7.1.6.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Community Development, Planning, Engineering and Building Divisions supported by Town Council, Water Utility Committee.					
<p>9. <b>Regeneration</b></p> <p>Require efforts to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and require refuse companies and residents to dispose of generated waste via responsible methods. Review the possibility of a Town-wide recycling program.</p>		X				X
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.7.1, S 7.1.7.2, S 7.1.7.3					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Town Council, Management Services supported by Community Development, Planning Division					
<p>10. <b>Trash and Recycling</b></p> <p>The Town shall require a review of the possibility of a Town wide recycling program and consolidation of solid waste collection.</p>					X	
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.2.5.1					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Finance Department supported by Town Council, Town Manager, Engineering Division					
<p>11. <b>Sustainable Economics</b></p> <p>Prepare an annual budget, capital improvement plan, and long range financial forecast to ensure the Town's short and long term economic interests are sustained over time.</p>					X	

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<b>Table 7.4-1. Sustainability Implementation Program</b>		<b>2012-2015</b>	<b>2016-2020</b>	<b>2021-2030</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Implements Which Policy(ies)</b>	S 7.1.8.1, S 7.1.8.2, S 7.1.8.3, S 7.1.8.4					
<b>Responsible Party(ies)</b>	Finance Department supported by Town Council, Town Manager, Engineering Division					