



City of Avondale

Sustainability Commission 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 Meeting Notice & Agenda Wednesday, September 23, 2026

To join the meeting and view presentations, visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84042178945?pwd=qURBVw6AwmZ5m2DPctu0y4Nr6clauw.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 5 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 July 22, 2026, meeting minutes. The Commission will take appropriate action.

5. UPDATES FROM THE COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE – COLE PIHL, AVONDALE WATER RESOURCE MANAGER

The Commission will receive a presentation on the most recent updates regarding the Colorado River water cuts, and Avondale's position.

6. SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES

Commission will be updated on sustainability in Avondale. 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 Secretaria de la Ciudad al 623-333-1000 o TDD 623-333-0010 al mínimo dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



Sustainability Commission Meeting

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

Wednesday, July 22, 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, and Commissioners Amanda Duncan-Billiman, Paul Lemmon, Al Nunez, Daniel Schuh, and Alternate Commissioner Von Burns

Members Absent: Vice Chair Diana Estrada and Commissioner Daniel Smith-Castillo

Staff Present: Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer / Staff Liaison

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

No public present.

4. Approval of the May 6th and May 27, 2026, Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2026, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BURNS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR RUOTI, AND COMMISSIONERS DUNCAN-BILLIMAN, LEMMON, NUNEZ, SCHUH, AND BURNS, VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

COMMISSIONER SCHUH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2026, AD HOC MEETING AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER DUNCAN-BILLIMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR RUOTI, AND COMMISSIONERS DUNCAN-BILLIMAN, LEMMON, NUNEZ, SCHUH, AND BURNS, VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Lithium-ion Battery Drop Off Grant

Ms. Anderson provided an update on the Lithium-Ion Battery Drop-Off Box project, noting that the program is now rolling out and the drop box has been wrapped with attention-grabbing graphics and clear instructions for proper battery disposal. The drop box is located at the Recycling Drop-Off Center in the Civic Center Library parking lot. She explained that

each battery must have its ends taped or be individually wrapped in a plastic bag to ensure safe handling.

A non-public unveiling is planned for mid-August to allow for a gradual rollout, as this is the first program of its kind and staff want to avoid overwhelming the system while operational procedures are still being refined. The expectation is that the program will have regional impact due to the educational outreach occurring both in Avondale and throughout the region in response to increasing demand. A partnership has been established with the cities of Glendale and Surprise, and a representative from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality will participate in the marketing campaign to help broaden public awareness and education.

A video from the marketing campaign was shared with the Commission.

In response to Commissioners' questions, Ms. Anderson noted that there is only one drop box at this time; however, residents may continue to dispose of batteries at Batteries Plus, Best Buy, or through household hazardous waste services. A member of the Solid Waste team will collect batteries daily to reduce fire risk and ensure proper disposal. A discussion followed regarding the types of batteries accepted at the drop box and the ongoing importance of public education. Ms. Anderson added that surveillance will be in place to identify repeat offenders and provide targeted educational outreach as needed.

6. Sustainability Updates

Ms. Anderson provided an update on the Tree Inventory and Management Plan Project, noting that ArborPro was selected as the contractor. She reviewed their progress over the past two weeks, which includes assessing tree health and identifying maintenance needs. Once the inventory and health assessments are complete, ArborPro will develop a plan outlining strategies to strengthen urban forestry efforts and support the City's goal of achieving 25 percent tree canopy coverage across neighborhoods, city rights-of-way, and parks. In response to questions, Ms. Anderson explained that due to recent staff changes, the school district is in the initial phase of identifying personnel, developing a planting plan, and determining planting locations and tree species. Plantings are anticipated to begin in the fall or winter once logistical details are finalized. She will inform the team that Commissioners are interested in participating in the kick-off event.

Ms. Anderson reported that the Nature Conservancy is assisting cities in funding sustainability projects in the absence of federal support. A study of urban forest policies and programs was conducted among ten Valley cities, including Avondale. The purpose of the study was to provide recommendations and identify grant opportunities for improvements. Avondale was selected as a grant recipient. Leadership is currently reviewing the recommendations and available options to develop a project aimed at improving Avondale's urban forestry score. In response to questions, Ms. Anderson provided additional information on other Valley cities included in the study.

Ms. Anderson shared an update regarding Mill and R.City. Mill's contract with the City has expired; however, residents who previously enrolled under the discounted rate will retain that

pricing. New participants will pay the standard rate. Following discussions with Mill, both parties agreed to pause the program for a couple of years and revisit it in the future. R.City will continue partnering with the City and is exploring creative ways to remain engaged and support composting efforts in Avondale and the surrounding area.

Ms. Anderson opened the floor for discussion on future agenda items, including topics Commissioners would like to learn more about, potential presentations, and opportunities for public engagement. Commissioners shared several ideas, summarized below:

- Blue Recycling Boxes – Interest in educating the public on acceptable materials. Commissioner Lemmon suggested a demonstration using the contents of a truck or container to highlight what is collected and raise awareness about proper recycling practices.
- Recycling Bins – Ms. Anderson reported continued success with the bins. Additional bins may be possible but would require securing further grant funding.
- Data Centers – Commissioner Nunez expressed interest in touring a data center to better understand operations, water and electrical usage, and conservation practices, given resident concerns about resource consumption.
- Drought – The Commission discussed the regional drought plan, potential inter-city agreements, government involvement, public education, and opportunities for Valley-wide collaboration.

7. Adjournment

The next Sustainability Commission Regular meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER LEMMON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:21 P.M.
COMMISSIONER SCHUH SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 6-0 WITH CHAIR RUOTI, AND COMMISSIONERS DUNCAN-BILLIMAN, LEMMON, NUNEZ, SCHUH, AND BURNS, 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 22nd day of July 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