



City of Avondale

Energy, Environment and Natural
Resources Commission



[Link to Summary of Actions](#)



[Link to Meeting Minutes](#)



The Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission Work Session

To join the meeting and view presentations, visit

<https://avondaleaz.zoom.us/j/93781414000?pwd=UUVkQkJSVzIOQ0ZxMjIMWTVGRE54Zz09>

Using a Mobile Device? Download the Zoom Cloud Meeting App.

To join the meeting with audio only, call 1-669-900-9128 (meeting ID: 937 8141 4000)

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Summary of Action

1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

2. Discussion of 2021 Annual Goals

Commission Members **discussed** goals for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission for the upcoming calendar year.

3. Adjournment

Members will attend either in person or by telephone conference call.

Los miembros asistirán en persona o vía teleconferencia.

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



**The Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission
Online Work Session via Zoom
Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:32 P.M.

1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Litzy Hernandez, Elizabeth Valencia, Paul Lemmon, Daniel Schuh, Billy Vaughan, and Bernadette Barba.

Members Absent: Vice Chair Rebecca Forstner, Ariel Gomez, Kim Avila, and Thomas Albrigo.

Staff Present: Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer, and Stephanie Hippen, Administrative Assistant.

2. 2021 Annual Goals Discussion

Per the EENRC's request, Staff Liaison Danae Presler provided an overview of what other sustainability-related City Board and Commissions in Arizona are currently focused on. Increasingly, Boards and Commissions are focusing on advocating and supporting city's Climate Action Plans which examine the impact of climate change on the community, assess vulnerabilities, and identify actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changes in order to build a more sustainable and resilient city.

Commission Member Billy Vaughan suggested including standards for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the City's building codes and zoning ordinance and noted that utility companies offer incentives for installing EV charging stations.

Commission Member Paul Lemmon supported Member Vaughan's suggestion and advocated for including electric vehicle charging stations in the new BLVD development.

Chair Litzy Hernandez invited Ms. Presler to present an overview of the EENRC 2019 draft goals and progress made towards those goals. Chair Litzy Hernandez then opened the floor for discussion on potential goals for 2021.

Commission Member Schuh recommended incorporating electric vehicle adoption as a major goal for the upcoming year and supported the idea of a "Ride and Drive" event to promote electric vehicles.

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Commission Member Lemmon recommended increasing the Commission's knowledge on effective methods of increasing adoption of electric vehicles in the community. Member Schuh agreed.

Chair Hernandez supported the emphasis on electric vehicles but voiced concern that the technology may be out-of-reach for many City residents and encouraged the Commission to consider other ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability, especially for households with lower incomes and/or older homes.

Ms. Presler shared a list of potential opportunities for the EENRC to consider for their goals, including the following:

- Providing input to the General Plan Update Sustainable Development section
- Reviewing and providing input on the City's forthcoming EV Roadmap
- Evolving the "One Less" Campaign
- Recommend a Climate Action Plan and/or Carbon Neutrality Goal

Commission Member Lemmon supported the proposed list and recommended adding a goal around the City's recycling program, noting that the contract with Phoenix expires in 2021.

Commission Member Vaughan voiced interest in learning more about what can be recycled. Member Vaughan also suggested including a goal to engage youth in sustainability efforts, such as speaking at elementary schools.

Chair Hernandez suggested involving more youth in the Commission, engaging youth through infographics and other relevant tools, and reaching out to the Avondale Youth Commission.

Ms. Presler shared that the City hopes to engage youth in a river cleanup event with a potential art component and asked if the EENRC would be interested in being involved.

Member Vaughan supported participation and suggested that the Commission Members could serve as judges or announce the event at schools.

Chair Hernandez noted that Youth Service Day is in April and proposed that it could be a good way to get students involved in cleanup of rivers and wetlands.

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Commission Member Bernadette Barba indicated her support for engaging students and suggested working with school administration and teachers. Chair Hernandez and Member Vaughan indicated that they would be interested in participating. Member Lemmon suggested creating a framework to clearly indicate what was hoped to be accomplished.

Commission Member Elizabeth Valencia shared that Maricopa County Air Quality Department is working with schools to educate students on how to reduce pollution and why it is important. The County initially was training students directly, but now trains teachers and administrators how to educate their students to have a larger impact. The approach is working. Member Valencia can connect EENRC with the County's program if the Commission feels that a presentation would be useful.

Commission Member Lemmon noted that KidFest is another avenue for engaging youth.

Chair Hernandez inquired what happened to the previous community garden near City Hall. Members discussed that there were safety concerns with location and that it was closed and demolished. Chair Hernandez shared that she works with a non-profit organization in Phoenix that manages a community garden and suggested exploring the model they use. Member Schuh voiced interest in being involved in exploring the possibility of a new community garden in the City.

Ms. Presler will compile the feedback from the work session and draft potential 2021 goals for the EENRC to review and vote on at the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2021.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.


Chair Hernandez

Danae Presler

Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison



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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st day of October, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.

Danae Presler

Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison