



City of Avondale

Sustainability Commission Online Meeting

Commission Members

Diana Estrada, Commissioner

Amanda Duncan-Billiman, Commissioner

Paul Lemmon, Commissioner

Al Nunez, Commissioner

Ben Ruoti, Commissioner

Daniel Schuh, Commissioner

Daniel Smith-Castillo, Commissioner

Von Burns, Alternate Commissioner

Public Works Department

Kirk Beaty, Director

Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer



Sustainability Commission Online Meeting Notice & Agenda Wednesday, July 22, 2026

To join the meeting and view presentations, visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89904933451?pwd=zsGNias4YnyxB5m19N762vB3f9KVgz.1>

Request to Speak: Anyone wishing to speak regarding items listed on the agenda or under unscheduled public appearance should submit a Request to Speak online at <http://www.avondaleaz.gov/requesttospeak> prior to consideration of that agenda item.

REGULAR MEETING

6:30 PM

Virtual access to the meeting will be available 10 minutes prior to the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

2. ROLL CALL BY THE STAFF LIAISON

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Time is limited per person. Please state your name.)

4. MINUTES

The Commission will consider the approval of the May 5, 2026 and May 27, 2026, meeting minutes. The Commission will take appropriate action.

5. LITHIUM-ION BATTERY DROP OFF PROGRAM

The Commission will receive an update on the Lithium-ion Battery Drop-off Program project. This item is for discussion only.

6. SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES

The Commission will receive updates on ongoing sustainability programs, initiatives, and related activities. This item is for discussion only.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1000 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 o oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaría de la Ciudad al 623-333-1000 o TDD 623-333-0010 al mínimo dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



Sustainability Commission Ad Hock Meeting

**Municipal Operations Service Center
399 E Lower Buckeye Road
Avondale, AZ 85323**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

DRAFT Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Ben Ruoti, Vice Chair Diana Estrada and Commissioners Al Nunez, Daniel Schuh, Paul Lemmon and Alternate Commissioner Von Burns

Members Absent: Commissioners Amanda Duncan-Billiman and Daniel Smith Castillo Staff Present: Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer / Staff Liaison, Katrece Bird, Senior Management Analyst

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

No public present.

4. Green for Good Grant

Commissioners and staff reviewed the top highest scored applications for the Green for Good Grant. Commissioners voted on which applications were awarded funds, and at what amount.

5. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER NUNEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:07 P.M.
COMMISSIONER BURNS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Benjamin Ruoti, Chair



Aspiring. Achieving. Accelerating.

Kimberly Anderson
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison



Sustainability Commission Meeting

**Municipal Operations Service Center
399 E Lower Buckeye Road
Avondale, AZ 85323**

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

DRAFT Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Members Present: Chair Ben Ruoti, Vice Chair Diana Estrada and Commissioners Amanda Duncan-Billiman, Al Nunez, Daniel Schuh, Daniel Smith-Castillo, and Alternate Commissioner Von Burns

Members Absent: Commissioners Paul Lemmon

Staff Present: Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer / Staff Liaison

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

No public present.

4. Approval of March 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER SCHUH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2026, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER DUNCAN-BILLIMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 7-0 WITH CHAIR RUOTI, VICE CHAIR ESTRADA, AND COMMISSIONERS DUNCAN-BILLIMAN, NUNEZ, SCHUH, AND SMITH-CASTILLO, VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

In response to Chair Routi's inquiry, Ms. Anderson said she would prepare an overview of the May 6, 2026, Ad-Hoc Meeting that will be presented for approval at the next regular scheduled meeting.

5. Lithium-ion Battery Drop Off Grant

Ms. Anderson reported a recycling grant received from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). She provided background information that included grant funding received in previous years to create a recycling drop-off location. This location was strategically placed at the Civic Center Library to provide a recycling location for residents residing in apartments that do not offer recycling opportunities. The drop-off bins have been a great success and this year's grant funds will expand those efforts.

Batteries are an ever-growing issue, specifically lithium or rechargeable batteries that are not only hazardous to the landfill with leaching chemicals and metals but create fires as well. Currently, there is nothing addressing proper disposal and the industry is trying to figure it out because the lithium ion / rechargeable batteries are in everyday life and they pose potential hazards. They should not be disposed of in residential trash or recycling.

Underway with a fast-approaching deadline of June 30, 2026, is the Safe Disposal of Rechargeable Batteries program. This year's grant project with ADEQ is the Lithium Battery Drop-Off at the current recycling drop-off in the Civic Center Library parking lot. The intent is to bring awareness to proper disposal of lithium ion / rechargeable batteries. Ms. Anderson reviewed the recycling method of using baggies (supplied by the city) to wrap an individual battery prior to placing it in the recycling bin at the drop-off location. This program only applies to button batteries that must be removed from the devices.

In response to Commissioner queries, Ms. Anderson noted just under \$75,000 in grant funds were received for this program. The funds will be utilized for the drop-off location, printed materials and signs, a professional video that will be shared regionally. Patrice wrote the grant. She described the drop-off box that will be customized, a plastic bag dispenser, and a how-to sign that includes what to recycle.

In response to Commissioner Smith-Castillo's inquiry, Ms. Anderson explained the video along with social media post will provide some "how-to" instructions; however, due to the wide variety of devices that utilize batteries it would be the resident's responsibility to determine how to safely remove the battery from their device. The Sustainability Office would be available to assist residents to ensure they are not damaging the battery or hurting themselves. She will take his suggestion of providing other resources or guides for removing batteries back to the team for further discussion.

6. Sustainability Updates

Ms. Anderson provided an update on Green for Good Grant, noting there were 14 applications submitted, of which four were selected to receive funding. This is a big win for the community. There will be a presentation on June 1, 2026, at the City Council meeting where the awardees will be announced. Sustainability Commissioners were invited and encouraged to attend the meeting and be present for the award presentation to answer Councilmember questions.

In response to Chair Routi's request, Ms. Anderson provided an update on the Mill Bin that exceeded expectations with 54 residents signing up for the program. Currently the program is experiencing a reduction in residential consumer involvement, and the contract expires on June 30, 2026. Along with the need to reduce the budget and in agreement with The Mill it has been decided to take a pause in resident sign-ups. Residents who are signed up will continue to receive that subsidy and perpetuity.

The Mill is doing a systematic regroup and coming out with new products and the city could re-engage in the program in the future once the budget levels out.

Commissioner Schuh noted over a one-year period his household has diverted 265 pounds of food utilizing the Mill Bin. He thanked Mr. Routi and Ms. Anderson for their efforts in getting this program started.

7. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Anderson reviewed the process, noting Ben Routi and Diana Estrada are eligible for re-election and Dan Schuh and Paul Lemmonn have termed out. She opened the floor for discussion and nominations.

VICE CHAIR ESTRADA NOMINATED CHAIR RUOTI TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN. NOMINATION CARRIED WITH A 7-0 VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

CHAIRMAN ROUTI NOMINATED VICE CHAIR ESTRADA TO CONTINUE AS VICE CHAIRPERSON. NOMINATION CARRIED WITH A 7-0 VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Other:

Commissioner Nunez sought direction for the proper way to recycle Christmas lights. Ms. Anderson suggested utilizing a “recycling finder”, which she will share with him. In addition, she will inquire with the Solid Waste Manager for further advice.

8. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER DUNCAN-BILLIMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:07 P.M. COMMISSIONER NUNEZ SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 7-0 WITH CHAIR RUOTI, VICE CHAIR ESTRADA, AND COMMISSIONERS DUNCAN-BILLIMAN, NUNEZ, SCHUH, AND SMITH-CASTILLO, VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Benjamin Ruoti, Chair

Kimberly Anderson
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th day of May 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Kimberly Anderson
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison